

# NEWSLETTER

## SEPT-OCT 2011

### EDITORIAL

We are very happy to introduce this first issue of the CCP21 Newsletter. We encourage our readers to disseminate the newsletter and to forward the contact details of interested recipients to the Lead Partner (contact details below). As new reader, please do not hesitate to contact the Lead Partner of the project for additional information on CCP21 or specific issues mentioned in here.

The purpose of the CCP21 newsletter is to highlight the achievements, challenges and deliverables of the project. It will feature CCP21-related activities in various fields such as actions & investments (the actual objectives of the project), communication, reporting, meetings, networking, EU policy on inland navigation etc. If you would like to provide input for the newsletter, do certainly not hesitate to contact the CCP21 Lead Partner.

This first issue covers the activities that have taken place in September and October 2011. A second issue will follow by the end of the year and the newsletter will afterwards be released on a trimestral basis. It will be disseminated by e-mail and available on the project's website (which is not operational yet).

Enjoy your reading!

### SIGNATURE OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

On 11 October 2011, the 7 Partners of the project met in Brussels to sign the Partnership Agreement. This was the finalization of a long process which aimed at settling the financial, legal and practical arrangements of the project. Together, Partners carefully designed the project's cooperation method with a view to

avoid complications during the implementation stage.

The Partnership Agreement was signed by the 7 Partners (Port of Brussels, Port of Lille, Port of Paris, Port of Liège, Province of Utrecht, Port of Switzerland and Rheinports Basel-Mulhouse-Weil-am-Rhein) and in presence of Minister Brigitte Grouwels, in charge of the Port of Brussels.

The event was also attended by press representatives and featured in several press



From left to right: Mr. Manfred Goossens (Rheinports), Mr. Hans Kraaij (Province of Utrecht), Mr. Alfons Moens (Port of Brussels), Mr. Martin Nusser (Port of Switzerland), Mr. Marc Duchateau (Port of Lille), Mr. Hervé Martel (Port of Paris), and Mr. Emile-Louis Bertrand (Port of Liège)

### BUT WHAT IS ACTUALLY CCP21?

Connecting Citizen Ports 21 brings together 7 major inland ports in North West Europe: the ports of Brussels, Lille, Paris, Liège, Utrecht, Switzerland and Rheinports. The project intends to enhance connectivity and sustainable transport by optimising the organisation of freight logistics and promoting the sustainable spatial development of inland ports.

The project was initiated because the location of inland ports (in the heart of cities) offers opportunities for new logistic and spatial concepts, such as city distribution, regional container shipment and multipurpose land use and, on the other hand, sets inland ports under pressure, because of the fierce competition between urban actors for the limited space available at the waterside.

Concretely, CCP21 Partners will work together on optimising inland ports as nodal points, to become an integrated part of the EU transport chains, sustainable and physically integrated in the urban fabric.

This integral approach is represented by the 4 general objectives, or themes:

1. *Increase awareness and acceptability of inland ports:* Inland ports are typical urban ports, however, cities and citizens are not aware of the presence of their inland port, or only notice negative aspects. Partners aim at mentally and physically (re)connecting ports and cities by raising awareness among authorities and citizens on the presence of a port as a positive asset, raising awareness among ports to realise a proactive approach for environmental benefits, and developing a long term vision for the sustainable development of inland ports which are of added value for citizens.
2. *Promote cohabitation through innovative multipurpose land use:* Only sustainable cohabitation legitimizes the development of inland ports in the urban context of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With a view to promoting the coexistence of freight and passenger activities, partners will cooperate on transnational standards for cost-benefit analyses, on EU standards for environmental measures, and on 2 solutions to combine people and freight through innovative multipurpose land use.

3. *Optimise the organisation of freight logistics:* An optimal organisation of logistics is efficient, limits environmental impact and enhances economic performance by allowing growth in scale and realising connectivity. CCP21 partners will create a business concept for a cooperative organisation of freight logistics, implement it and facilitate a cooperative organisation of freight logistics by developing an ICT instrument.
4. *Promote sustainable city distribution:* City distribution improves the competitiveness of inland ports and at the same time improves air quality, safety, living and working conditions in city centres. Partners will cooperate on analysing and identifying additional measures that make city distribution a success, and on developing and testing a sustainable multimodal city distribution centre.

## PROGRESS REPORT

October was also the time of the first Progress Report and Payment Claim of the project. Like any Interreg IVB project, CCP21 will report on a bi-annual basis to the Interreg Programme. Controls aim at ensuring that the project is on track and pursues the objectives listed in the Application Form.

This first reporting covered the period September 2010 (official starting date of the project) to 31 July 2011. Partners also included their preparation costs (up to one year before the start of the project), which include transport and meeting costs incurred by Partners. Needless to say that setting up such a project, with 7 Partners in 5 different Member States, requires to discuss quite a few issues before coming to a finalized project proposal.

The progress report and payment claim were due by the end of October. The Interreg Joint Technical Secretariat will review Partners' statements, make comments, ask further clarifications if appropriate, and should approve both the report and the financial

statement before the first part of ERDF funding can be transferred to Partners, through the Lead Partner.

### FIRST COCKPIT TEAM MEETING

On 28 September, the city of Utrecht (one of the sub-partners of the Province of Utrecht, the actual CCP21 Partner) hosted the first Cockpit Team Meeting.

Cockpit Teams are transversal working groups established to facilitate the transnational approach of the project and the joint implementation of actions and investments. These working groups bring together Partners, Observers and external experts, with a view to pooling the adequate expertise when discussing issues faced during the implementation of the project and delivering the project's outputs.

The purpose of this first Cockpit Team meeting was to compose the 4 working groups (one per objective) and to present a state of play of Partners' local projects. Cockpit Teams will now meet individually to discuss the issues faced in each project, share experiences and ensure the dissemination of results.

The meeting happened to be organized in the Train Museum in Utrecht. A sign that, even in the way Partners organise their meetings, they think of intermodality!



### AIVP CONFERENCE

On 12-14 October, the Port of Brussels attended the conference of the Worldwide Network of Port Cities (Association Internationale Villes et Ports, AIVP) in Bordeaux. The conference aimed at highlighting the importance of a good articulation between the city, the port, and its territory, a theme also highly represented in CCP21.

This was the opportunity for the Lead Partner to present the various European projects in which the Port of Brussels has been involved over the past, and which initiated the CCP21 project: PACT, Marco Polo, DipCity, WaterTruck and, of course, CCP21. The local projects of CCP21 Partners were also presented to the audience so that they could have a clear understanding of how the 4 CCP21 themes will be translated into concrete investments.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 09/11:** Cockpit Team meeting in Paris
- 13/12:** Cockpit Team meeting in Liège
- Dec '11:** Steering Group meeting

### CONTACTS

For further information on CCP21, please contact the Project Coordinator, Xavier Thirionet ([xthirionet@port.irisnet.be](mailto:xthirionet@port.irisnet.be)).