

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

10th May 2013
Civitavecchia (Rome-Italy)

WHAT FUTURE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN PORT SYSTEMS ?

Trends, challenges & opportunities



Projet cofinancé par le Fonds Européen
de Développement Régional (FEDER)
Project cofinanced by the European Regional
Development Fund (ERDF)

HARMONIZING

MARITIME PROCEDURES

SPEEDING UP

THE FLOWS

PRESERVING

THE ENVIRONMENT

INCREASING

PORT COMPETITIVENESS

KNOWLEDGE

COMMUNITY

BUILDING UP

SYNERGIES

« The conference will aim to highlight the trends affecting Mediterranean port systems and exchange ideas on the challenges and opportunities to be taken into account by the different industry stakeholders »

Futuremed Lead Partner

« With this event, we aim to provide a forum for real and frank exchange of ideas »

Lead partner of the Mednet project

THE STAKE

1/3 OF WORLDWIDE FREIGHT TRANSITS THROUGH MEDITERRANEAN PORTS

Port facilities play a central role in our economies today. Seventy per cent of global trade currently transits by sea and every day thousands of ships unload oil, cereals, foodstuffs, chemicals, manufactured goods and vehicles at our ports. Speeding up the supply chain is of course fundamental to the profitability of this economic model, as any delays in the delivery of goods incur additional costs and result in a knock-on effect, all the way from producer to final consumer. With a third of worldwide freight now passing through Mediterranean ports, the logistics of this trade is of vital importance to the Mediterranean maritime area.

OPPORTUNITIES

TWO STRATEGIC PROJECTS TO INCREASE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF MEDITERRANEAN PORTS

Within the context of the high economic and environmental stakes involved, the European Med programme has co-financed two strategic projects: FutureMed and Mednet. Futuremed and Mednet have been set up to implement tools and procedures to streamline maritime trade links.

A PLATFORM OF EXCHANGE TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF MEDITERRANEAN PORT SYSTEMS

Their joint conference “What future for the Mediterranean Port Systems: trends, challenges and opportunities” aims to provide a platform for exchange and cooperation between stakeholders in the maritime transport and logistics sector. It will focus on the challenges and opportunities involved in increasing the competitiveness of Mediterranean ports.

The conference is organized by Futuremed and Mednet, strategic projects co-financed in the framework of the Med Programme.

Joint interview with the heads of the Mednet and FutureMed projects

Could you provide us with some general background to the conference?

Lead partner of the Mednet project : Organised by the Civitavecchia Port Authority, partner of Futuremed, in collaboration with Mednet, this day is a unique opportunity to bring together all the stakeholders in the Mediterranean maritime industry and exchange ideas on the future of Mediterranean port systems.

There is today, a real opportunity to rethink shipping, pulling in new management methods and IT solutions.

What objectives have you set yourselves for the conference?

Lead partner of the Futuremed project : Starting from where we're at now, the objective of the conference is to come up with a vision for the future of the Mediterranean maritime area. More specifically, the conference will aim to highlight the trends affecting Mediterranean port systems, and identify and exchange ideas on the challenges and opportunities to be taken into account by the different industry stakeholders. We'll be looking at several different aspects of this - customs organisation, territorial cooperation and competitiveness of transport for SMEs – as well as highlighting what's working well or what creates bottlenecks and looking at how we can harmonise procedures going forward. We hope that this day will give us an initial snapshot of the current situation which will help direct the tasks within the framework of the two strategic projects and give us pointers for the best ways of reaching our objectives.

Lead partner of the Mednet project : With this event, we aim to provide a forum for a real and frank exchange of ideas by all maritime industry stakeholders. We focus on creating synergies between them and this is why we have put the accent on round table discussions at the plenary sessions. All stakeholders will be able to share their expertise and experience and make their needs known.

Mednet and Futuremed are two distinct projects. Why have you chosen to organise a joint conference?

Lead partner of the Futuremed project : First of all, we work on complementary issues - FutureMed and Mednet are both Med programme projects that aim to improve the competitiveness of Mediterranean ports. Secondly, structurally speaking, both are cross-entity projects. They necessarily involve exchanges and knowledge sharing between maritime industry stakeholders in order to create a community of interests. Of course, our research focusses on particular areas (maritime highways, logistics platforms, container supply chains, cruises, and so on), but it is also fundamental today to look at the Mediterranean port system as a whole.

CONFERENCE

- 10.00
WELCOMESPEECHES
- 10.20
PRESENTATION
OF FUTUREMED AND MEDNET PROJECTS
- 10.45
ROUNDTABLE 1
**THE FUTURE OF EU CUSTOMS:
SYSTEMS IN COMPARISON**
- 12.30
ROUNDTABLE 2
**EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION:
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EU 2020**
- 14.30
ROUNDTABLE 3
**IMPROVING COMPETITIVENESS OF TRANSPORT
SMES**
- 16.00
ROUNDTABLE 4
**TOWARDS A STRATEGY IN MEDITERRANEAN:
OBSERVATORIES OF MEDNET AND FUTUREMED**
- 17.00
CONCLUSIONS
BY FUTUREMED AND MEDNET LEAD PARTNERS

The conference is organized by Futuremed and Mednet, strategic projects co-financed in the framework of the MED Programme.

ROUND TABLES

The joint Futuremed/Mednet conference has been deliberately organised around several round tables. These are the key components of the day and will allow all participants to share their expertise and express their needs.

ROUND TABLE 1

THE FUTURE OF EU CUSTOMS: SYSTEMS IN COMPARISON

Disparities in the customs procedures and standards of the countries in the Mediterranean area can considerably slow down the freight supply chain. Led jointly by representatives from customs authorities, private sector stakeholders and the Med programme, this first round table will focus on the various EU customs systems now in use. The different parties will try to identify ways to streamline procedures at a European level. Customs harmonisation is not only an important issue in the framework of the single European market but is also vital in terms of the competitiveness of private sector.

