GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The 4th General Assembly of Danube Competence Center will be held in Bratislava from 5th to 6th of December. The members of DCC will be able to look back and discuss implemented activities in 2013, as well to discuss and agree activities in 2014.

FAIR
For 2014, DCC is considering participation on following fairs: Linz, IFT Belgrade, and ITB.

MICROSITE
In spring 2014, the GNTB's regional office in Belgrade will launch a towns, cities & culture microsite on the website www.germany.travel. The microsite, which has been specially developed for the markets Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia, is targeted at young travellers.

DCC CALENDAR

FAM TRIP
3000KM ALONG RER AND DWR

During the last week of September, 6 tour operators, 8 journalists and 2 PR and marketing experts from Germany, Belgium and Netherlands had the opportunity to take a familiarization (FAM) trip along the Roman Emperors’ and Danube Wine Route. This trip was undertaken under the framework of the project “Cultural routes in Middle and Lower Danube – Roman Emperors Route” and “Danube Wine Route”, co-funded by the DG Enterprise and Industry as a part of Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and by the German Government implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

From September 22nd to September 29th, they visited four countries: Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Croatia: eight Roman heritage localities - Alba Iulia Traiana, Costesti Fortress and Sarmisgetusa in Romania, Vidin and Kale Fortress in Bulgaria, Felix Romuliana and Sirrium in Serbia, Pula and Brjuni Islands in Croatia, and four wine regions: Muntenia and Sirmium in Serbia, Pula and Brijuni Islands in Croatia, Vidin and Kale Fortress in Bulgaria, Felix Romuliana and Sirrium in Serbia. The trip was designed as familiarization and inspection of the sites, services and overall competitiveness of the product still under development.

THE ROUTES
Roman Emperors' Route and Danube Wine Route put together 20 Roman heritage localities and 12 wine regions in four countries on the Lower Danube. The project of the routes was officially launched on 1st of July 2012, and since than, DCC with its partners is actively engaged in strengthening the Danube identity and image, as well as promoting cultural tourism through transnational cooperation across the four partner countries: Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Croatia. The Roman Emperors’ Route is at this moment a candidate route for certification as a “Council of Europe Cultural Route” with the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR).

THE CULTURAL ROUTES
IN THE MIDDLE AND LOWER DANUBE REGION

IMPRESSIONS
“The countries we visited represent the up-and-coming destinations of European tourism”

Karl-Heinz Hänel. Liebhaberreisen.de, Kiel
“I have received many inspirations for the extension of existing trips, especially in the three-country-triangle: Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia”

Jürgen Bruchhaus, Ex Orientie Lux Reisen, Berlin
“A completely new view of Europe – the Danube as a link between ten countries bordering this mighty river. A region with a great future!”

Karl Hugo Dierichs, Journalist, Wuppertal
“After a trip loaded with a dense program steeped in history, I return to the office with my batteries charged to effectively implement all the ideas in new study tours”

Rainer Mallée, Kögel Studienreisen, Berlin
“What I found on this trip, went way beyond my initial expectations. But what I really will always remember, is the hospitality and warmth of the people, especially in Serbia. Once you have visited this region, you will certainly want to come back”

Sarah Mai, BTO International, Neustrelitz
“It was like opening a box of chocolates: the breathtaking views, the unspoiled nature and the friendliness of the locals. Let’s make visible the huge potential of this region: “Don’t follow paths that have already been walked, step out instead of the well known and create your own”

Monica Bonaspetti, Bayerisches Pilgerbüro, München
“During this trip, I realised more and more the diversity of our continent on subjects like culture, environment, history, language etc. You could feel and see the differences between 4 countries. And still there is the Danube as a European river! I still see the Balkan as the last secret of Europe and it is worth to receive more tourists here”

Steven Boerma, TopoTravel, Netherlands
The ARGE Donau Oesterreich cooperates in order to position the Danube region as an important tourist destination in Aus-
tria. Three Danube regions Upper Austria, Lower Austria and Vienna, create joint products and topics along the Danube.
Great emphasis is put onto quality man-
gagement measures for defined products,
such as the cycling trail and hiking trails.

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You can still send us your photographs of the Danube landscapes, wild life, nature, people, traditions, heritage, buildings, or any other aspect of the river – and that way take part in the competition for the best photograph or the collection of photographs.

The best one published, will be awarded at the end of the year, with a quality photo camera.