

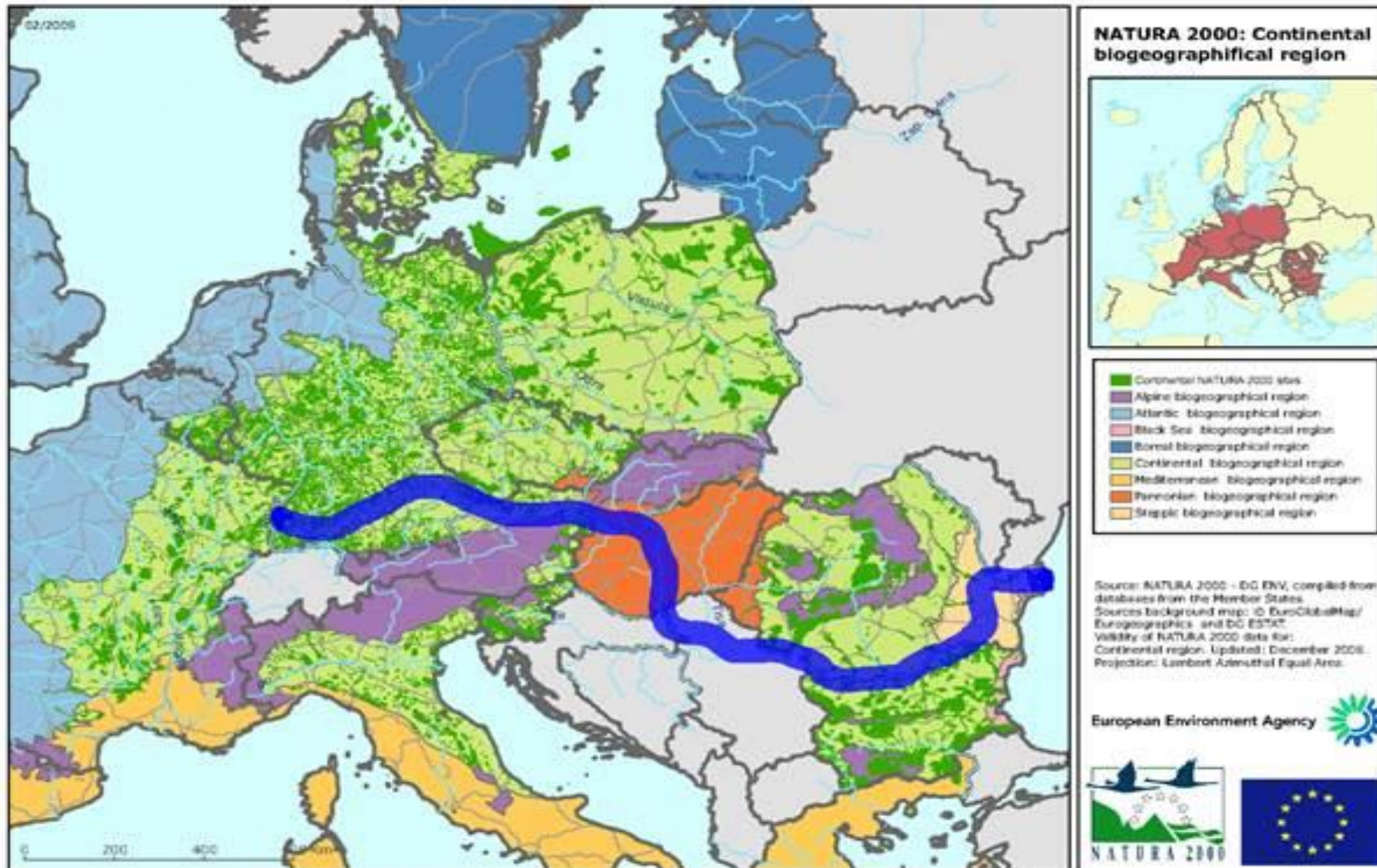


LIFE WILDisland

The Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor

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

Georg Frank & Elena Kmetova-Birö
DANUBE PARKS Secretary, Nationalpark Donau-Auen
g.frank@danubeparks.org



