



SMOOTH PORTS

- 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 will be 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.

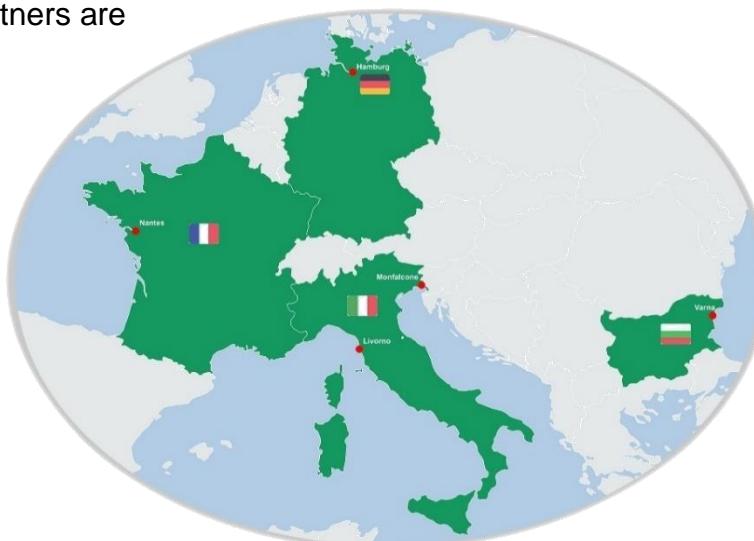
The Project Partners are

from Bulgaria,

France, Italy

and

Germany.



**SMOOTH
PORTS**
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
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SMOOTH PORTS (Reducing CO₂ emissions in Ports) is an Interreg Europe project running from August 2019 until January 2023 with a budget of approximately EUR 0,95 million.

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#SmoothPorts



<https://www.interregeurope.eu/smoothports/>

Smooth Ports

Studies

The studies of the project partners are more less finalised. Some are currently in the process of being translated.

The Lead Partner study identifies almost 30 local and international measures that can lead to a reduction in CO₂ emissions in the Port of Hamburg. The study forms 12 clusters that are based on focal points under consideration of the potential impact, complexity, and feasibility. HTC sees the greatest potential in the expansion of the supply infrastructure for alternative fuels in the Port of Hamburg (“Support Service Infrastructure”) and an optimization of the control processes along the goods handling (“Process Consolidation”). A uniform “Emission Reduction Strategy” for all activities carried out in the Port of Hamburg and the “Sustainable Driving” cluster also offer great

opportunities for improvement. The findings will now be compared and merged with those of the local studies from other countries.

Around 35,000 tons per year – that is the amount of CO₂ emissions that, according to current estimates, are emitted annually by truck traffic in the Port of Hamburg. To achieve the ambitious goal of climate neutrality in the Port of Hamburg by 2050, intelligent and innovative approaches and measures are required that do not lose sight of the interests of the economic players involved.

HTC sees the greatest potential for saving CO₂ emissions through truck traffic in the clusters “Support Service Infrastructure” – i.e., the expansion of the supply infrastructure for alternative fuels in the Port of Hamburg (LNG, Hydrogen, etc.) and a “Process Consolidation” – optimizing the control processes along the goods handling. But also, a uniform “Emission Reduction Strategy” for all activities



carried out in the Port of Hamburg and finally the “Sustainable Driving” cluster, e.g., driver training, show great potential. All four clusters are geared towards future developments and offer furthermore individual advantages for the Port of Hamburg as a business location. Particularly noteworthy is also that HTC not only evaluates each cluster of measures according to possible CO₂ emission saving potentials in relation to time and financial expenditure, but especially regarding their feasibility and potential for the Port of Hamburg.

The project partner from Livorno looked at the Physical Circuit of Controls in the Port of Livorno and at current challenges in the flow of controls and the ICT system CO₂ emissions analysis.

The first report looks at the Tuscan Port Community System, the physical checks circuit and control bodies, but also at the control bodies, interoperability, and innovation

along with minimum requirements for border (non-tax) control posts and inspection centres and lastly the operations and documentation aspect.

