

TRANSFER Danube Newsletter №2

March 2026

Contents:

1. *About the Project*
2. *Participation of TRANSFER Danube in third-party events*
3. *News from Hungary*
4. *News from the Czech Republic*
5. *News from Croatia*
6. *Communication channels*



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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 €

Project budget

80.00 %

Interreg funds

04/2025-09/2027

Project duration

Participation of TRANSFER Danube Project in third-party events

European Researchers' Night ReCoNnect



Date: 25-27th September 2025

Location: Bucharest, Romania

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"European Researchers' Night ReCoNnect" is organised in Romania by a consortium formed by: the National Research and Development Institute for Nuclear Physics and Engineering "Horia Hulubei", the National Research and Development Institute for Materials Physics, the National Research and Development Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics, the National Research and Development Institute for Earth Physics, the Institute of Space Sciences - INFLPR branch, the Institute of Atomic Physics, the University of Bucharest, the "Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, the "Ştefan cel Mare" University of Suceava, the "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galaţi, along with numerous institutional and local partners.

The 2025 edition (25-27.09.2025) took place in over 20 localities, including Bucharest. The message of the 2025 edition of the Researchers' Night: responsibility for the planet begins with scientific understanding and concrete actions in our communities. The events were designed to transform curiosity into sustainable behaviours, at the individual and collective levels and include: spectacular demonstrations, hands-on experiments, educational installations, accessible mini-conferences and meetings with research teams in fields such as energy and resources, environmental and Earth physics, space sciences, advanced materials, laser and plasma, biology and data science. This year's edition focuses on applied solutions for sustainability, from energy efficiency and air quality, to the circular economy, biodiversity and urban resilience.



Invited scientists, along with participants - students, young people, the general public - were invited to explore, debate and create sustainable solutions for protecting the environment, in a collaborative and interdisciplinary learning framework. At the heart of this approach is the idea that science is the key to empowerment, both individual and collective.

The National Meteorological Administration was invited to present to the public the institution's research activity on 26 September 2025 in Măgurele, and 27 September 2025 in Bucharest.

Participation of TRANSFER Danube Project in Webinar ‘Bridging the Gap – Evolving Finance for Integrated Drought Management’

Across Central and Eastern Europe, drought has evolved from a sporadic phenomenon into a persistent and intensifying challenge, with far-reaching impacts on agriculture, ecosystems, energy, and public health. Despite its growing severity, financing for proactive and integrated drought management remains limited, fragmented, and largely reactive.

To address these issues, I, as Co-Chair of the Community of Learning and Practice for Drought Management for Central and Eastern Europe, together with my colleague Sabrija Čadro from Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized a webinar on drought finance, held online on 8 October.



Date: 8th October 2025

Location: Online

The main objective of the webinar was to explore three key areas:

- How global financing systems are adapting to better support drought-related efforts;

- What actions countries in our region are taking to plan and fund drought resilience;
- How to address persistent gaps—especially in institutional coordination and access to innovative financing tools.

The discussion brought together representatives from global financial institutions, international agencies, and national governments. Distinguished speakers from the UNCCD Global Mechanism, FAO, and the World Bank shared valuable insights into the current global landscape, addressing questions such as: Who is financing drought-related interventions? What trends are emerging? And what plans exist for future financing at the global level?

Esteemed representatives from Serbia, Moldova, Georgia, Romania, and Montenegro also shared their experiences—highlighting success stories, ongoing challenges, and diverse approaches to mobilizing resources.

The webinar, organized under the UNCCD Community of Learning and Practice, gathered 109 participants from across the world, primarily from Central and Eastern Europe. The event fostered an open exchange of ideas and strengthened regional cooperation on financing mechanisms to enhance drought resilience.

Link to the video of the webinar:

https://youtu.be/AMnC_WvZxFQ

Participation of TRANSFER Danube Project in Workshop "Forests and Water"

The "Workshop Forests and Water" was an event between Austria and Czech Republic, based on a state treaty between both nations. It was taking place in Krtiny Castle close to Brno, on 14th and 15th of October 2025. The event was focusing the threat of droughts to water resources. Several presentations were given, followed by discussions among the participants.



Date: 14-15th October 2025

Location: Brno, Czech Republic

Involved were the people from: Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management (Austria); Water Section of the Austrian province Lower Austria; Czech Mendel University, Brno; Foresters from Austria and Czech Republic; further Scientists.

The event happened because of the state treaty between both nations (Austria and Czech Republic), for regions close to the border

between both countries (Lower Austria and South Moravia).

Dr. Roland Koeck was invited to present the functionality of forests in relation to hydrology, in the course of which the response strategy concept applied in the TRANSFER-Danube project was presented. The presentations were given in either German or Czech language and were translated simultaneously.

TRANSFER Danube at the 4th REL (Short Food Supply Chain) EXPO & Conference



Date: 13th November 2025

Location: Jakabszállás, Kecskemét, Hungary

The TRANSFER Danube project marked its presence at the 4th Short Food Supply Chain (SFC) Expo and Conference, held at the AERO Hotel in Jakabszállás, near Kecskemét. This flagship event - implemented within the framework of the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary-Serbia Programme, as part of the ARCCHAD project (HUSRB/23R/11/008), led by the KDMFÜ Central Danube Region Development Agency Nonprofit Ltd. - brought together nearly

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100 exhibitors and a wide range of stakeholders, from small-scale producers and rural communities to agricultural experts and local authorities.