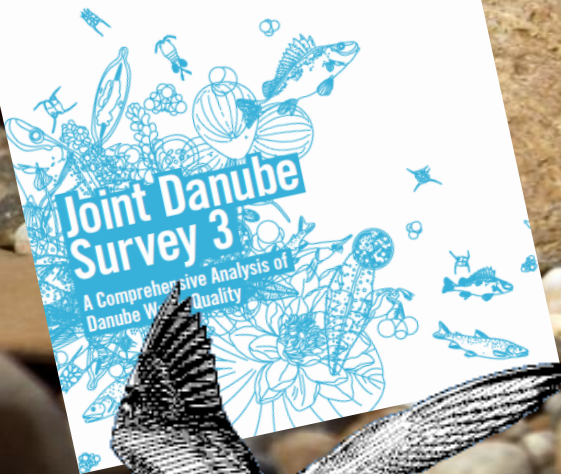


Island – „flagship habitats“ for intact rivers

Duna Ipoly National Park
(Hungary)



WILDislands – key sites for characteristic species of rivers

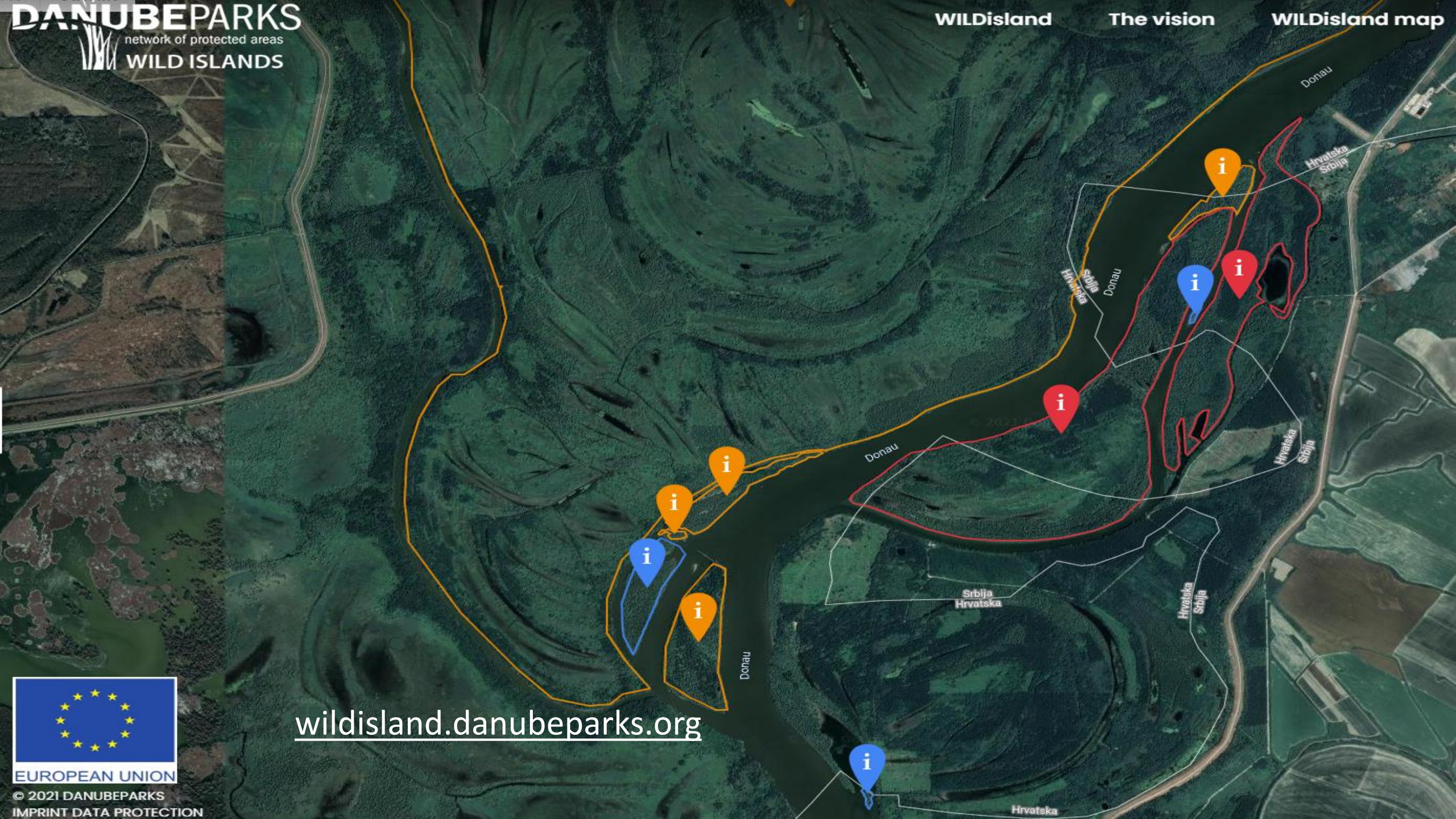


at the Danube, >80 % of the Little ringed Plover breed on islands

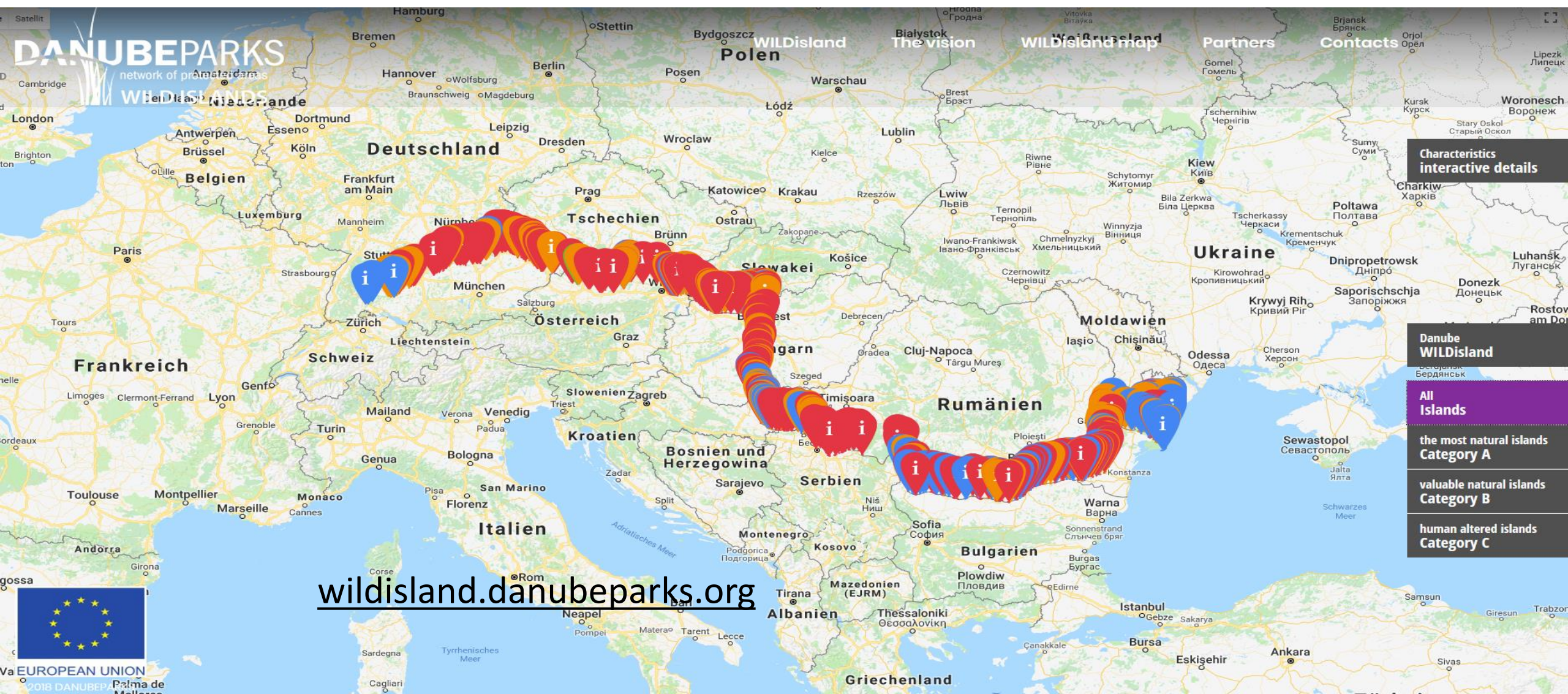
Island protection – on the interface of conservation & navigation



