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Sustainable Sediment solutions for the Danube - Black Sea system

Press Article

The first SUNDANSE Surveillance Mission was conducted in Romania

Galați, Romania [December, 2024] - The first campaign on the Danube River, conducted as part of the SUNDANSE project, has concluded. **Researchers on board the REXDAN vessel returned to Galati after nearly three weeks spent on the river**. The mission was dedicated to identify specific scenarios of the Romanian Danube Basin, supporting sustainable and effective solutions for sediment management.

The uniqueness of this campaign is given both by its purpose - finding and demonstrating environmentally friendly solutions for the efficient and sustainable management of sediments in the Danube River Basin - and by its international character as a result of excellent cooperation between the 10 countries, EU and non-EU, of which the project participants are part.

During the campaign, three Romanian partners out of the 20 in the consortium: **Universitatea Dunărea de Jos` din Galați**, **Marine Research and Regia Autonomă Administrația Fluvială a Dunării de Jos**, have given their contribution to the realization of this pioneering action, carrying out bathymetric measurements, in declared critical points, from shore to shore, over a length of **more than 10 rkm**.

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During the campaign, a variety of measurements were conducted, while water and sediment samples were also prepared and preserved for shipment to consortium partners, who aim to analyze specific pollutants. **These measurements covered the longest distance measured in this way, in a single campaign, carried out on the territory of Romania so far.**

The upcoming period will be dedicated to processing the data collected during this campaign, and the results obtained will serve as the basis for identifying the most effective sediment management solutions for the analyzed river sector. The data and measurements collected will be used by another SUNDANSE partner, **Flanders Hydraulics – Waterbouwkundig Laboratorium**, to simulate and build a dynamic scale model of the bottom sediments, providing within project partners and decision makers a solid scientific and technical basis to ensure sustainable sediment management decisions and improving aquatic biodiversity along the Danube.