

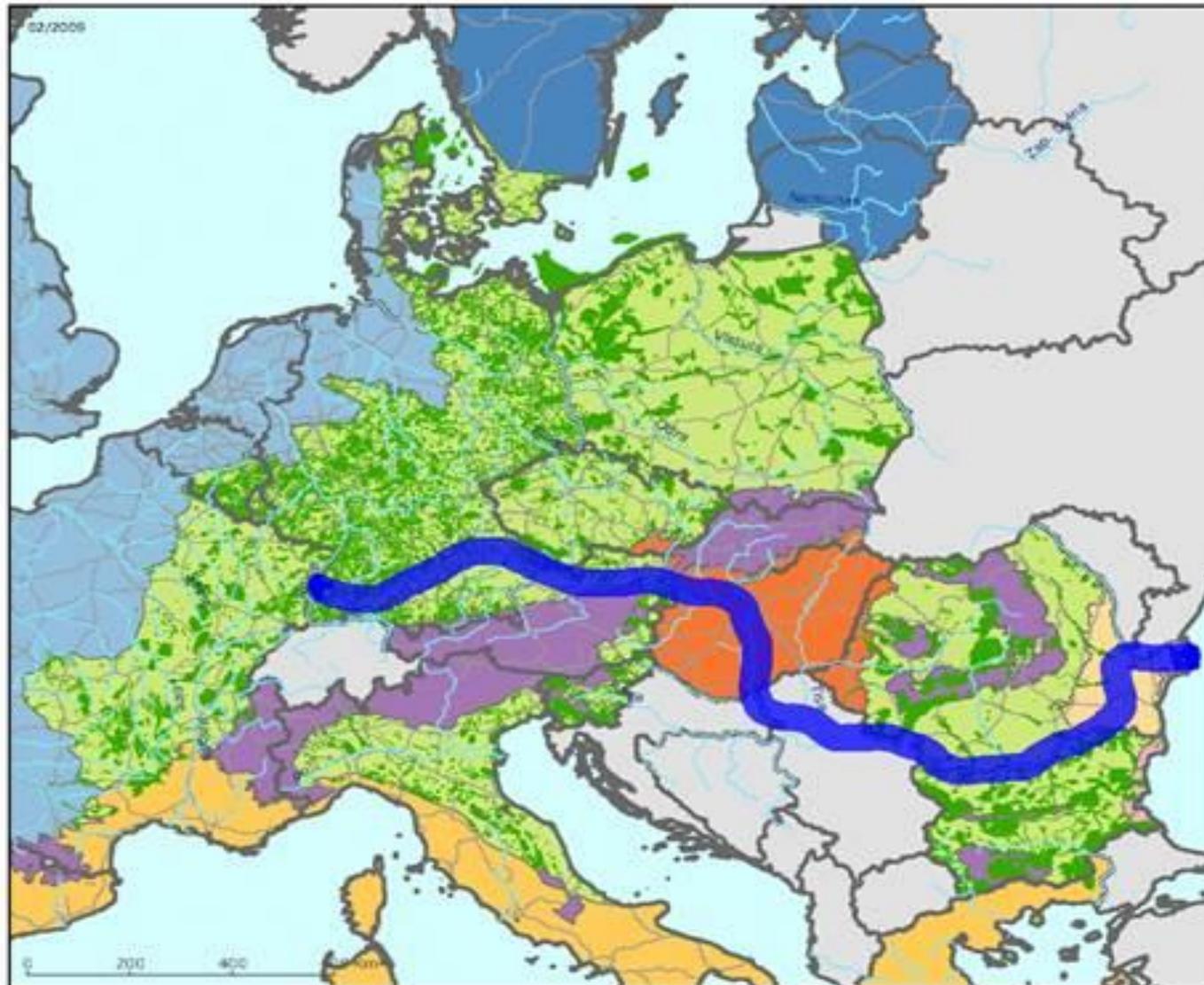


# LIFE WILDIsland

## The Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor

1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Riparian  
Ecosystems Science and Management  
April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Bratislava

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DANUBEPARKS Secretary, Nationalpark Donau-Auen  
[g.frank@danubeparks.org](mailto:g.frank@danubeparks.org)



