

NEWSLETTER

PUNTO... E DA CAPO!

Fourteen former NELI partners plus four new ones from Austria, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania convened in Bucharest on the 31st of January 2013 to mark the debut of the NELI follow-up project **HINT - *Harmonized Inland Navigation Transport through education and information technology.***

In the presence of more than 50 persons, representatives of the Romanian Ministry of Transport, SEE Joint Technical Secretariat in Budapest, Romanian Ministry of Regional Development as the Romanian SEE Management Authority, stakeholders and partner institutions, HINT was officially and cheerfully launched.



See also: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbJ6nGTpo-Y>

HINT is implemented within the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (SEE), Priority Axis 3 - *Improvement of the Accessibility*, Area of Intervention 2 - *Develop Strategies to tackle digital divide* and it generally sets out to foster and capitalize NELI results with a view to enlarge transnational cooperation leading to improved and harmonized education and training of inland personnel along the Danube corridor.

HINT comes as a response to the specific inland waterway transport issues highlighted by European strategies and directives in terms of shortage of qualified personnel in the IWT sector, mobility of workforce and use of IT&C tools especially designed to meet the ever changing training requirements and satisfy the increasing demand for intermodal and multimodal transport.

HINT aims at implementing the measures identified in the Transnational Action Plan drawn up within NELI such as the need for harmonized education and training standards, practical training

possibilities, e-learning and self-assessment platforms, further development of Information and Training Centres to better promote the inland navigation sector.



Common standards for training and certification of inland nautical personnel do not only ensure a harmonized education process at European level but also pave the way to long-term sustainability. And if they are backed by advanced educational tools, either practical ones such as school ship, navigation and logistics simulators and self-assessment platforms or virtual ones such as online elearning courses, end users do have access to modern learning technologies and hands-on experience on the job.

For a widespread implementation of project results transnational cooperation is a prerequisite. To this end, HINT partners together with the six observers (Romanian Ministry of Transport, Austrian Federal Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, OÖ Wirtschaftsbund, International Sava River Basin Commission, Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine and Danube Commission) committed for the next two years to share their knowledge and expertise through the online consultation platform Danube Knowledge Network to develop the best, ready-to-use teaching aids, tools and instruments.

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