

NEWSLETTER

NELI steadily moves forward

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The 3-year EU co-funded project NELI - *Cooperation-Network for Logistics and nautical education focusing on Inland Waterway Transport in the Danube corridor supported by innovative solutions* - implemented under 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, officially kicked off in July 2009 when 33 representatives of the partner institutions and the JTS Project Manager, Ms. Roberta Calcina gathered to set off project activities.

With the Subsidy Contract signed in early September 2009, the 15 project partners from AT, HU, RO, SK, RS, HR, BG, UA coordinated by Lead Partner CERONAV, initiated work towards the achievement of the planned outputs.

To reach the three main project objectives (establishment of the cooperation network among education and training organisations in the inland waterway navigation sector, implementation of eLearning services, implementation of Information and Training Centres) the project is receiving funds from both ERDF and IPA, the 10% rule being applied for the Ukrainian partner.

NELI project activities include the organisation of national and transnational workshops with the participation of NELI supporting groups (beneficiaries from IWT sector and Education and Training providers), elaboration of 7 National Action Plans (NAPs) and one Transnational Action Plan for education and training issues in the field of IWT, development of a common education and training plan including preparation strategy and concept for an international exchange programme to achieve exchange on high-level know-how transfer, design of a future transnational strategy regarding ITCs for IWT in the entire Danube corridor, harmonisation actions aiming at future cross-border cooperation.

NELI partners are assisted and advised in the implementation of the project by the observers whose number increased by two by the end of January 2010, the International Sava River Basin Commission and the General Directorate for External Financial Relations in the Romanian Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure deciding to join the initial 5 observers: Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology - Supreme Navigation Authority (Austria), OÖ Wirtschaftsbund (Austria), National Company Maritime Port Administration (Romania), Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure - General Directorate for Naval Transport (Romania), Danube Commission (Hungary).

PROJECT STATUS QUO

Up to this moment, NELI partnership oriented its efforts towards the design of the project website and first edition of the brochure, the organization of the first Steering Committee meeting (October 2009), the transfer of know how for the development of the two ITCs in Romania and Austria, the analysis of the education and training status quo in the participant countries, the elaboration of a draft National Action Plan for education and training issues in the field of IWT.

COMING UP

Over the next period the cooperation network accessible via project website (www.neliproject.eu) will be developed with the support, involvement and commitment of the IWT -dedicated education and training institutions, the related website portal designed and tested, the NAPs completed and prepared for validation and the master plan for the establishment of the two ITCs will be ready for transforming ideas into reality.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Vasile PIPIRIGEANU

Project Manager

Phone: 00 40 241 639595

E-mail: vasilepipirigeanu@ceronav.ro

Ana LEGANEL

NELI Communication Responsible Person

Phone: 00 40 241 639595

E-mail: analeganel@ceronav.ro

Website: www.neliproject.eu

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