**NATURA 2000: Continental biogeographical region**



- Continental NATURA 2000 sites
- Alpine biogeographical region
- Atlantic biogeographical region
- Black Sea biogeographical region
- Boreal biogeographical region
- Continental biogeographical region
- Mediterranean biogeographical region
- Paenonian biogeographical region
- Steppic biogeographical region

Source: NATURA 2000 - DG ENV, compiled from databases from the Member States.  
Sources background map: © EuroGlobalMap/Eurogeographics and DG ESTAT.  
Validity of NATURA 2000 data for: Continental region. Updated: December 2005.  
Projection: Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area.

European Environment Agency



- 1 Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve
- 2 Lower Prut Natura Reserve
- 3 Small Wetlands of Braila
- 4 Rusenski Lom Nature Park
- 5 Parsina Nature Park
- 6 Iron Gates Natural Park
- 7 Kopačkit Nature Park
- 8 Gornja Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve
- 9 Duna-Dráva National Park
- 10 Duna-Ipoly National Park
- 11 Szigetköz Landscape Protection Area, Fertő-Hanság National Park
- 12 Dunajská Luhy Protected Landscape Area
- 13 Záhonie Protected Landscape Area
- 14 Donau-Auen National Park
- 15 Wachau Protected Landscape Area
- 16 Narrow Valley of the Danube in Passau district
- 17 Donauwald Neuburg-Ingolstadt



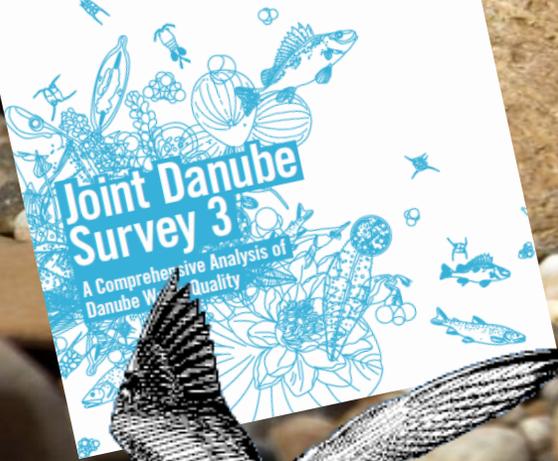
**DANUBE PARKS**  
network of protected areas

