Interreg Danube Region

Co-funded by the European Union

TRANSFER Danube

TRANSFER Danube Newsletter №3

May 2026

Contents:

InTegRAted monitoring System For agro-climatic risks within DanubE Region

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About the project

The TRANSFER Danube project aims to analyze the new patterns of climatic extreme events (drought, floods, heat waves, e.g.) and design/develop the necessary tools for agriculture in the Danube region in order to be able to properly adapt and respond to such challenges. This will be done by developing and implementing a Danube transnational e-platform that will integrate climatic/water resources/agriculture database, maps, knowledge, tools, modelling, good practices for water management, for reducing drought in order to be prepared and adapt to climate change in the vulnerable areas for crops (winter wheat and maize) in the Danube Region.

Through cooperation between country partners, a standardized monitoring system for the phenological status of selected agricultural crops throughout the Danube Region will be established, serving as a basis to evaluate the crop-specific water balances and yields.

The TRANSFER Danube project aims to raise the awareness of policymakers and the private agricultural sector to the possible consequences of climate change on agricultural production. The beneficiaries of the project and the groups targeted by it are local and regional decision-makers in the field of environmental protection and agriculture, also people in the field of agricultural policies and farmers.

The activities of the project will generate support for trans-disciplinary bilateral cooperation among partner institutions in the Danube area to tackle the challenges set by climate change in agriculture.

The project is co-funded by the Interreg Danube Region Programme and has a duration of 30 months, April 2025 – September 2027.

1,842,380 €	80.00 %	04/2025-09/2027
Project budget	Interreg funds	Project duration

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First Round of National Stakeholders Conferences

First National Stakeholders Conference in Croatia

Date: 4th February 2026
Location: Kukuljanovo, Croatia

Within the framework of the TRANSFER Danube project, a national stakeholders conference was organised to introduce the project, its objectives, and its main thematic focus to key national and regional stakeholders.

The event was organised by Sensum Ltd. and brought together representatives of public authorities, research and educational institutions, professionals from the agricultural sector, and other relevant stakeholders. The conference took place on 4 February 2026 at the premises of Industrial Zone Bakar in Kukuljanovo, Croatia.

During the event, participants were presented with an overview of the TRANSFER Danube project, including its objectives, partnership structure, and expected impacts at both national and transnational levels. Special attention was given to the project's key thematic areas, such as agro-climatic risk indices, phenological monitoring, and planned pilot activities. The presentations aimed to highlight how the project's tools and data can support better understanding and management of agro-climatic risks.

An interactive discussion session followed the presentations, enabling dialogue between researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders. Participants were invited to share their views on the relevance of the project topics, the potential applicability of the project outputs in their professional fields, and possible challenges related to implementation. Feedback was collected through a structured questionnaire in order to support further development of project activities and ensure alignment with stakeholder needs.

The conference served as an important dissemination and engagement activity, strengthening cooperation between different stakeholder groups and raising awareness of the TRANSFER Danube project and its contribution to climate-smart agriculture and agro-climatic risk management in the Danube Region.

First National Stakeholders Conference in Bulgaria

Date: 11th February 2026
Location: Peshtera, Bulgaria

The First National Stakeholders Conference within the project TRANSFER Danube was organised by the Bulgarian partner, Association Centre for Sustainability and Economic Growth (CSEG), on the 11th of February 2026 at the conference hall of Hotel Domaine, Peshtera, Bulgaria. The event was attended by representatives from local administrations, energy and environmental agencies, an SMEs association, several local farmers' organisations and other interested stakeholders. The majority of these organisations bring together highly qualified experts in particular fields, including climate change challenges, environmental protection, agriculture, entrepreneurship, and policy making.

The event started with a welcoming speech by Mr Georgi Simeonov, Project Manager at the Association CSEG. After that, the experts from CSEG introduced the main project objectives, partnership compositions and implementation framework. Discussions of key thematic areas, such as agro-climatic risks and transnational monitoring, were organised during the TRANSFER Danube presentation.

The experts also presented results that are expected to be achieved during project implementation. One of these outputs is the TRANSFER Danube E-platform. The main purpose of this platform is to collect and integrate data on droughts, floods, soil quality, as well as agrometeorological and phenological parameters in one place. The platform aims to provide professional tools and indices that support the monitoring and assessment of agro-climatic risks and phenological monitoring. Once the platform has been developed, all stakeholders, farmers, representatives of the agricultural sector and bodies who are interested in agroclimatic risks or phenological monitoring will have free access to it.

