

PlasticFreeDanube

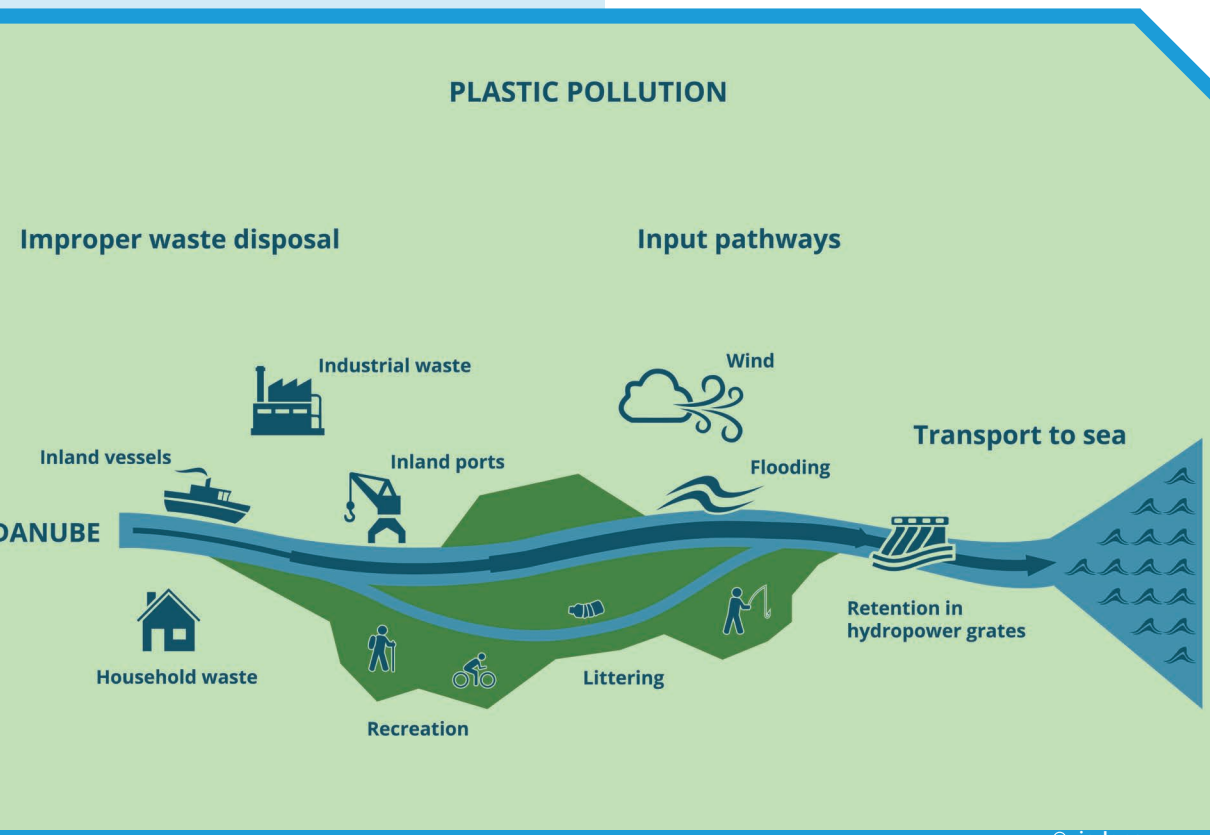
Project co-financed by the European Union

Macro plastic waste in and along the Danube

Although plastic has many advantages, it has become a serious environmental hazard and has been recognized as global problem. Especially plastic waste in marine ecosystems has become a great environmental problem on regional and global levels. Rivers are recognized as main vectors of pollution although sources and pathways of plastic in the rivers and its environmental impacts remain unclear.

The project PlasticFreeDanube

The project focuses on macro plastic waste (particles larger than 5 mm) in and along the river Danube. The overall aim of the project is to establish a scientifically sound knowledge base as well as a methodological approach in terms of entrance points, quantities, transport patterns, and environmental threats.