**Island – „flagship habitats“ for intact rivers**



**Duna Ipoly National Park  
(Hungary)**

# WILDislands – key sites for characteristic species of rivers

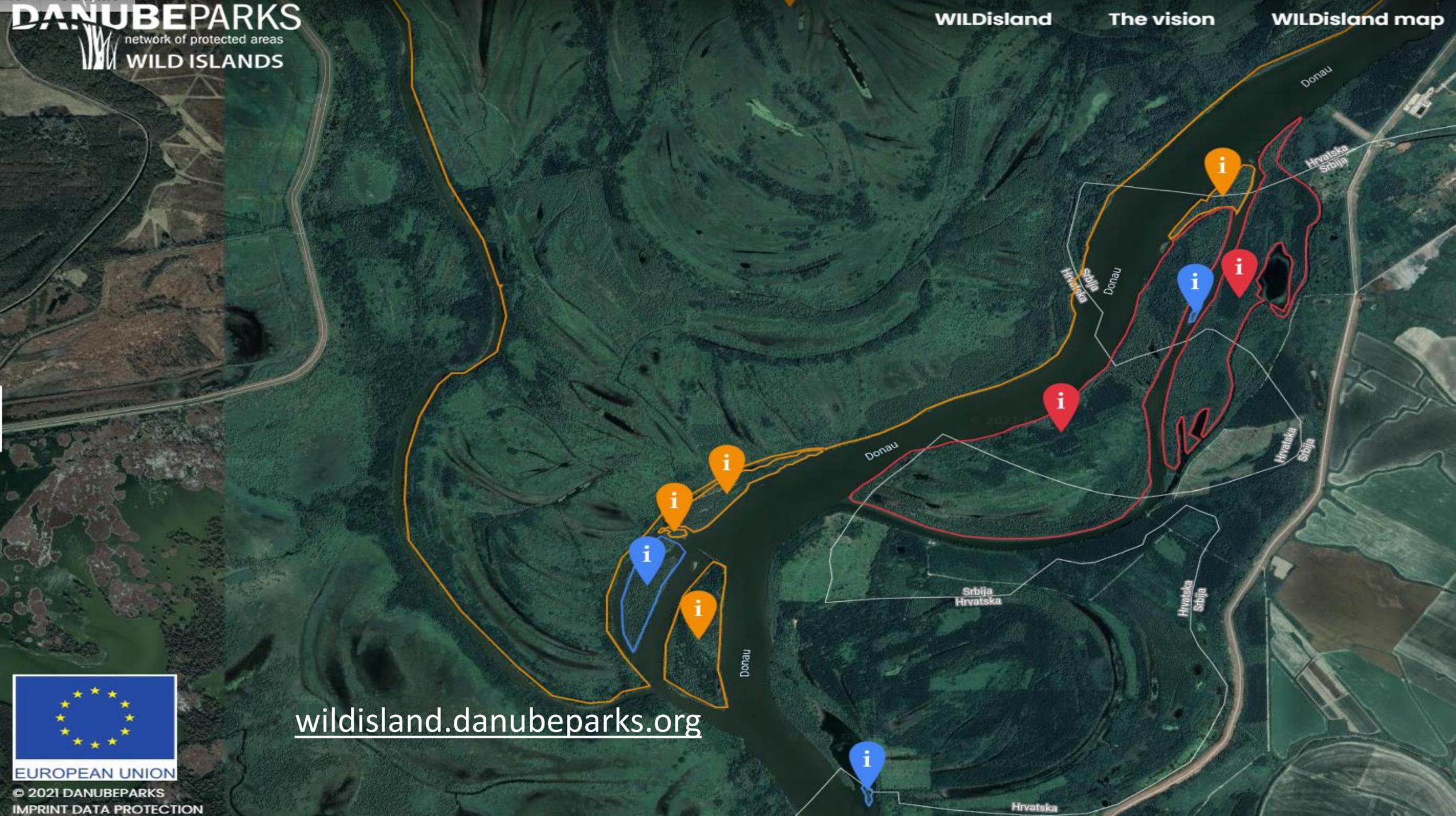


at the Danube, >80 % of the Little ringed Plover breed on islands

# Island protection – on the interface of conservation & navigation

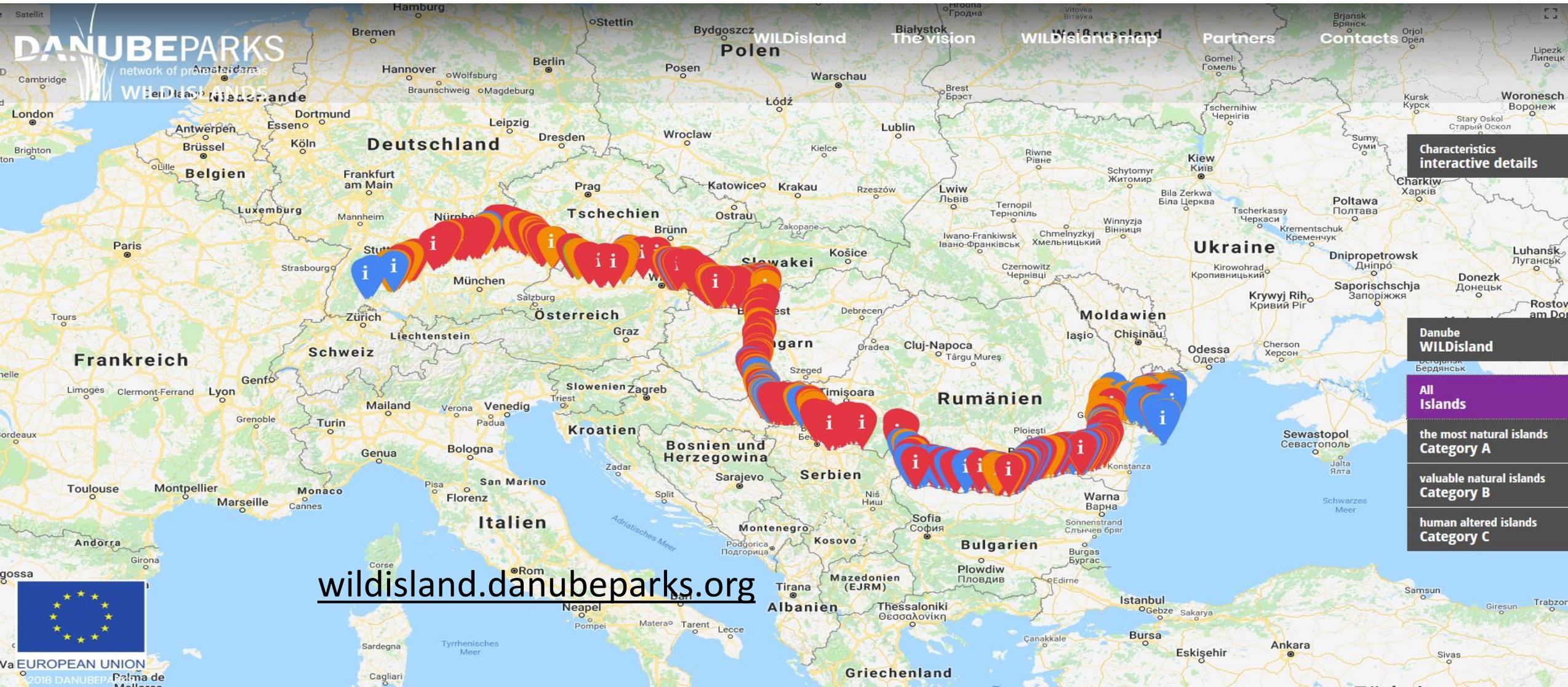


**Milka island**  
**Persina Nature Park, Bulgaria**



[wildisland.danubeparks.org](http://wildisland.danubeparks.org)







**DANUBE PARKS**  
network of protected areas  
