

Intelligent Saimaa – the Finnish EMMA pilot

Lake Saimaa, located in the southeastern Finland, stretches over four different regions and is the largest lake in Finland. At approximately 4,400 square kilometres Lake Saimaa is also the fourth largest natural freshwater lake in Europe. The Saimaa Canal, 43 kilometres in length, connects Lake Saimaa with the Gulf of Finland.

Navigation in the Saimaa area is challenging due to narrow routes in environmentally valuable waterways. However, for effective inland waterway shipping Saimaa Canal area is required to be passed through. Moreover, bioenergy and raw wood transport is likely to increase in Finland, creating significant transport volumes in the future and challenging the existing transport system.

This pilot case aims to demonstrate an "Intelligent Saimaa" piloting environment by analysing what kind of information a river information system (RIS) must provide in this region to develop an intelligent water transport means. Therefore transport potentials for different transport modes, including vessel transport, will be analysed. Making use of existing knowledge and concentrating on stakeholders' needs and expectations this pilot will form a RIS pilot solution. Recommendations will also be given to respective administrations to advance future development of RIS applications.



Photo: Colourbox.com

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EMMA Enhancing Inland Navigation



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Enhancing freight mobility and logistics in the Baltic Sea Region by strengthening inland waterway and river-sea transport and promoting new international shipping services

EMMA in brief

Port of Hamburg Marketing developed the three-year-long EMMA project with 21 partners from five Baltic Sea Region (BSR) countries: Germany, Finland, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden.

EMMA tackles the challenges and opportunities concerning the inland- and river-sea shipping (IWT), focuses on enhancing inland navigation in the BSR, and fosters a better integration of IWT in transport chains and the EU Strategy for the BSR.

The holistic approach of EMMA includes regional and national administration as well as policy and industry level, setting the possibility for a real change and long-term impact of results.

EMMA partners develop efficient transport solutions together and proof their feasibility. In order to assure cross-region applicability and benefits, the pilot activities will be jointly developed during the EMMA project.

Benefits of EMMA

- Improving competitiveness of IWT
- Strengthening the future development of IWT
- Identifying possible new IWT services
- Raising the awareness of the potentials of IWT
- Ensuring better standing of IWT in policy and society
- Five pilot activities proving feasibility of IWT in the BSR

EMMA appointed as flagship project by the EC

The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) is the first macro-regional strategy in Europe. It aims at bringing together initiatives in different sectors as well as promoting cooperation between stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR).

The Strategy also promotes flagships in the BSR, which have a macro-regional impact and start from joint initiatives involving partnership from different countries. EMMA was approved as a flagship project in the Policy Area Transport. This reflects the importance the European Commission attaches to the further development of inland navigation in the BSR.

EMMA also cooperates with the 'Good Navigation Status' initiative, a study tendered by the European Commission DG MOVE on support measures for the implementation of the TEN-T Core Network related to sea ports, inland ports, and inland waterway transport.

21 Project Partners • 48+ Associated Partners • Project Budget 4.4 Million € • ERDF Funding 3.4 Million € • Duration 3/2016 – 2/2019