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HINT – cornerstone and guarantee of future cooperation in the Danube corridor

The EU co-funded project implemented under the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (SEE), HINT – *Harmonized Inland navigation transport through education and information technology* – is approaching the finish line after two years of unfolding and displaying genuine transnational cooperation in the Danube region.

Conceived to foster and capitalize former project - NELI's results, HINT set out to intensify Danube-wide cooperation with a view to harmonize education and training of inland nautical personnel. HINT tackled specific issues emphasized by European strategies and directives in terms of shortage of qualified personnel in the IWT sector, mobility of workforce and use of ICT tools especially designed to meet the ever changing training requirements and satisfy the increasing demand for intermodal and multimodal transport.

HARMONIZATION ACTIONS CARRIED OUT BY HINT CONSORTIUM

Support and promotion of European harmonization initiatives leading to common standards of training and certification of inland nautical personnel via specific actions such as:

- contribution to the public consultation on recognition and modernisation of professional qualifications in inland navigation launched by the European Commission in cooperation with the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR)
- close cooperation with EDINNA association – Education in INland Navigation, initiator of STCIN - *Standards of Training and Certification in Inland Navigation* and Danube-wide promotion thereof amongst relevant stakeholders within well-targeted workshops
- recognition of professional training course for boatmen delivered in Romania by CCNR as pilot case to be replicated throughout the East European countries

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Creation of uniform access to advanced information and communication technology via newly implemented training and assessment IT applications such as:

- Self-assessment platform for certification of personnel transporting dangerous cargoes available in seven Danube languages
- INeS Danube e-learning platforms available across participant countries and extended with new content (e.g. new ship technologies) and multimedia elements (www.ines.info)



Further development of framework conditions for transnational cooperation via collaborative network consisting of education, administrative and Danube navigation business representatives, named Danube Knowledge Network aimed at:

- assisting national decision makers with regard to training and certification of inland navigation workforce
- implementing innovative solutions leading to improved and harmonized education approaches

Development of common transnational concepts for on board and simulator training via configuration of technical and organisational concepts for:

Danube School Ship focusing on vessel design, proprietary alternatives, blueprints for on-board training sessions, navigation routes, estimated costs and funding options



Danube Navigation Simulator incorporating various types of ships and setting technical performances, visualization of ship and its surroundings, devices to be simulated (e.g. radar, ECDIS, AIS, VHF radio), necessary infrastructure for the installation of such a simulator as well as training requirements, costs and funding possibilities

Port Logistics Simulator (reach stacker and cranes) focusing on competences to be acquired through simulator training, acquisition possibilities, appropriate location and accessibility as well as potential training providers

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Contribution to the enhancement of workforce mobility via analysis of labour market dynamics actualized through:

- identification of relevant workforce on one hand and career opportunities on the other in an attempt to find a matching point and highlight existent disparities
- promotion of IWT jobs aimed at raising awareness on the image of inland navigation sector as potential attractive employer

Promotion of inland navigation and transport via the four Information and Training Centres established in Romania, Austria, Croatia and Hungary:

- The **InfoDanube** ITC in Galati/ Romania serves a triple purpose, i.e. information, training and promotion. It is a multifunctional space consisting of a multimedia information area, an interactive training area and a showroom which allow the organization of thematic tours, workshops, symposia, round tables and other such events.
- The **Infocenter Danube** in Enns/ Austria is an additional information area of the visitor world Ennshafen for the promotion of inland waterway transport featuring a 360° view over the economic driving force Ennshafen. It provides interactive information of the logistic centre Ennshafen and consists of an event area, information area about the advanced Danube region as well as a Navigation Station with minigames and a 3D cinema. The new pilot Transshipment Simulator, based on lego mindstorms, presents the complex system of trimodal Container handling in a container terminal.
- The **RIS Centre** in Sisak/ Croatia provides hands-on training on vessel Tracking and Tracing, Notices to Skippers, electronic reporting, Data Gateway as well as practical use of AIS transponders. RIS training is targeted at IWT professionals of both public and private sectors.
- **DUNAPROMO** in Budapest/ Hungary is a programme aimed at promoting inland navigation through events organised for various age groups by means of a mobile unit. The main objective is to raise awareness on the importance of the sector, to promote Danube navigation as an eco-friendly mode of transport, to introduce relevant organisations in the field as well as educational and career opportunities.



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To celebrate remarkable project outcomes, HINT partners, representatives of the Romanian Ministry of Transport, SEE Joint Technical Secretariat, synergetic projects LNG Masterplan and PLATINA II, stakeholders and partner institutions gathered on November 13th in Constanta, Romania on the occasion of project final event.



Together with the previous project NELI, HINT determined the course of future cooperation in the Danube region with regard to education and training of inland nautical personnel and it will certainly be referred to as a significant breakthrough achieved by means of concerted efforts.

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