The second report analyses the CO₂ emissions produced by shippers, control bodies and heavy vehicles within the port.

Good Practices

The project partners each identified two Good Practices. A selection of which is then uploaded to the Interreg Europe Platform and its related processes.

Nantes Saint-Nazaire identified a one-stop-shop facility for regulatory requirements and a Natural Gas Vehicle station in Montoir de Bretagne as their Good Practices. Another example of Good Practices identified are those of Monfalcone. Looking at the modal shift of slabs and e-mobility. If you would like to find out more about these documents, we highly

recommend our project [website](#) and [library](#).

Workshops and other Stakeholder events

Port of Hamburg Marketing represented the project in the Hamburg Climate Week on September 24th, discussing what the EU does for regional port-related businesses.

The panel discussed how do EU politics and measures stemming from concepts such as the EU "Green Deal" affect ports such as the Port of Hamburg. How can economical, job-related and ecological / climate related interests be considered and ensured?

The partners from Hamburg and Livorno held workshops with local stakeholders during the months October and November.

Additionally, stakeholders were invited and participated in the virtual site-visit of the Border Inspection Post of

the Port of Antwerp on December 3rd, 2020.

European Week of Regions and Cities

Smooth Ports had the chance to participate in this event. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, no physical presence was possible this time. However, to showcase the partnership and activities, a small [video](#) was produced.

SMOOTH PORTS participated in a Policy-Learning-Platform Peer Review

Smooth Ports partners had the pleasure of partaking in the [peer review](#) on strategic port development plans and smart port solutions, hosted by the Région Hauts-de-France. The two-day event took place on November 26 - 27, 2020.

The region owns two of the major ports, namely Boulogne-sur-Mer and Calais and

is working on the next Strategic Port Development Plan with which they would like to consider challenges phased by the Regional Council, port authority, and concession operator.

Peers from Spain, Greece, Italy, and Germany shared their knowledge and experience and gave practical recommendations. Discussed topics were i. a. the integration into broader economic and infrastructure ecosystems, key elements of a smart port strategy and digital tools and monitoring indicators to promote ports' efficiency and sustainability.

SMOOTH PORTS in times of COVID-19

The Smooth Ports partners intensified the exchange of experience through video conferences with the help of conferencing software and relevant equipment accordingly. The partners try to meet every other month for about two hours to discuss anything on

the agenda and progress of project activities. It is the best possible solution to ensure the interaction, while we all know that it does not replace physical meetings. Interregional exchange of experience and site-visits live from the physical character and all partners hope to be able to return to physical meetings in the course of 2021, provided travel- and national policies grant travelling.

As previously mentioned, stakeholder meetings were carried out during the pandemic too. Although being by phone, video conference or in smaller groups (depending on pandemic health regulations on national level). The fact that everyone had to adjust to the pandemic also caused for delays in activities and stakeholder meetings. Everyone had to ensure that the organisational aspects remain intact during home office, or reduced office presence and health and safety regulations, or even governmental lock downs complicated

flows and carrying out certain tasks. Even though most countries are facing another wave of COVID-19 infections, the processes and procedures for home office and stakeholder involvement are now better in place. Whilst things might still move a bit slower than they would probably do usually, things are progressing as planned.

SMOOTH PORTS in 2021

The Partners are all looking forward to more stakeholder exchange of experience and the start of the Action Plan discussion and creation.

All partners do hope that the effects from the pandemic will decrease through the availability of vaccines. The possibility to meet again with the Interreg community and stakeholders is a core of the inter-regional cooperation. Ideally, the currently only virtual site-visit to Antwerp can be done in person and

relevant Interreg Europe events can be attended.

We are also looking into creating more communication material as we go along. We have ideas for further video(s) with more details on Smooth Ports and its partners and a fresh look of the newsletter. So, stay tuned.

Until then, the Smooth Ports project partners would like to wish everyone a safe and peaceful Christmas season after such an extraordinary year 2020. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Upcoming Events

The next virtual partner meeting will take place on January 21, 2021.