Special attention was given to the stakeholders' feedback from the event. Participants were asked to provide their perspectives on how relevant the project topics are, how the results

could be applied in their professional work, and what difficulties might arise during implementation. Their inputs were collected through a structured questionnaire to improve future project activities.

The conference concluded with a discussion focused on potential collaboration between different sectors and improving management of agro-climatic risks in the Danube Region with the support of the TRANSFER Danube project.

First National Stakeholders Conference in the Czech Republic

Date: 13th February 2026
Location: Mělník, Czech Republic

On 13 February 2026, a National Stakeholders Conference within the project TRANSFER Danube was held at the conference centre of Hotel Olympionik in Mělník, Czech Republic.

The event was organised by the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CULS) and brought together representatives of relevant stakeholder groups from the Czech Republic, including farmers, experts from the agricultural sector, research and educational institutions, advisory services, and public authorities.

During the conference, Assoc. Prof. Petr Šařec and Dr. Václav Novák introduced the participants to the TRANSFER Danube project, its objectives, partnership structure, work plan,

and overall goals. The main expected results of the project were presented, with particular emphasis on the development of the Danube transnational e-platform and its functionalities. The platform's role in integrating agro-climatic data, supporting phenological monitoring, and improving the management of agro-climatic risks was explained in detail.

Special attention was given to the role of CULS within the project. Local examples of good practices focused on climate change adaptation in Czech agriculture were presented and subsequently discussed to demonstrate the practical relevance of the project outputs at a national level.

The presentations were followed by an open discussion session, enabling participants to exchange views on the applicability of the project results in the Czech context. Structured questionnaires were distributed to collect stakeholder feedback, which will support the further development and alignment of project activities with stakeholder needs.

The conference contributed to strengthening cooperation between research institutions, agricultural practitioners, and public authorities in the Czech Republic, while raising awareness of the TRANSFER Danube project and its contribution to climate-smart agriculture and agro-climatic risk management in the Danube Region.

First National Stakeholders Conference in Austria

The first national stakeholder workshop in Tulln on February 26, 2026, with the title "TRANSFER Danube – an international project to strengthen climate resilience in agriculture", was organized by BOKU University.

Date: 26th February 2026
Location: Tulln, Austria

12 participants representing all target groups (national/regional/local public authorities, education/training centers apart from BOKU University, operating water management company and farmers) were present and provided valuable contributions to the project.

The project was introduced by Elisabeth Gerhardt (BOKU University), outlining its objectives, partners, pilot areas, and expected outcomes.

Manfred Weinhappel (Lower Austrian Chamber of Agriculture) highlighted adaptation measures in crop production, funding opportunities, and innovative approaches — with a strong focus on the growing importance of irrigation.

Roland Koeck (BOKU University) presented strategic measure bundles (SMB) for large agricultural areas, such as wind breaker forest belts, multiple-purpose hedges, buffer-strip forest vegetation along water courses and forest plantations. These measures help improve the hydrological regime, reduce erosion, enhance microclimates, and strengthen biodiversity.

The concluding discussion addressed key challenges such as drought, climate-adapted crops, and economic feasibility. A central message: measures must be practical, economically viable for farmers, and embedded in support programs like ÖPUL, an Austrian Programme for Environmentally Sound Agriculture. Consumer demand also plays a role — for example, the increasing interest in soybeans and gluten-free alternatives for carbohydrates, such as sweet chestnuts.

While Austria already has strong best-practice examples in the field of wind-breaker forest belts and multi-purpose hedges, also information about the other two SMB and continued efforts for and information about funding options, knowledge sharing, and implementation strategies are essential.

First National Stakeholder Conference in Romania

On 3 March 2026 in Bucharest, 29 stakeholders (public authorities, researchers, farmers) attended the TRANSFER Danube dissemination event to present project progress and discuss climate risks, irrigation challenges, and agro-climatic tools.

Date: 3rd March 2026
Location: Bucharest, Romania

The event brought together 29 participants representing national and regional public authorities, research and academic institutions, farmers' associations, and agricultural enterprises. Key participants included representatives from the National Meteorological Administration, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Operational Center for Emergency Situations – Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the National Agency for Land Reclamation, the Rural Investment Financing Agency, the Regional Center for Financing Rural Investments (CRFIR 8) Bucharest-Ilfov, National Agency for Animal Husbandry "Prof. Dr. G.K. Constantinescu", the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, farmers' organisations, such as Romanian Farmers' Club for High-Performance Agriculture, Professional Farmers and Processors Association of Romania, Farmers' Association of Romania, Agrinnovator, and individual farmers and agricultural companies.

