

## Danube Hike – Hiking tourism along the Danube

The project connecting partners from Austria, Germany, Slovakia, Serbia and Bulgaria wanted to create a substantial basis for the development and recognition of hiking tourism within the Danube area. Aim of the project was to integrate bordering hiking areas and therefore connect existing hiking trails (e.g. in Austria and Germany) along the Danube.

**Lead partner/coordinator:** Naturefriends International (Austria)

**Partners:**

- WGD Tourismus GmbH
- ARGE Deutsche Donau
- Regional Development Agency Komárno
- Bulgarian Ministry for Economy, Energy and Tourism
- Danube Competence Center

**Main activities and results of the project:**

- The “[Upper Danube Hiking Trail - Status quo report of the hiking infrastructure in Germany and Austria](#)”: describes the existing infrastructure and current projects allowing the connection of Austrian and German trails. Beforehand a [status quo analysis along the entire Danube](#) has been conducted. Hiking infrastructure, signposting, landmarks and sights, maps, transportation providers, and service offers such as accommodation, tours and packages and cross-border cooperation has been analysed.
- **Summary analysis and [Danube HIKE brochure](#)** in English, German, Slovak, Hungarian, Serbian, Romanian and Bulgarian contains general facts about the Danube and good-practice examples for hiking offers, cultural, historic and natural sights, infrastructure and accommodation as well as culinary arts. Contact details of hiking organizations, tourism offices, Danube representatives, tour operators, destinations and transportation are included along with some hints to foster hiking tourism in a destination.
- A section on [hiking](#) was developed on the [Danube.travel portal](#) including an interactive hiking map and an android mobile application. The web portal provides information about Danube destinations, countries, service providers and above-all information about hiking trails in Danube regions. The hiking section provides trail descriptions, pictures, access to the mobile application and download section for GPS data, it is also linked to description of the surroundings including sights, accommodation and other activities.
- “[Guidelines for implementing and improving hiking tourism along the Danube](#)” should help provide tourism stakeholders along the entire Danube to improve their existing or further develop infrastructure and offers. These guidelines are available in

English, German, Slovak, Hungarian, Serbian, Bulgarian and Romanian and are disseminated within the networks of the consortium and beyond. They include

- **Quality criteria for hiking tourism** along the Danube
  - **Do's and don'ts in product development** along with
  - **Good practice examples and suggestions** for destinations, tour operators, nature parks, accommodation and transport providers.
- **The International Hiking Conference** was organised in Linz in September 2012. The outcomes and benefits of the project “DanubeHIKE” were presented and discussed in order to further develop the issue of hiking along the Danube in all 10 Danube countries.
  - A **video clip including the most important facts about hiking along the Danube** in all Danube bordering countries has been developed:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHdMoWYDano> .