**WILD ISLANDS**

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### The Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor

- 3,000 river kilometres
- 912 islands
- 138,000 ha of dynamic island habitats
- 147 untouched or completely natural islands
- 14,000 ha of wilderness

Project co-funded by the European Union (ERDF, IPA funds)



**Interreg**  
Danube Transnational Programme  
**DANUBE**parks**CONNECTED**

[LEARN MORE](#)

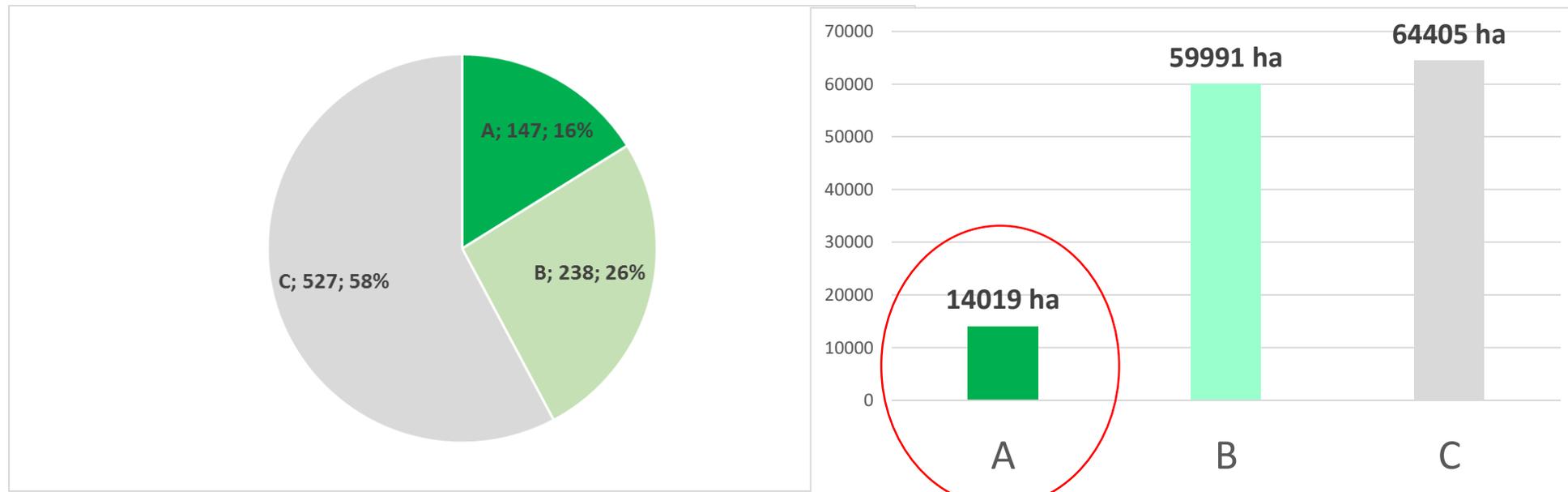
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EUROPEAN UNION  
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IMPRINT DATA PROTECTION



