

Minutes from thematic session on accessibility

Moderator: Jon Halvard Eide, Vest-Agder County Council, Adviser NSC Transport group.

About 15 persons attended the session. The session aimed at giving up to date info on maritime accessibility in an EU/Interreg perspective, disseminate good practice from ongoing projects and project ideas and inspire to the development of new maritime transport Interreg projects.

The Moderator started out by giving an account of the significance of maritime transport for economic growth, competitiveness, sustainable development and cohesion. He then went through recent EU policy initiatives on maritime transport and gave an update on the state of play for MoS under the TEN-T. It turns out that only 3 MoS projects have been selected by the EC so far, indicating that the MoS-instrument is being perceived as complicated to use by the actors in the industry.

The session continued with a presentation of two ongoing maritime transport projects - StratMoS and Dryport. Both projects are aiming for a facilitation of the MoS-instrument from somewhat different perspectives, but they are having many interfaces, in particular when it comes to the hub-hinterland dimension. The two projects have already started a cooperation which will be further expanded in the time to come. Some participants also called for closer cooperation between maritime transport projects under the Baltic and North Sea Interreg programmes due to the proximity and comprehensive transport flows between the two areas

The session then discussed the requirements for shifting freight on to sea-based intermodal transport solutions, and the participants provided examples of both bottlenecks and good practice. The importance of having big freight forwarders (e.g Schenker, NorCargo) on board at an early stage was highlighted as these actors are often making the modal choice on behalf of the cargo owners.

The session pointed out that the main roles of Interreg are to facilitate cooperation and partnerships between key stakeholders, exploring opportunities for new transport solutions & routes, develop concepts, models and strategies, testing new solutions, as well as preparing major investments under the TEN-T and proposals for Marco Polo.