The TRANSFER Danube National Dissemination Event presented the progress and objectives of the TRANSFER Danube project and related initiatives. Participants attended presentations on agro-climatic monitoring systems, agrometeorological indicators, and the development of the Danube e-platform. Discussions focused on climate risks affecting agriculture, particularly drought and irrigation challenges. Farmers and stakeholders shared practical feedback on irrigation infrastructure, water management, and the need for accessible climate data to support agricultural decision-making.

The event was organized to disseminate the progress and results of the TRANSFER Danube project, promote collaboration between stakeholders, and gather feedback from institutions, researchers, and farmers. It also aimed to discuss climate-related challenges affecting agriculture in the Danube region and explore how agro-climatic monitoring tools and data platforms can support climate-informed agricultural decision-making and adaptation strategies.

First National Stakeholder Conference in Montenegro

Date: 4th March 2026
Location: Podgorica, Croatia

On 4 March 2026, in Podgorica, Montenegro, the Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology held a national conference within the TRANSFER Danube project, presenting results, the agroclimatic e-platform, and future activities to strengthen climate resilience in agriculture.

The event gathered 18 participants in total. Participants were introduced to the overall objectives, structure and partnership of the project. Particular attention was given to the results achieved so far, especially the activities implemented in Montenegro.

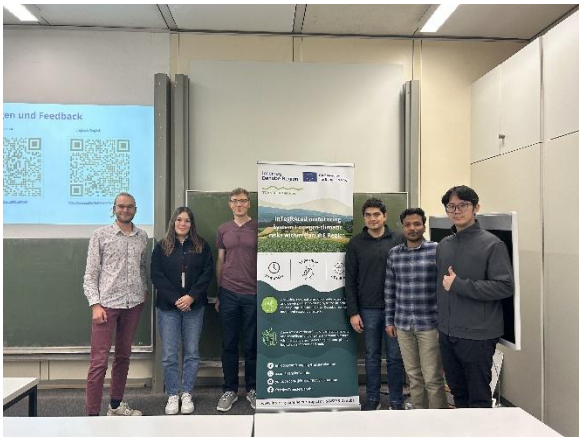
A key focus of the presentation was the development of the TRANSFER Danube transnational e-platform, which will integrate climate, hydrological and agricultural databases, maps, models and analytical tools. The platform will serve as a shared resource for Danube region countries, supporting better planning and adaptation of agricultural production to climate challenges.

A stakeholder survey was conducted, and it showed a high level of experience and interest in climate and agroclimatic data among participants. Most respondents (11 out of 14 received answers) already have experience with climate or water resource databases and tools related to agriculture. Participants represented different sectors, including national authorities, research and educational institutions, companies, NGO, and farmers, indicating a diverse stakeholder background.

The conference concluded with an open discussion, during which stakeholders from Plantaže, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Biotechnical Faculty shared their views and provided feedback. The discussion highlighted the importance of cooperation between institutions, experts and end users in addressing the growing challenges of climate change.

First National Stakeholder Conference in Germany

On 12 March 2026, the Institute for Modelling Hydraulic and Environmental Systems (IWS) at the University of Stuttgart hosted an outreach event on the TRANSFER Danube project at Campus Vaihingen, combining an introduction to the project with a practical drone workshop.



Date: 12th March 2026
Location: Stuttgart, Germany

The event began with an overview of TRANSFER Danube and the role of IWS within the international project consortium. Participants were introduced to the project's timeline, structure, motivation, and key objectives, as well as the development of the e-platform and its intended functions for different user and stakeholder groups. The presentation also highlighted IWS contributions to the project, including data collection methods and the use of numerical soil erosion models.

The second part of the event focused on drone-based data collection. In the Drone Copter Workshop, participants learned about EU drone licensing requirements, different types of survey drones and the data they can generate, and practical aspects of preparing and carrying out drone surveys in the field. A discussion session gave participants the opportunity to ask questions and exchange ideas.

The event concluded with a practical demonstration on Campus Vaihingen, where the measurement equipment was presented on site and participants were able to test it themselves.

By combining project presentation with hands-on technical insight, the event offered an accessible introduction to TRANSFER Danube and demonstrated how drone-supported methods contribute to data collection within the project.

