

NEWSLETTER

HINT MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULTS ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE SHAPE

Following a very constructive study visit in Belgium and the Netherlands aimed at adopting best practices with regard to the use of inland logistics and navigation simulators and river school ships, HINT partners dedicated a couple of months to obtaining local stakeholders' opinion on the use of such educational aids in South-Eastern Danube riparian countries with a view to enhancing quality of training and produce better qualified personnel. To this end, very comprehensive questionnaires concerning type of school ship, operation, management, training facilities on board, routes, number of hours for simulator training, categories of personnel to be trained and other such particulars were drawn up and distributed to stakeholders. Aggregated responses rising to the considerable number of 125 were analysed and will be taken into account when developing the three concepts to be delivered as project results: Danube School Ship, Inland Navigation Simulator Concept, Transshipment Simulator Concept. Once concepts are finalized, relevant information on practical training, either on board the vessel or on simulator, will be extracted and used in the elaboration of the future onboard and simulator practical training concept highlighting benefits of practical training as well as share of each in the training process.

Along with the incipient development of the concepts leading to the harmonization of training of inland nautical and logistics personnel, HINT consortium also contributed to the public consultation launched by the European Commission for the recognition and modernization of professional qualifications in inland navigation. The main goal of the initiative is the removal of barriers between EU MS for exercising professions in the field of inland navigation. Preliminary results of the public consultation showed that HINT had a major contribution to the above mentioned initiative as 43 questionnaires out of 94 were submitted by stakeholders in HINT participant countries.

Following closure of public consultation, HINT consortium kept in touch with DG MOVE and the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), both in charge with conducting activities related to harmonization of professional qualification in inland waterway transport sector in Europe, with a view to line up to the proceedings at EU level. To this end, representatives of CCNR and Danube Commission were invited to HINT latest partners' meeting so as to further discuss and decide on future steps to be taken. On this occasion, HINT partners put forward a set of available promotion tools and channels for the dissemination of information relative to European endeavours leading to the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation and assured guests of their full support.

Future plans in this area as disclosed by CCNR representative also include recognition of training courses for boatmen. Existing draft procedure was made available to HINT partners and countries having already signed the multilateral Administrative Arrangement for the mutual recognition of service record books (Austria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria) were invited to identify training institutions running courses for boatmen interested in applying for the recognition of same through the national administration and in compliance with the procedure. As far as Serbia and Croatia are concerned, they will not be left outside, both of them having already informed CCNR of their intention to apply for the recognition of service books which is indeed a first step but leading to the same result as in the case of the other countries.

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Other HINT activities recently implemented or in progress include creation of a Danube Knowledge Network LinkedIn account and group for direct contact with stakeholders, preparation of the strategy for the promotion of INeS Danube elearning platform, adoption of best practices with regard to ADN certification management from representative of Leifos GmbH Germany via Skype session arranged during the last HINT partners' meeting and development of IWT labour force national reports, contents thereof to be used in the organisation of IWT jobs pilot campaigns next year.

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