

NEWSLETTER

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NELI's top outcomes are shaping up

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

NELI - *Cooperation-Network for Logistics and nautical education focusing on Inland Waterway Transport in the Danube corridor supported by innovative solutions* – is a three-year EU co-funded project implemented under the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (SEE).

To address specific problems such as discrepancies between educational systems, lack of interaction and communication between training institutions and stakeholders in the sector, limited number of harmonized initiatives, scarce or lacking eLearning services, insufficient promotion of the IWT sector as a whole, NELI set out following three main objectives:

- establishment of a cooperation network among education and training organisations in the field of inland waterway navigation
- implementation of innovative eLearning services
- set-up of Information and Training Centres

PROJECT STATUS QUO

Halfway into the project a review of implemented activities reveals that important steps towards the achievement of project's main goals have been made.

Thus, the cooperation network among education and training institutions across SEE-Danube region is taking shape in the form of the **E&T portal** hosted by NELI project website www.neliproject.eu. An in-depth analysis of education systems at country level provided the basis for the development of **Draft National Action Plans for education and training issues in the field of IWT**. The eight NAPs, validated by appropriate political decision makers and stakeholders, offer information on current applicable policies across South East Europe, describe the status quo of IWT education and training including a SWOT analysis and at the same time pinpoint necessary measures for both nautical and IWT logistics personnel and suggest national and regional funding possibilities to back up the implementation of these measures. NAPs have been drawn up not only to raise the awareness on the importance of urgent actions to be taken at national level but also to support the development of a **Transnational Action Plan** to include paramount measures and harmonized actions to be implemented at transnational level in the field of IWT, Plan which is currently under preparation. Constant consultations with both **PLATINA** and **EDINNA** were viewed as most beneficial to ensure future consistent actions.

Also as part of harmonization efforts, three training courses are presently developed to be used transnationally by all members of the NELI cooperation network: **RIS, Logistics, Inland Navigation and Ports**.

To reduce digital divide eLearning services are being implemented in SEE countries where still lacking (HR, SK, HU, RS, BG). To this end a **SEE concept for eLearning services** was conceived and support documents (*Masterplan for the Implementation of eLearning services, ILIAS authoring handbook, Technical implementation manual*) made available. Installation of Learning Management System ILIAS as well as download and translation of INeS (Inland Navigation eLearning System) story boards represent the first steps towards the achievement of the proposed result.

Following identification of and exchange with Information and Training Centres across Western and Eastern Europe, **Master Studies on the development of ITC concept for SEE region** were commenced. Each participant country is drawing up such a MS but only four will be actually set up during project lifetime, in Enns/ Austria (SKIP), Galati/ Romania (InfoDanube), Sisak/ Croatia (RIS) and Budapest/ Hungary (mini mobile ITC unit). Master Studies provide information on the objectives of each ITC, the need and opportunity of such ITC, target group, infrastructure, equipment, information and training materials, operation, management and maintenance of the new ITC, human and financial resources, marketing actions and future sustainability.

One national workshop in Galati (February 2010) and a transnational one in Enns (October 2010) were organized as preliminary pilotage actions which also ensured an early promotion of the future ITCs. All four pilot actions targeted at the promotion of the IWT sector and at providing education in the specific field will be officially kicked off by August 2011.

COMING UP

Over the next period efforts will be put into the joint cooperation actions planned to establish long term cooperation strategies, validation of the Transnational Action Plan by relevant international organizations and policy makers, organization of pilot training courses based on new eLearning, validation of newly developed ITC concepts leading to the design of a future transnational strategy regarding ITCs for IWT in the entire Danube corridor.

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