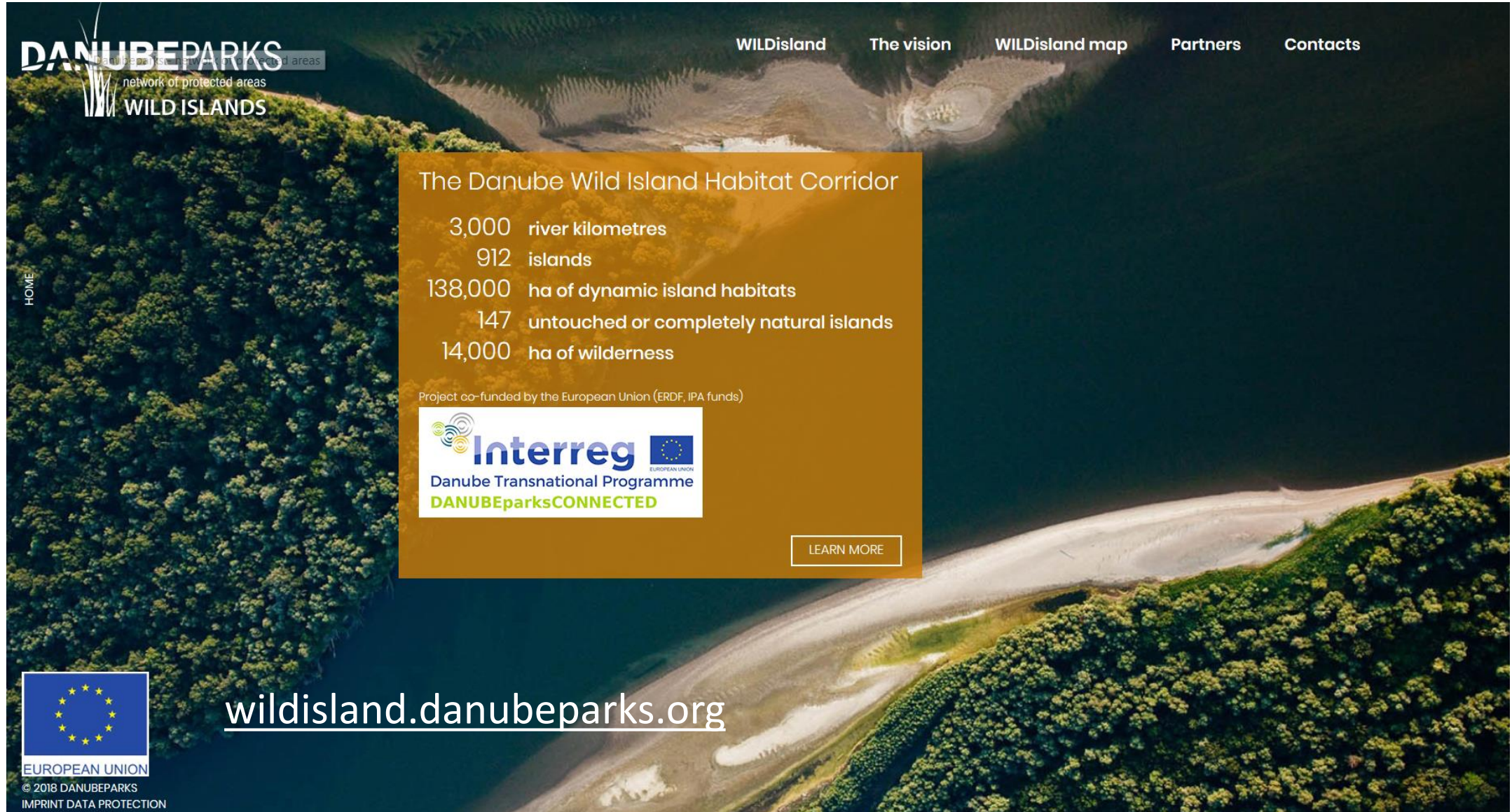
Milka island
Persina Nature Park, Bulgaria