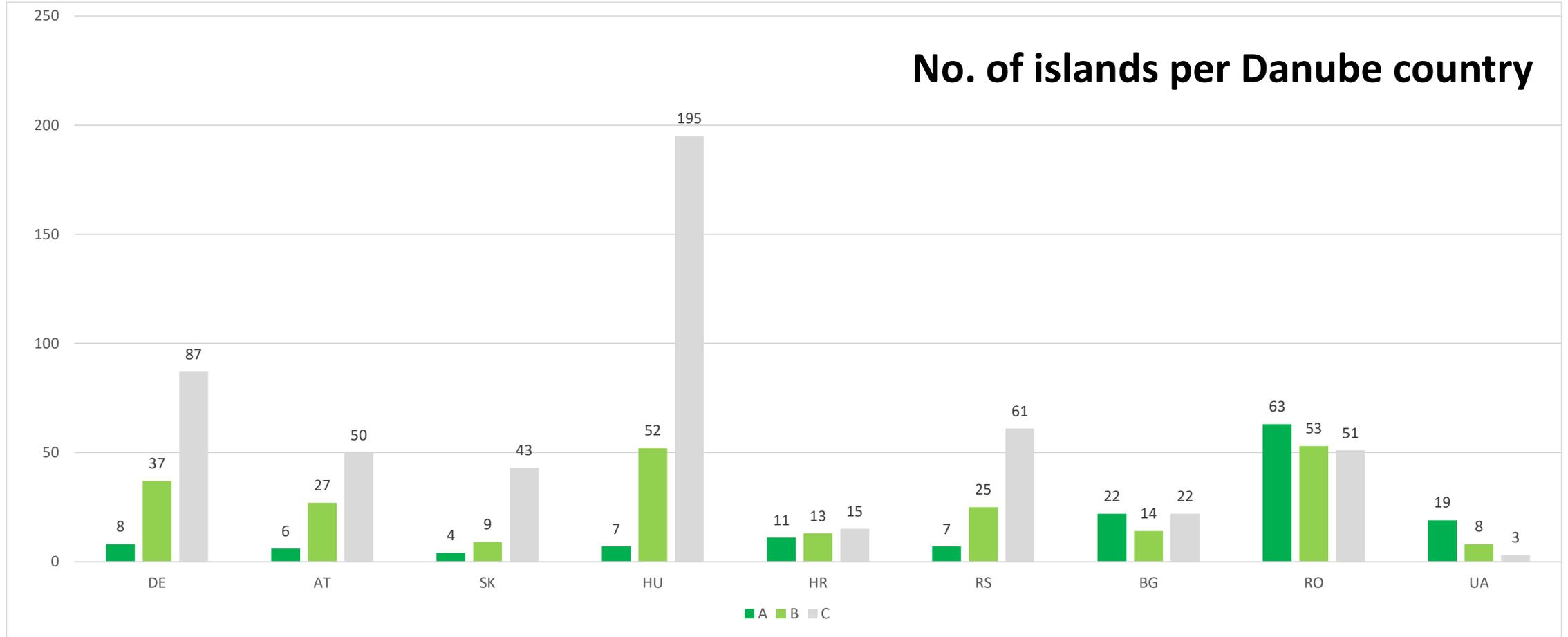
in total: **912 islands - 138,415 ha**



*Category A = WILDIslands (natural islands)*

*Category B = near natural islands (with potential for restoration)*

*Category C = other islands*



*Category A = WILDIslands (natural islands)*

*Category B = near natural islands (with potential for restoration)*

*Category C = other islands*



# LIFE WILDIsland

**Project period:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2027

**Budget:** 14,2 Mio. € (EU 63,98%)

## Objectives:

- Establishment of **ecological corridor for dynamic riverine habitats** (Danube islands as stepping stones)
- Promotion of river dynamics & non-intervention management & **riverine wilderness**
- **Restoration** of islands and dynamic riverine habitats
- Improvement of **conservation status of 91E0\*** as „umbrella habitat“
