

The DANUBIUS Project

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DANUBIUS-RI, the International Centre for Advanced Studies on River-Sea Systems, is a new, pan-European research infrastructure, building on existing expertise and synergies to support interdisciplinary research on large river-sea (RS) systems. Its Hub and Data Centre will be in Romania, Technology Transfer Office in Ireland, and Supersites and Nodes across Europe.

It spans the environmental, social and economic sciences and bring together research on different environmental sectors. It provides: access to a range of European RS systems, facilities and expertise; a 'one-stop shop' for knowledge exchange; access to harmonised data; and a platform for interdisciplinary research, inspiration, education and training.

Supersites are designated natural sites for observation, research and modelling at locations of high scientific importance across a range of European RS systems. Initially, these are the: Danube Delta (Romania), Middle Danube Szigetkoz (Hungary), Upper DanubeLunz (Austria), Nestos River- delta-coastal sea (Greece), Elbe Estuary (Germany), Thames Estuary (UK), Catalan Deltas coast (Spain), and Po Delta–Venice lagoon (Italy).

Nodes are centres of expertise providing facilities and services, data storage and provision, experimental and in situ measurements facilities, state-of-the-art analytical capabilities and implementation of standardised procedures and quality control (DANUBIUS Commons). Leading Laboratories for the Nodes are in the UK (Observation Node), Germany (Analysis Node), Italy (Modelling Node) and the Netherlands (Social and Economic Sciences Node). Additional needs, both in facilities and geographical, are to be met by future Accredited Service Providers, under the coordination of the Node Leading Laboratories, thus increasing research capability and capacity across Europe.

Political support has been received from ten partner countries in Europe, four of which have already made financial commitments, and expressions of support from organisations in 17 other countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, and North America. The aim is for DANUBIUS-RI to be fully operational by 2022.

www.danubius-ri.eu

Thematic proposals

1. There is a need for interdisciplinary research for river-delta/estuary-sea systems at a global scale, including the Black Sea.
2. No step forward can be made in dealing with the pressing and extremely complicated problems from river-sea systems if we do not treat them at a basin scale (including the coastal sea), and by promoting interdisciplinarity.

3. Excellent and open data are essential for excellent research and for understanding processes at the basin scale.
4. There is already best practice in the NW Black Sea - and collaboration is open to researchers and academia from all around the Black and Caspian Sea regions. Institutional and political support are essential for developing further collaboration.
5. The DANUBIUS Commons is a brand of excellence and must be adopted by those who wish to collaborate, as a quality standard sign.