First National Stakeholder Conference in Hungary

Date: 10th March 2026
Location: Tatabánya, Hungary

Experts, decision-makers, and practitioners gathered in Tatabánya on the 10th of March 2026 for the TRANSFER Danube National Stakeholder Meeting & Conference, organised by the Rába-Duna-Vág European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability. The event created a vibrant platform for dialogue on one of the most pressing challenges facing the region today - climate change and its growing impact on agriculture.

A diverse range of expert presentations enriched the agenda. Regional perspectives demonstrated how local authorities are already responding to environmental challenges through climate-conscious planning and sustainable land-use strategies. At the same time, contributions from the Central Danube Development Agency (CDDA) and leading researchers highlighted how climate adaptation strategies are being translated into agricultural practice, supported by field experiments and long-term observations.

Beyond the presentations, the event placed strong emphasis on stakeholder engagement. Participants were actively encouraged to ask questions, share experiences, and provide feedback. A structured feedback process, supported by both printed questionnaires and a QR-code-based online survey, ensured that valuable input could be collected for the further development of project outputs. Discussions highlighted a strong demand for accessible, practical tools, as well as the need to translate scientific results into clear and usable information for end users.

The conference concluded with closing remarks by Ms. Ema Vasiová, who thanked participants for their active involvement and emphasised the importance of ensuring that project results reach those who need them most – including decision-makers and agricultural producers facing climate challenges on a daily basis. She also highlighted the project's ambition to deliver tangible, practical outcomes and announced a future information day to present final results.

First National Stakeholder Conference in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Hydrometeorological Service of Republic Srpska held the National Conference within the framework of the TRANSFER Danube project. A National conference was held in Banja Luka, at the Amphitheatre of the Faculty of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, on 12th March 2026.

Date: 12th March 2026
Location: Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The event brought together representatives of different Ministries (agriculture, water management, environment) NGO in Agriculture sectors, Agricultural Institute, Statistics, university professors in the field of climate change and meteorology, private researchers, agriculture worker, farmers, etc.

After the presentation, a panel discussion was held on the topic of Transfer Danube, agrometeorological risk, climate change and the benefits of this Project. In the panel discussion, five panellists from different fields participated - one from our institution, one from the Project team, one from the Ministry and one professor of the climate change field.

For farmers, the presenters explained that the platform will offer automatic alerts about upcoming agroclimatic extremes and their potential impact on crops. Interactive risk maps will help farmers assess climate risks in specific areas and receive recommendations for appropriate measures, such as optimising irrigation during drought periods.

The discussion highlighted the importance of cooperation between institutions, experts and end users in addressing the growing challenges of climate change.

Communication channels

The project includes a well-balanced mixture of partners coming from several main sectors: public authorities (local, regional and national), research institutions, NGOs, meteo, and environmental agencies. Together, we represent varied views across a range of stakeholders and interests, providing competent knowledge and experience in the field of climate change, agriculture, and policy design. The partnership is characterized by a strong transnational character, covering nine nations and eleven institutions within the Interreg Danube Region Program area, thus ensuring a good geographical and cultural coverage and relevant attention to the issues and needs of a wide range of institutional settings and establishments from European Countries.

National Meteorological Administration (NMA)- **Lead partner**, Romania	METEO ROMANIA	https://www.meteoromania.ro
Sensum ltd. (SENSUM), Croatia	sensum	https://sensum.hr
Rába-Duna-Vág European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability (RDV EGTC), Hungary	EZÚS ETT rdv	https://rdvegtc.eu
University of Stuttgart (IWS), Germany	University of Stuttgart Germany	https://www.uni-stuttgart.de
Central Danube Development Agency Nonprofit Ltd. (CDDA), Hungary	CENTRAL DANUBE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY NONPROFIT LTD.	https://kdmfu.hu
The Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Republika Srpska (RHMZ RS), Bosna and Herzegovina		https://rhmzrs.com

Association "Centre for Sustainability and Economic Growth" (CSEG), Bulgaria	CSEG	https://cseg.eu
Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CULS), Czech Republic	CZU Faculty of Engineering	https://www.czu.cz/en
Széchenyi István University (SZE), Hungary	SZÉCHENYI EGYETEM UNIVERSITY OF GYŐR	https://www.uni.sze.hu
Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology (IHMS), Montenegro	IHMS	http://www.meteo.co.me
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Austria	BOKU UNIVERSITY	https://boku.ac.at/en/oekb/wald

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EDITORIAL

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