- **Cross-sectoral cooperation** (nature conservation, waterway, hydropower, forestry)
- WILDIsland habitat eco-corridor as **best practice Green & Blue Infrastructure for large rivers in Europe**



## **Project Partnership:**

8 Danube countries, 15 partners, 59 strategic partners

## **DANUBE PARKS (Network of Protected Areas):**

Donau-Auen National Park(AT)

BROZ (SK)

Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate (HU)

Duna-Dráve National Park Directorate (HU)

Fertő Hanság National Park Directorate (HU)

Nature Park Kopacki rit (HR)

Persina Nature Park Directorate

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (RO)

## **Waterway administrations:**

Viadonau (AT)

ADUVIZIG (HU)

## **Hydropower:**

UNIPER (D)

Verbund Austrian Hydropower (AT)

## **Forst Enterprises:**

Croatian Forest (HR)

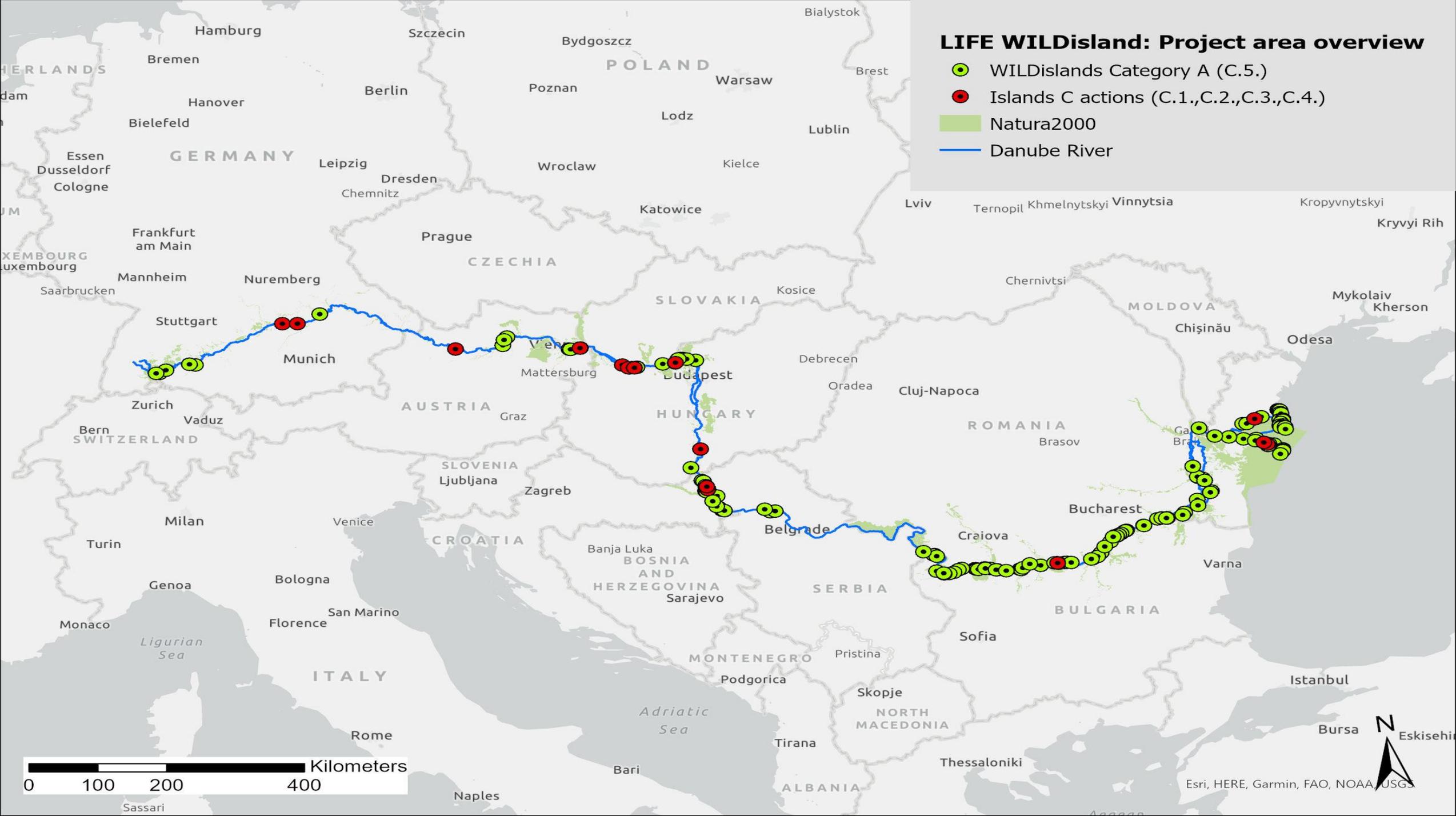
Vojvodinašume (RS)

