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SMOOTH PORTS Newsletter

11/21

REDUCING CO₂ EMISSIONS IN PORTS

SMOOTH PORTS wants to utilise the differences of the project partners' ports through an exchange of effective tools and best practices.

A key focus lies on finding optimal procedures for the clearance of the goods that are so vital for society and commerce – making their processing speedy and avoiding unnecessary burdens on environment and people.

A further focus regards on the different approaches regarding Information and Communications Technology solutions for various traffic related port activities as well as on the question what alternative fuels can power port activities in the future.

The Project Partners are from Bulgaria, France, Italy and Germany.

SMOOTH PORTS (Reducing CO₂ emissions in Ports) is an Interreg Europe project running from Aug 2019- Jan 2023 with a budget of approximately EUR 0,95 million.





First Physical Partner Meeting in 18 Months

The project partners were very happy that it was possible to arrange a physical meeting in compliance with COVID-19 regulations. Everyone pointed out that direct contact and the physical presence is very important for exchange of experience – and so much more efficient. The Municipality of Monfalcone, together with colleagues from Trieste put together a packed and very interesting programme for the meeting at the end of September 2021.

The partners visited the Port of Monfalcone and Trieste during Day 1. Lots of facilities were shown and described by various stakeholders. The afternoon was then reserved for project related activities, focusing on the Action Plans. The second day closed with an interesting stakeholder conference.



Action Plan Workshop

The physical partner meeting was used to have a face-to-face discussion with each partner on the development of the contents and the progress made. The timing for the physical meeting was perfect, as the last semester of phase one is under way now and there is still enough time to finalise everything until the beginning of 2022. All Action Plans need to be finalised then, as phase 2 of the project will start in February 2022.

Each partner provided a brief update on the situation and any issues they may face. As the Action Plans are an important part of the SMOOTH PORTS project, the partnership decided to hold another virtual meeting during November. Aside from the Action Plans, other aspects has been covered.



Nantes V-GAS Bio Station opened

Our colleagues in Nantes have opened the NGV station in Montoir de Bretagne during the Sustainable Development Week. The station is in the port activity zone and is a new asset to the Nantes – Saint Nazaire industrial area has been added. It supports the energy transition and also the activities of the Port Authority of Nantes – Saint Nazaire in the SMOOTH PORTS project, of which one aspect covered is alternative fuels. The opening was supported by experts and discussions of how to lift restrictions - and how to forecast the demand for sustainable transport modes in supply and logistics chains.

Christophe Leclerc of the Port Authority of Nantes-Saint-Nazaire was also interviewed on that topic by Radio Supply Chain. The interview is available online in French.



Matchmaking on CO2 Emissions from Port Operations

The Lead Partner was approached by the Low-Carbon Economy Policy Learning Platform and asked whether the partnership would be interested to share ideas on how to measure these emissions and what concrete ways there are to reduce them.

The Port Authority of Santa Cruz of Tenerife was interested to learn from experiences from other stakeholders and a date has been settled. The event took place virtually and various stakeholders participated.

This is the second time SMOOTH PORTS participated in such an event organised by the Policy Learning Platform, after a Peer Review of the Hauts de France Region in 2020.



Stakeholder Meeting in Hamburg

The stakeholder working group, consisting of stakeholders from port, logistics and customs, comes together regularly with the Ministry of Economy and Innovation to discuss topics relevant for stakeholders active in the Port of Hamburg. The virtual meeting took place on November 4, 2021.

Topics discussed during the meeting were for example the Action Plan and Policy Instrument of Smooth Ports. The project has been referred to in the new EFRE Operational Programme currently under development and new port related EFRE funding opportunities were communicated. Other topics discussed in the meeting were the Border One Stop Shop, the expanded slot management system now including the customs container scanning, and general goods processing in the Port of Hamburg.



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Christmas Greetings

At the end of the year, we would like to thank everyone for the good and successful cooperation. Unfortunately, COVID-19 is still dominant in our everyday life. However, we were also reminded that the crisis only makes us stronger. With joint strength, we have overcome all the challenges and made the best of the situation so far.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a successful and happy New Year 2022.



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