



Waterside businesses can thrive



Harbour tours - Bremerhaven (Germany)



Naturum Värmland (Sweden) (Per Eriksson)



Freight traffic in the Netherlands

Business and Product Development

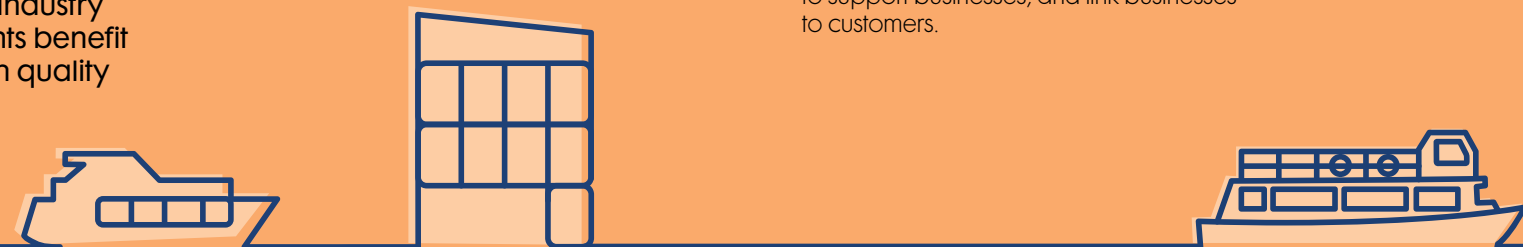
Inland waterways support a range of business types both directly and indirectly. Typically these are related to recreation and tourism - boat and equipment manufacture and sales, marinas, restaurants, cafes, pubs and shops. They provide opportunities for businesses in the transport and renewable energy sectors, and waterside industry and office developments benefit from proximity to a high quality water environment.

Waterways for Growth encourages networking and contacts between businesses. We're holding a number of 'Partenariats' to enable entrepreneurs from other countries to meet and exchange ideas that could be developed into waterway related businesses.

New business models, such as social enterprises and the volunteer economy, are being assessed. We're also looking at how to increase the involvement of immigrant communities and want to find ways to develop new products and activities aimed at disabled, older and young people.

Joint development of approaches for new business and product development is important. We'll assess new technology solutions to see how they can be used to support businesses, and link businesses to customers.

Another aspect we consider is the clustering of land and water-based activity. How can we accommodate environmental activities like waste treatment? We're also looking to trial ecological service stations for boats. Along with other innovations, these are just some of the markets we hope to help develop.



Sustainable Management of Waterways

Many inland waterways were made navigable in the 18th and 19th centuries to facilitate the transport of goods.

Much of the waterway infrastructure, such as locks, aqueducts, tunnels and movable bridges, is still in place and forms a significant part of the North Sea Region's industrial heritage. The waterways also form a wetland ecological resource, which needs to be sensitively managed.

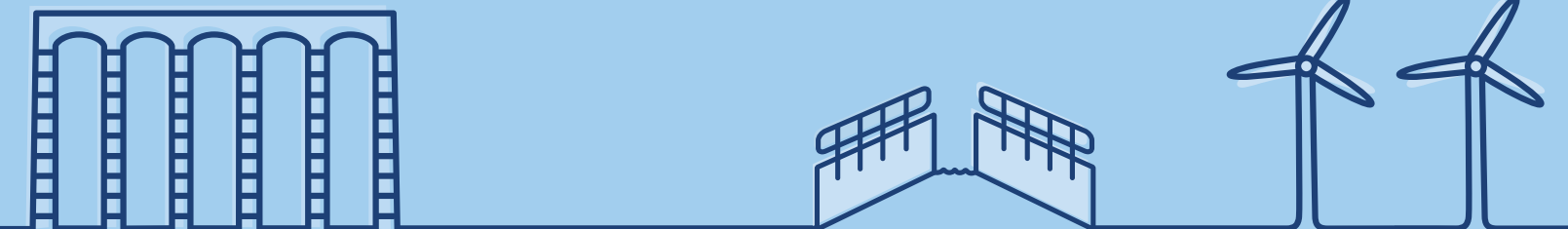
Waterways for Growth investigates how these aspects can be balanced with developing the economic potential of the waterways.

Inland waterways can also play a part in mitigating and adapting to climate change. In this project we're looking at ways to encourage and facilitate;

- Development of renewable energy resources in association with navigation;
- The re-introduction of freight and passenger transport brought about by new traffic opportunities and developing technologies.

We're assessing the potential for new traffics such as waste, biomass and building materials and examining new vessel and cargo-handling concepts.

Through our work in this field we aim to secure engagement from a wide range of stakeholders – waterway and local authorities, tourism agents, businesses, users and owners of adjacent land.





Passenger boat base
Telemark Canal (Norway)



Waterside scene, Utrecht
(Netherlands)



The sustainable development of inland waterways around the North Sea



Liverpool Canal Link (UK)

Waterways for Growth seeks to develop a way forward for the region's inland waterways that can be implemented by its stakeholders - national agencies, local authorities and the private and voluntary sectors throughout the area.

Partners will work together to evaluate the results of these local activities and to agree on the format and content of a 'way ahead', which we believe will set the standard for sustainable development of the North Sea Region's inland waterways.

This will be supported by actions carried out in the partner areas under three themes;

- Business and product development
- Waterway regeneration
- Sustainable management of the waterways



Waterways for Growth is a three-year project supported by the EU Interreg IVB North Sea Region programme, ending in 2011. It brings together 14 partners from 6 countries surrounding the North Sea - Belgium (Flanders), Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Partners include national waterway agencies, regional and local authorities and tourism development bodies. The project is led by British Waterways, the main national inland waterway authority in the UK.

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List of partners

- British Waterways (Lead Partner - UK)
- City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (UK)
- Telemark Fylkeskommune (Norway)
- Lansstyrelsen Värmland (Sweden)
- City of Karlstad (Sweden)
- Forshaga Municipality (Sweden)
- Grums Municipality (Sweden)
- Hammarö Municipality (Sweden)
- Kils Municipality (Sweden)
- BIS Bremerhaven Touristik (Germany)
- Gemeente Emmen (Netherlands)
- Gemeente Langedijk (Netherlands)
- Stichting Recreatietoervaart Nederland (SRN - Netherlands)
- Toerisme Scheldeland (Belgium)



www.waterwaysforgrowth.eu

Introduction

Inland waterways - rivers, canals and lakes - form a distinctive feature of the region surrounding the North Sea.

Many of them are still used for transport purposes - for the carriage of freight and people by water, and for walking and cycling along the banks and towpaths. Others are now more important for tourism and recreation. All act as catalysts for economic and social regeneration by providing attractive places to work and live, by linking towns and countryside and by supporting businesses and jobs.

But how can waterways be developed further? How can they help deliver more jobs and prosperity to local communities and improve the quality of life of the region's citizens? How can economic growth be delivered, while ensuring that the waterways' cultural heritage and natural environment is maintained and indeed enhanced where possible?

These are the core questions at the heart of our project.

