

New manual on good practises for planning waterways published

PLATINA, a project funded by the European Union (DG-MOVE) under the 7th Framework Programme, has launched an innovative manual presenting good practises in sustainable waterway planning (www.naiades.info). PLATINA member ICPDR (International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River) has co-ordinated the production of the document, which is the result of a consultative process between waterway operators and managers, and environmental organisations. The document provides guidelines for planning waterway development projects that are compatible with environmental protection requirements, creating a win-win harmony. The manual offers general advice for waterway infrastructure projects and addresses both technical planners and other interested stakeholders who want to be involved in a waterway development planning process.

According to Philip Weller, Executive Secretary of ICPDR: “This new planning tool will substantially enhance and smoothen communication between the transport and environment sectors.” To Mr Weller, the public discussions make it clear that “there is a strong need to guide future actions with an eye to reconciling what might be conflicting interests. Some innovative processes and measures have shown that it is indeed possible to create win-win solutions for environment, transport and other river uses.”

The manual can be downloaded from the PLATINA webpage www.naiades.info and from www.icpdr.org

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PLATINA – Platform for the implementation of NAIADES – is funded by the European Union (DG-MOVE) under the 7th Framework Programme for RTD. PLATINA is a project covering 22 organisations in 9 different countries, promoting inland navigation in Europe.

