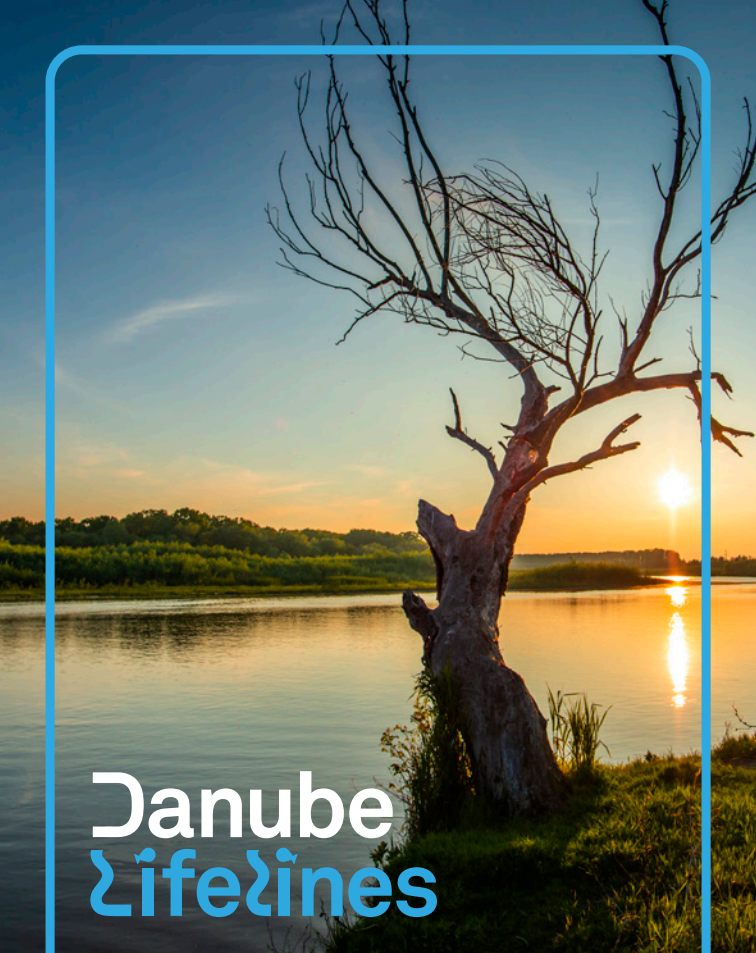




Danube Lifelines

DANUBElifelines – Safeguarding Migratory Fish and their Habitats in the Danube River Basin and Beyond

**From the source to the sea,
DANUBElifelines reconnects
rivers and restores migration
corridors for endangered fish
(2025 – 2029)**



**Funded by
the European Union**

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101213836.

About the Project

DANUBELifelines unites 24 partners in 11 countries across Europe – Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, The Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

We restore river connectivity and habitats for migratory fish (e.g. sturgeons, Danube salmon, shads, barbel, nase), combining science, practical measures, and stakeholder engagement. Through 8 demonstration sites, we create examples of collaboration and ideas to enable protection and restoration of fish habitats in the Danube River Basin and to promote scalable solutions for freshwater conservation across Europe.

Key goals:

- Supporting the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters
- Contribute to the EU Nature Restoration Regulation & HORIZON Mission Water goal to restore 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers by 2030
- Provide a blueprint to protect and restore migratory fish and their habitats
- Protect migration routes and spawning areas
- Engage communities, scientists, and water managers
- Transform the economic sector and enhance sustainable business opportunities



Demo Sites: Upper Danube

Inn (Germany)

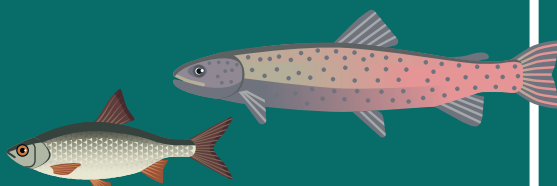
Alpine Danube tributary; improving connectivity and habitat mosaics to support migration and spawning

Pielach (Austria)

Nature-based restoration in a Danube tributary; post-monitoring of connectivity measures for Danube salmon and European grayling

Danube I (Austria)

