



Output Factsheet

Output title: Strategy for accessible transport in the Danube Region

Summary of the output (max. 2500 characters)

The "Strategy for Accessible Transport in the Danube Region" (DANOVA NEXT Strategy) provides a comprehensive framework to improve transport accessibility for passengers with disabilities across the region. It addresses key barriers, proposes solutions, and aligns with European policies such as the EU Disability Strategy 2021-2030 and the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy.

The strategy identifies challenges such as inconsistent accessibility standards, gaps in enforcement, and insufficient investment in accessibility improvements. Through a unified approach, it provides policymakers, transport operators, and disability advocacy groups with actionable measures to enhance accessibility. The document includes a structured methodology for assessing accessibility, best practices from 71 successful cases, and practical guidelines for implementing assistive technologies.

A key component of the strategy is the DANOVA NEXT Toolkit, an online resource that helps transport organizations evaluate and improve accessibility through tailored recommendations. Stakeholder engagement, including transnational working groups and field assessments at airports, ports, and public transport hubs, ensures that the strategy reflects real-world needs and supports sustainable, inclusive mobility solutions.

Contribution to the programme and project objectives, output and result indicator, as well as to the targets set for the Priority Area concerned (max. 2000 characters)

The strategy contributes to the objectives of the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme by promoting equal opportunities and social inclusion through accessible transport systems. It aligns with the programme's goals by enhancing cross-border cooperation and fostering harmonized accessibility policies within the region.

The output directly supports the project's objectives by identifying and addressing



accessibility gaps, creating a shared framework for improvements, and enabling the uptake of best practices. It contributes to the project’s output and result indicators by:

- Providing a structured methodology for assessing and improving accessibility.
- Establishing harmonized regulations across the region.
- Promoting knowledge exchange and cooperation between policymakers, transport providers, and disability organizations.
- Increasing compliance with EU accessibility regulations in transport hubs.

The strategy sets tangible targets for Priority Areas related to accessibility, ensuring that transport facilities are better equipped to serve all passengers, particularly those with disabilities.

How can the output be used and by whom (target group), what is the benefit and the impact for these target groups and the target area / Danube Region? (max. 1500 characters)

The strategy serves as a roadmap for various stakeholders:

- Policymakers: It supports the integration of accessibility considerations into national and regional transport policies and ensures compliance with EU directives.
- Transport Operators: It provides guidance on infrastructure upgrades, staff training, and service improvements to enhance accessibility.
- Disability Advocacy Groups: It acts as an advocacy tool, helping organizations push for policy changes and participate in accessibility audits.
- Innovation & Technology Developers: It encourages the development of AI-powered navigation tools, real-time accessibility apps, and inclusive ticketing solutions.

The impact of the strategy extends beyond the disability community. Improved accessibility enhances passenger flow, boosts inclusive tourism, and contributes to economic growth in the Danube Region. By promoting cross-border cooperation, it helps standardize accessibility measures and foster regional cohesion.

How can the sustainability of the output be ensured and where and to whom is it going to be transferred? (max. 1500 characters)

The sustainability of the DANOVA NEXT Strategy is ensured through:

- Integration into National and Regional Policies: Policymakers are encouraged to adopt the strategy’s recommendations and integrate them into legislative frameworks.
- Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement: Regular workshops, working groups, and



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monitoring mechanisms will support continuous implementation.

- **Technological Innovations:** The DANOVA NEXT Toolkit will remain available for transport operators to assess and enhance accessibility over time.
- **Cross-Border Collaboration:** The strategy promotes harmonization of accessibility standards, making it transferable to other regions facing similar challenges.

The strategy will be disseminated to policymakers, transport operators, and advocacy groups across the Danube Region, ensuring long-term impact. Through cooperation between public and private stakeholders, the strategy will continue to evolve and drive sustainable improvements in transport accessibility.