wildisland.danubeparks.org









network of protected areas
WILD ISLANDS

HOME

WILDIsland The vision WILDIsland map Partners Contacts

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

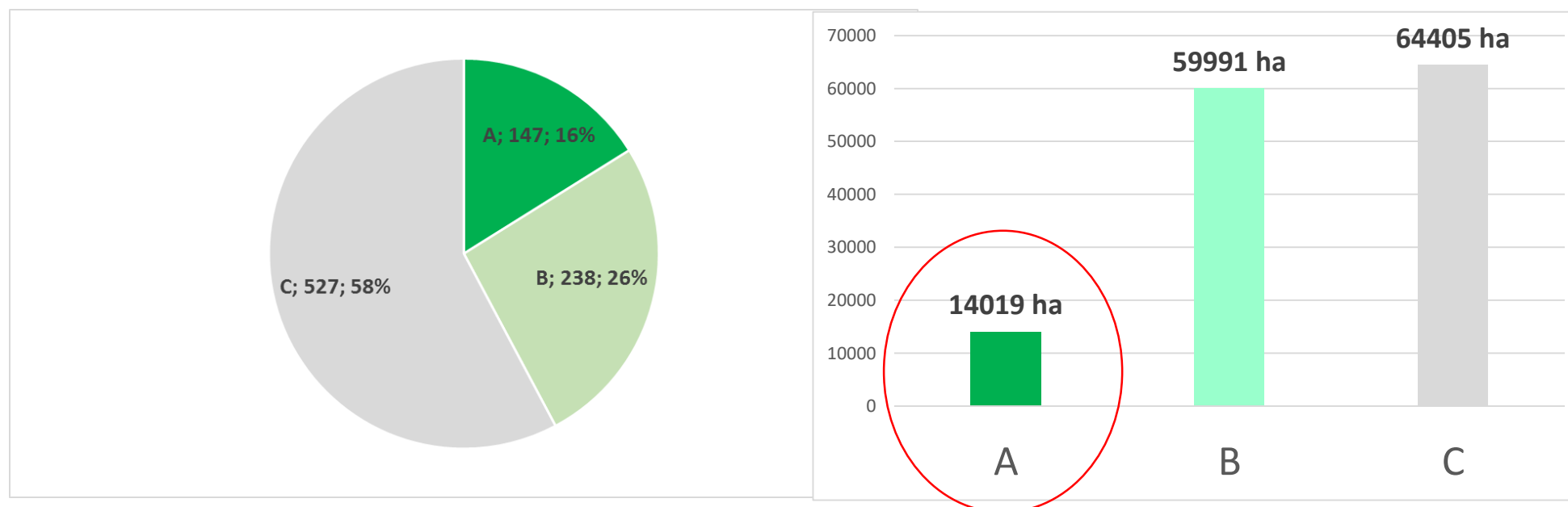


EUROPEAN UNION
© 2018 DANUBE PARKS
IMPRINT DATA PROTECTION

wildisland.danubeparks.org



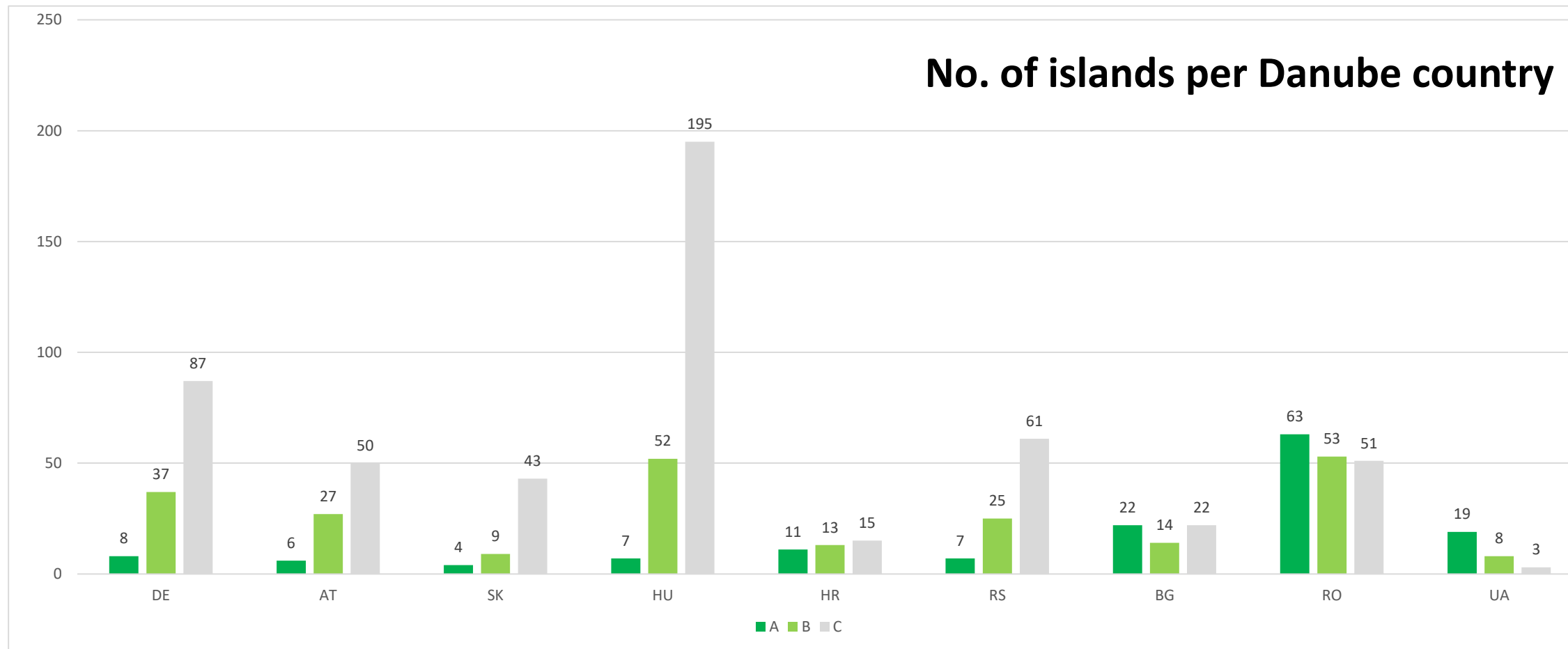
in total: **912 islands - 138,415 ha**



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: 1st Sept. 2021 – 31st 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), Fischereirevierversband II (AT)





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)





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



Action: C.2.3. Kližská Nemá

Measures

-  Adaptation of groynes
-  Dredging
-  SK040



Action: C.2.3. Kližská Nemá

Impact

-  Improved waterbody
-  Improved dynamics
-  Hydrological improvement
-  SK040



Danube River



0 60 120 240 360 480 Meters



GKU, NLC, Maxar, Microsoft



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

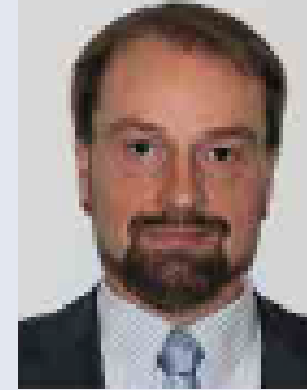
"The WILD island initiative is an excellent example for the establishment of Green and Blue Infrastructure. The Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor project contributes to further developing and strengthening the coherence of the Natura 2000 network."



Humberto Delgado 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 is 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

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

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

Photo: Alexander Ivanov