Although the event primarily focused on promoting local products, agrotourism, and innovative supply chain solutions, TRANSFER Danube leveraged the opportunity to engage with the professional audience. A dedicated roll-up and project leaflets were displayed, highlighting the project's efforts to monitor agro-climatic risks in the Danube region and provide adaptive solutions for small-scale farmers.



During the conference, several presentations addressed key climate challenges in agriculture. Notably, a dedicated presentation highlighted the environmental and social impact of climate change in the Homokhátság region, illustrating how local communities and farmers are already adapting. Other sessions explored alternative solutions for smallholder farmers, sustainable local food systems, and international best practices in value creation from local products.

The project's presence aligned with the Expo's 2025 themes, including climate change adaptation, smart digital solutions in rural entrepreneurship, and sustainable packaging. Visitors had the chance to learn about the TRANSFER Danube e-platform, which integrates climate, water, and agricultural data to support decision-making and resilience strategies for winter wheat and maize production across the region.



By participating in this vibrant exchange of ideas and best practices, CDDA aimed to strengthen the TRANSFER Danube project's outreach to local and regional decision-makers, farmers, and experts, further promoting knowledge transfer and fostering transnational collaboration in climate-smart agriculture.

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NEWS FROM HUNGARY

Soil Moisture Monitoring Initiated in Nagyhörcsök, Hungary

The soil moisture sensors were installed by CDDA's expert team, researchers from the Institute for Soil Sciences at the HUN-REN Centre for Agricultural Research, in the pilot area of Nagyhörcsök.



Date: 5th November 2025

Location: Nagyhörcsök, Hungary

As part of the TRANSFER Danube project, the team conducted soil moisture monitoring activities to support the development of an integrated monitoring system for agro-climatic

risks. Fieldwork was carried out on the 5th of November 2025 in Nagyhörcsök, a pilot area designated for soil and crop monitoring within the project framework.



Installing the humidity sensors has been carried out in line with the Protocol for in-situ soil moisture measurements, and the soil moisture measurements will be reported within activity 2.1 Agrometeorological indices monitoring. The soil moisture sensors were installed at depths of 20, 50 cm and 100 cm. The team carefully dug and positioned the sensor spikes into the walls of the prepared pits to ensure accurate measurements.

Soil moisture (m³/ha) is monitored directly in winter wheat and maize crops at depths of 20 cm, 50 cm, and 100 cm, depending on the stage

of plant growth during the active vegetation period. All activities were documented through photography to ensure traceability and support future analysis.

NEWS FROM CZECH REPUBLIC

Establishment of new pilot areas in the Czech Republic

Within the TRANSFER Danube project, activities related to the new agricultural season have started in the Czech Republic. The team from the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CULS) established three new pilot areas for winter wheat.



Date: 17th November 2025

Location: Czech Republic

During the initial field work, microplots for phenological observations were set up at each location in accordance with the project's standardised protocol. These microplots will be used for regular monitoring of winter wheat growth stages throughout the vegetation

season. In addition, soil-moisture sensors were installed to enable continuous measurement of soil water conditions, providing valuable data for subsequent agrometeorological analyses. UAV surveying was carried out at all three pilot areas, and the collected imagery was processed to create a Digital Elevation Model.



CULS will continue monitoring the phenology of winter wheat, soil moisture conditions, and other relevant parameters throughout the growing season.

NEWS FROM CROATIA

UAV shooting and phenology observations in Croatia

The Sensum team, together with BC Institute, established two pilot areas for winter wheat and maize.



Date: 21th January 2026
Location: Zagreb, Croatia

During the initial field work, microplots for phenological observations were set up at each location in accordance with the project's standardized protocol. These microplots will be

used for regular monitoring of winter wheat growth stages throughout the vegetation season. Also, soil-moisture measurement will be performed, providing valuable data for subsequent agrometeorological analyses. UAV shooting was carried out at one pilot area in Zagreb, and the collected imagery was processed to create a Digital Elevation Model of the pilot area.



Sensum, together with BC Institute, will continue monitoring the phenology of winter wheat, soil moisture conditions, and other relevant parameters throughout the growing season and prepare climate indices for all pilot areas of the project.

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



<https://www.meteoromania.ro>

Sensum Ltd. (SENSUM), Croatia



<https://sensum.hr>

Rába-Duna-Vág European
Grouping of Territorial
Cooperation with Limited
Liability (RDV EGTC), Hungary



<https://rdvegtc.eu>

University of Stuttgart (IWS),
Germany



University of Stuttgart
Germany

<https://www.uni-stuttgart.de>

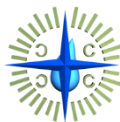
Central Danube Development
Agency Nonprofit Ltd. (CDDA),
Hungary



CENTRAL DANUBE
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
NONPROFIT LTD.

<https://kdmfu.hu>

The Republic
Hydrometeorological Service of
Republika Srpska (RHMZ RS),
Bosna and Herzegovina



<https://rhmrzs.com>

Association "Centre for
Sustainability and Economic
Growth" (CSEG), Bulgaria



<https://cseg.eu>

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Czech University of Life Sciences
Prague (CULS), Czech Republic



<https://www.czu.cz/en>

Széchenyi István University
(SZE), Hungary



<https://www.uni.sze.hu>

Institute of Hydrometeorology
and Seismology (IHMS),
Montenegro



<http://www.meteo.co.me>

University of Natural Resources
and Life Sciences, Vienna
(BOKU), Austria



<https://boku.ac.at/en/oekb/wald>

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EDITORIAL

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