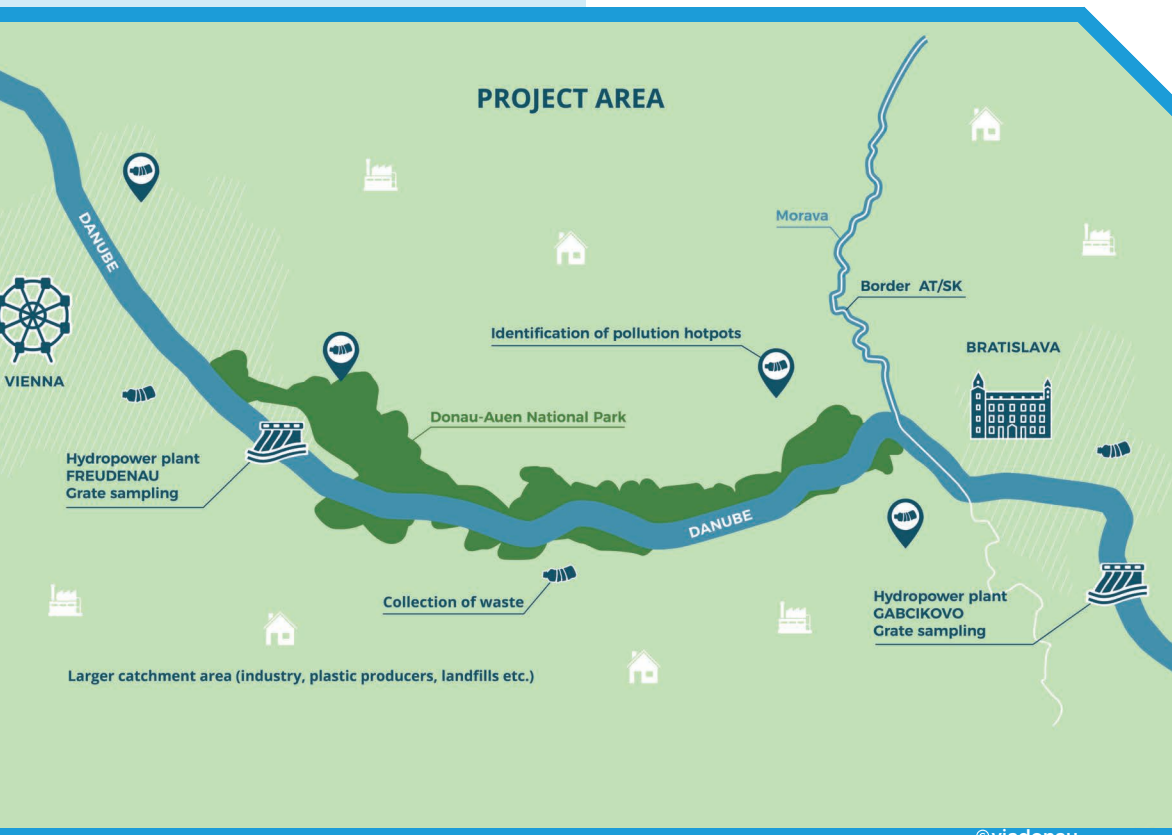


The project area

The project considers the Danube stretch from Vienna up to the hydropower plant Gabčíkovo in Slovakia. This section includes the two metropolitan areas Vienna and Bratislava, the two hydropower plants Freudenau (Austria) and Gabčíkovo (Slovakia) as well as the free flowing Danube stretch through the Donau-Auen National Park east of Vienna.

