

Danube Ruralscapes - a Network of Professional Support for Self-organized Village Clusters Achieving Sustainable Heritage-based Ruralscapes

Duration: April 2025 – September 2027

Programme: Interreg Danube Region Programme 2021-2027

Lead Partner: Budapest University of Technology and Economics

Project Acronym: Danube Ruralscapes

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To develop a common good practice model for rural town planning that supports national, regional, and local policies across the Danube Region, specifically targeting village communities with limited resources by enhancing their capacities in sustainable architecture, landscape planning, and heritage preservation.

KEY AIMS

- Develop Architecture and Rural Landscape Identity Guides in 7 pilot micro-regions
- Promote bottom-up governance and inclusive decision-making for village clusters
- Establish a transnational Network of Knowledge for policy and practice exchange
- Connect cultural heritage with sustainability in alignment with New European Bauhaus values

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Partner countries: Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Ukraine

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Budapest University of Technology and Economics | Dept. of Urban Planning and Design (*Hungary*) – Lead Partner
- Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre (*Hungary*)
- Pest County Municipality (*Hungary*)
- Politehnica University of Timișoara (*Romania*)
- Regional Development Agency “Braničevo-Podunavlje” Ltd. (*Serbia*)
- University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture (*Serbia*)
- “Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urbanism (*Romania*)
- Romanian Order of Architects (*Romania*)
- National Tourism Cluster “Bulgarian Guide” (*Bulgaria*)
- Association of Danube River Municipalities “Danube” (*Bulgaria*)
- Ivan Patzaichin – Mila 23 Association (*Romania*)
- Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek (*Croatia*)
- Municipality Kneževi Vinogradi (*Croatia*)
- Mehedinți County Council (*Romania*)

- Izmail State University for the Humanities (Ukraine)

EXPECTED IMPACT

- Empower local actors with practical, identity-based planning tools
- Strengthen regional cooperation through pilot-to-policy pathways
- Revive rural areas as living landscapes of innovation and tradition
- Influence policy agendas through shared narratives and field-tested models

KEY HIGHLIGHT

“Danube Ruralscapes - a Network of Professional Support for Self-organized Village Clusters Achieving Sustainable Heritage-based Ruralscapes” project (2025 - 2027) is an Interreg Danube Region Programme project, led by the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (HU). It aims to support and empower village clusters in the Danube Region through heritage-based, climate-conscious, and community-driven development, by creating tools, strategies, and governance models that preserve identity while fostering sustainable rural transformation. The initiative builds on the legacy of the Interreg DTP DANUrB and DANUrB+ projects, which laid the groundwork for transnational cooperation in heritage-based development along the Danube. Through Ruralscapes, that foundation is evolving - with new tools, deeper rural engagement, and a stronger alignment with EU green and cultural policy priorities!

More information: <https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/danube-ruralscapes>

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