sundanse
Sustainable Sediment solutions for the Danube - Black Sea system

Press Article

Research vessel REXDAN leads the second SUNDANSE research field campaign in Romania

Galați, Romania [August, 2025] - The **SUNDANSE project**, dedicated to pioneering sustainable sediment management solutions for the Danube River – Black Sea system, is set to embark on a crucial research campaign. Europe's newest and most advanced research vessel, **REXDAN**, will conduct an intensive expedition along the Romanian stretch of the Danube (between River Kilometers 597 and 630) from **August 23 to September 10, 2025.**

This second, enhanced survey campaign is the next step in refining the project's understanding of the **Danube's complex hydrological and morphological characteristics.** The primary objective is to repeat and significantly improve upon the data collected during the first research field campaign on the Romanian use case. This comprehensive data is essential for the precise calibration and validation of the project's hydrological and sediment transport models.

“The experience gained in the mission and solutions related to the reduction of the impact of inland water transport vessels on sediment transport will be included in an Action Plan and Roadmap.”, as stated Professor Puiu-Lucian Georgescu, SUNDANSE Project Coordinator.

This survey campaign will focus on bathymetric measurements, discharge and flow velocities measurements, sediment grain size and concentration distribution in water columns and bottom of the river, and also physico-chemical parameters analysis of water and sediment.

Significantly, this second campaign will include **new additional ADCP (Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler) transect measurements**, specifically focusing on the area of the project's scale model. An extra ADCP transect will also be surveyed upstream of, and within, Calnovat Island, ensuring even better calibration of the physical scale model.

The mission is led by **"Dunarea de Jos" University of Galați**, with a collaborative team of SUNDANSE research partners from **Marine Research**, the **Galați Lower Danube River Administration**, and the **University of Vienna** joining the expedition.

Following this intense field campaign, the construction of the refined bathymetry will commence in September, aiming for completion by early February 2026. The data and insights gained are fundamental to SUNDANSE's goal of balancing ecological preservation with economic activities, ensuring safe navigation, and minimising disruptions to commercial transport along the Danube River.

About SUNDANSE Project: The SUNDANSE project aims to develop sustainable and innovative sediment management solutions for the Danube River – Black Sea system. Through cutting-edge research, advanced modeling, and collaborative partnerships, SUNDANSE strives to enhance river health, navigability, and ecological balance across the Danube Basin.