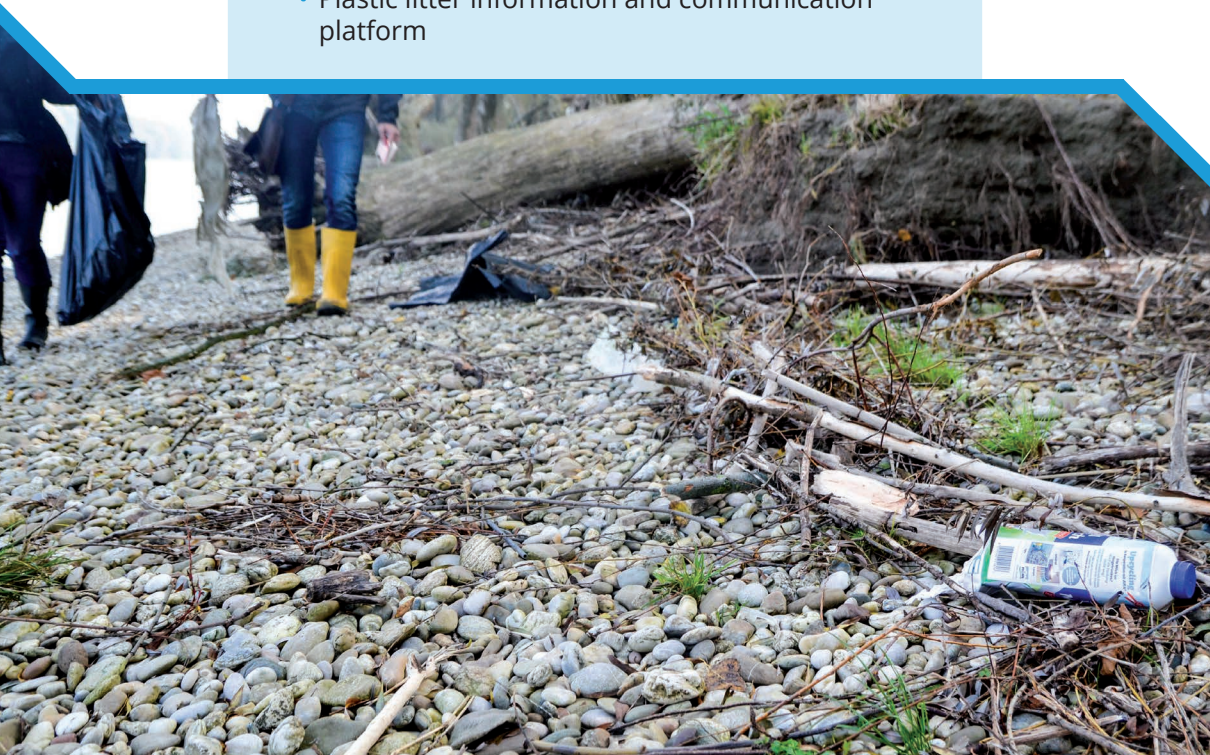
Project objectives

- Development of methods and collection of data for an assessment and monitoring of plastic pollution in fluvial ecosystems
- Development of an action plan for the management of plastic waste and implementation of pilot measures against plastic pollution in and along the Danube
- Awareness raising of the public and stakeholders about plastic litter pollution in rivers and possibilities of waste avoidance.



Planned project outputs

- Material flow and transport model of plastic waste in and along Danube
- Methodology for standardized sampling and sorting as well as data on quantities of plastic waste
- Methodology for qualitative analysis and data on composition of plastic waste
- Action plan for the management of plastic waste in and along the Danube accompanied by pilot measures
- Awareness raising campaign and educational materials
- Plastic litter information and communication platform



Project partners

The bilateral project PlasticFreeDanube is implemented by 5 partners from Austria and Slovakia and 18 strategic partners.

- **Project Lead:** Institute of Waste Management (ABF-BOKU), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Austria
- Institute of Water Management, Hydrology and Hydraulic Engineering (IWHW), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Austria
- via donau – Austrian Waterway Company, Austria
- RepaNet o.z., Slovakia
- PISAS – Polymer Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia
- Donau-Auen National Park, Austria



RepaNet o.z.

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Duration & budget

Duration:

1 October 2017 - 30 September 2020

Budget:

EUR 1.23 Mil.

EU-Funding (ERDF):

EUR 1.05 Mil.

Funding programme:

Interreg V-A Slovakia - Austria

2014-2020

www.sk-at.eu



www.plasticfreedanube.eu

Protect Nature - avoid pollution!

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