ROMSILVA (RO)

**Co-Financing:** Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection Fund (HR), Ministry for Agriculture (HU), Bundesministerium für Landwirtschaft, Regionen und Tourismus (AT), NÖ Landesfischereiverband (AT), Fischereierevierversband II (AT)

# LIFE WILDIsland: Project area overview

-  WILDIslands Category A (C.5.)
-  Islands C actions (C.1.,C.2.,C.3.,C.4.)
-  Natura2000
-  Danube River



# LIFE WILDIsland: Project area overview

-  WILDIslands Category A (C.5.)
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0 100 200 400 Kilometers

Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS

C.2.1. Dynamization island landscape („Schwalbeninsel“)  
(Nationalpark Donau-Auen/Austria)



1994



2007



2020

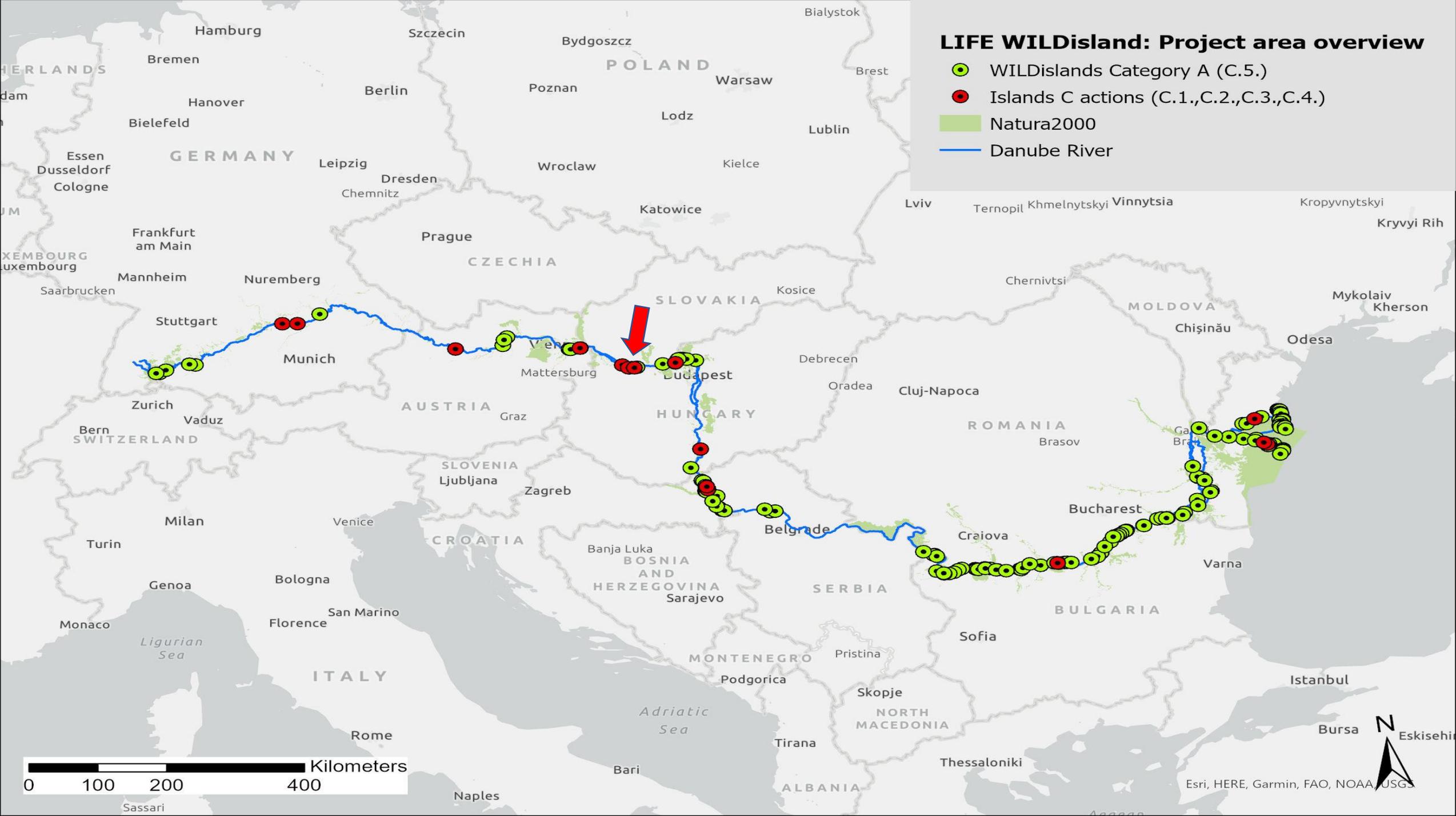


## C.2.1. Dynamization island landscape „Schwalbeninsel“ (Donau-Auen Nationalpark/Austria)



# LIFE WILDIsland: Project area overview

-  WILDIslands Category A (C.5.)
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0 100 200 400 Kilometers

Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS

### **C.2.3. First ecological groyne optimization in Slovakia (Kliska nema/Slovakia)**



# Action: C.2.3. Kližská Nemá

## Measures

-  Adaptation of groynes
-  Dredging
-  SK040



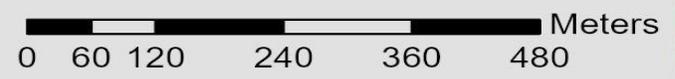
Danube River  




## Action: C.2.3. Kližská Nemá

### Impact

-  Improved waterbody
-  Improved dynamics
-  Hydrological improvement
-  SK040





# LIFE WILDisland

- total budget **14,2 Mio. € (>70% for concrete conservation actions)** to restore **34 Danube islands**
- **11 measures for hydro-morphological restoration (7.9 Mio. € = 55%)**  
(e.g. improved waterbodies on > 48 km)
- **12 forest restoration actions** (transformation of plantations, IAS Management (1.9 Mio. €))
- **Danube-wide conservation of WILDislands**  
(136.000 € - **strategic partnerships** e.g. with Ramsar, IUCN)



## Voices

*"The WILD island initiative is an excellent example for the establishment of Green and Blue Infrastructure. The Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor project contributes to further developing and strengthening the coherence of the Natura 2000 network."*



**Humberto Dalgado Rosa**  
DG Environment European Commission  
Director Natural Capital

## Voices

*"The Danube River is a backbone for biodiversity in South-East Europe. Danube Protected Areas manage and protect the most valuable sites and habitats. The aim of DANUBE PARKS to foster a coherent management practice, and initiatives like the Wild Island Habitat Corridor contribute significantly to develop the Danube as a large-scale ecological corridor."*



**Florian Ballus**, Coordinator of the Priority Area 6 (Biodiversity) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region



# Jointly for the Danube WILDIsland Habitat Corridor !

**new LIFE programme 2021-2027**  
[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en)

**new LIFE call for proposal 2022 / publication dates (on the 17th of May)**  
[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life/life-calls-proposals\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life/life-calls-proposals_en)

**new LIFE project database** <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search>