Mainstem Danube reach with multiple restoration measures (tributary reconnections, fish passages, habitat enhancements) to inform future planning



Demo Sites: Middle Danube

Rába (Hungary)

Re-connecting an oxbow/side-arm; better spawning/rearing conditions and hydrological dynamics

Danube II (Hungary)

Science-based prioritisation of side-arms (Gönyű – Budapest) and lateral connectivity for key species

Ipoly (Slovakia)

Co-created plan for barrier removal and wetland reconnection on the lower Ipoly

Sava (Slovenia)

Strategy-led conservation for Danube salmon across multiple rivers; linking policy and practical restoration



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AND ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH



**ŐRSÉGI
NEMZETI
PARK**



**HUN
REN**



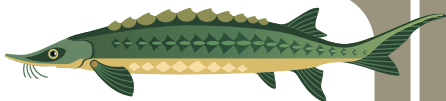
Balaton
Limnological
Research Institute



Demo Site: Lower Danube

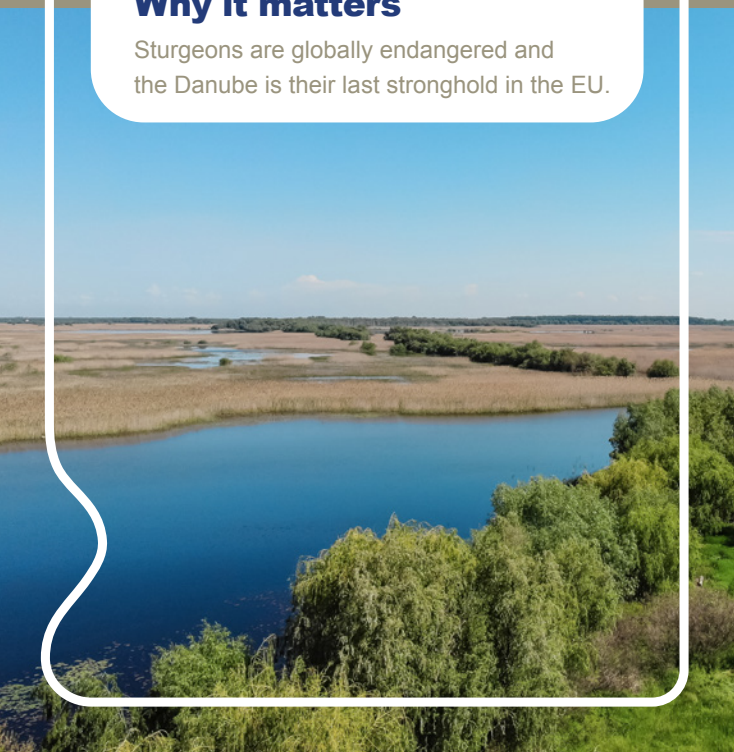
Danube III (Romania – Bulgaria)

Cross-border Lower Danube actions for sturgeons & shad: protecting migration corridors, improving enforcement, and safeguarding key habitats through restoration feasibility and stakeholder collaboration.



Why it matters

Sturgeons are globally endangered and the Danube is their last stronghold in the EU.





Together, we bring life back to the Danube and its tributaries

Contacts

Danube Lifelines



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Join the DLL Business Club

to explore sustainable business opportunities
and connect with like-minded innovators

danubelifelines.eu/businessclub



Coordinator

BOKU University Vienna

Partners

BOKU University, Balaton Limnological Research Institute, Őrség National Park Directorate, Environment Agency Austria, Spanish National Research Council, Deltares, Geisenheim University - Department of Landscape Planning & Nature Conservation, IISM:EUT, Leibniz Institute for Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB), Museum für Naturkunde – Leibniz Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity Science (MfN), Technical University of Munich (TUM), University of Duisburg-Essen, Schnee auf Moss Advertising Agency Ltd., Institute for Multidisciplinary Research (Serbia), Institute for Ichthyological and Ecological Research, REVIVO, Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, Dunărea de Jos University of Galați, Slovak Anglers Association, Swansea University, Wageningen University & Research (WUR), Wetlands International – European Association, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Slovakia, - Romania, - Bulgaria.



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