Moderator: José García de la Guía (Port Authority of Valencia).

Panelists : Mercedes Cano (Head of the Valencia Provincial Customs Office), Marisa Gonzalez (Deputy Director General at Spanish Tax Agency), Teresa Alvaro (Italian Customs), Roberta De Robertis (Italian Customs), Rodolfo De Dominicis (President of Uirnet SpA), Fabio Ballini (Custom-Med project coordinator).

ROUND TABLE 2

EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EU 2020

Enhancing competitiveness at European ports necessarily implies significant territorial cooperation between countries to remove any obstacles that currently hamper access to ports both upstream (on maritime routes) and downstream (delivery of goods to their final destination after containers have been unloaded). This second round table, then, will tackle options for the deployment of logistics platforms and intermodal transport to optimise access to ports and foster infomobility solutions.

Moderator: Francesco Benevolo (General Director of RAM).

Panelists : Mercedes Acitores Frazon (Liasion Office MED/ENPI CBC MD MED and ENPI), Stefanie Ubrig (Project Development Officer Interact Programme), Raoul Prado (DG «Politique Régionale», REGIO/G).

ROUND TABLE 3

IMPROVING COMPETITIVENESS OF TRANSPORT SMES

Streamlining maritime freight exchanges, speeding up logistics procedures, reducing costs and increasing competitiveness: the stakes for Mednet and FutureMed are first and foremost economic.

In addition, SMEs are the backbone of the logistics and transport sector in many Med area countries.

The purpose of this discussion is therefore to foster an exchange of ideas between private and public partners in the maritime sector on how to increase the competitiveness of SMEs.

Moderator: Georgia Aifadopoulou, Hellenic Institute of Transportation.

Panelists : Drazen Zgalic (General Manager KIP), Andrea Appetecchia (Researcher at ISFORT), Alberto Preti (Director at ITL), Enrico Pastori (TRT Trasporti e Territorio).

ROUND TABLE 4

TOWARDS A STRATEGY IN MEDITERRANEAN: OBSERVATORIES OF MEDNET AND FUTUREMED

The final round table will present the observatory projects piloted by the Mednet and Futuremed projects. Veritable databases at the disposal of the different maritime sector stakeholders, these observatories are intended to serve as information centres open to all. The objective of the round table is to gather the opinions of the various sector stakeholders on their needs and what data to include as well as best practices to be shared.

Moderator: George Kastellanos, Hellenic Ports Association - ELIME.

Panelists : George Kastellanos (Executive Director of Hellenic Ports Association-Elime), Pablo Palomo (Feports, Coordinator of the Optimised project), Dimitrios Tsamboulas (National Technical University of Athens (Mednet Observatory), Julie Murat, AFT (Futuremed Observatory) Fabio Ballini (Custom-Med project coordinator), Julie Murat, (AFT Futuremed Observatory), Agata Quattrone (TEN-T Project MOS24), Cap. Antonio Revedin (TEN-T Project ITS Adriatic Multiport Gatewa).

Press contacts:

Futuremed project:

Stefano Dondi, Institute for Transport and Logistics Foundation - Itl
Phone +39 051 527 3737
e-mail: sdondi@regione.emilia-romagna.it

Mednet project:

Sonia Levavasseur, Com4EU
Phone: +33 6 32 79 00 23
E-mail: sonia@com4eu.com

THE FUTUREMED STRATEGIC PROJECT

Futuremed is a project under the Med Programme that aims to improve the competitiveness of port systems in the Med area by improving accessibility through technology and procedural innovations, and guaranteeing sustainable transport.

It will be focused on the removal of the current barriers concerning accessibility of ports (seaside and landside), on the integration of ports with the hinterland, on the development of logistics activities and intermodal transport connected with ports, on the development of infomobility aiming at fostering attractiveness and making port system more efficient and on the specialization of port systems. The idea focuses on the realization of interoperable management information systems and on the reduction of externalities. The project addresses three strategic sectors: freight, passenger and touristic traffics. It will define and implement, by means of concerted territorial actions and pilot projects, sustainable middle- and long term development strategies.

An improved and standardized transport and logistics network system benefits of the internal market dynamic, improves territorial cohesion, along with the competitiveness and growing capacity of the European Union. In the specific case of this project the integration with the port with its hinterland seems to be a good opportunity to make the Med area ports attractive, in order to catch new traffics within the Mediterranean sea. The multi-field approach of this project concerns ICT, transport and logistics, agro-food industry, policy making and regulations/norms.

For more information, please visit:
www.futuremedproject.eu

THE MEDNET STRATEGIC PROJECT

Mednet is a European project, co-financed by the Med programme, aimed at simplifying and harmonizing maritime and port procedures within the Mediterranean region.

At the end of its lifetime, the project will primarily recommend actions and measures for facilitating maritime freight exchange, speeding up logistic procedures, and reducing logistics costs.

Moreover, more efficient operating maritime routes will contribute to increasing modal shift from the currently congested European road network while reducing at the same time adverse environmental impacts and enhancing social and economic cohesion of the European and Mediterranean populations.

The project will first develop pilot actions, tested in partner ports and at administrative or customs institutions in participating partner countries, which will enable the identification of opportunities for simplifying and harmonizing procedures.

In parallel, monitoring and data collection studies will feed information into a database to be set up as an "Observatory of Port Operations in the Mediterranean", made available to partners and all maritime sector stakeholders.

Mednet, therefore, will act as an information and best practice-sharing platform. As the project progresses, it will put forward an "ideal virtual port" that all players of the sector will be encouraged to draw best practices from.

For more information, please visit:
www.mednetproject.eu

