



**SUMMARISED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
FUTUREMED FINAL CONFERENCE
TECHNICAL SESSION**

Project n° 2S-MED11-29



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Technical session of the FUTUREMED project final conference, held on 20th of May 2015 in Civitavecchia, was organized to highlight “**Perspectives and recommendations for the competitiveness of the Mediterranean port systems**”.

Distinguished speakers were focusing on three strategic sectors of the MED area: freight, passenger and touristic traffic. The following topics were highlighted : Aristos Halastis (Greece), Challenges for MED Ports in Future; Aimilia A. Papachristou (Greece) Opportunities for Passenger and Cruise Development; Austin Iglesias Villanueva (Spain) Opportunities for Efficient Port-Centric Supply chains; Jean-Andre Lassere (France) Opportunities for Competitiveness Through Stakeholders Cooperation and Governance and Andrea Campagna (Italy) Futuremed Observations and Recommendations.

Mediterranean ports are facing many challenges and open issues that have to be addressed appropriately to improve competitiveness of the Mediterranean port systems. The most outstanding are the following:

- Inadequate road-rail infrastructure and port capacity (ocean carriers are forming alliances for consolidation of flows on international routes & reducing number of calls, ship sizes tripled compared to 20 years ago, higher peak volumes);
- Inefficient port supply chain systems compared to north European ports (port choice is based on overall efficiency of the supply chain it belongs to, convenient geographical location is not enough any more);
- Low level in port and hinterland infrastructure (a country's overall infrastructure quality has a direct impact on a port's competitiveness);
- Port authorities and local governments not necessarily sharing same goals and policy perception (different understanding of positive and negative effects and lack of strategy);
- Information barriers between ports and hinterland operators (following traditional processes, regulation is compliance-oriented and not efficiency-oriented).

The improvement of competitiveness of the port systems in the MED area can be achieved by the following, summarized, recommendations of the speakers:

- improved accessibility through technology, organization and procedural innovations,
- more efficient integration of ports with hinterland through improved railway services, customs corridors, tailor made and real time user services and improved supply chains;
- further development of logistics services and intermodal transport connected with ports;

- development of infomobility aiming at fostering attractiveness and making port system more efficient;
- further development of one-stop-shop solutions and complementary services;
- specialization and improved cooperation of the port systems (increased capacity of intercontinental container ships)
- introduction of dynamic system for real-time management of freight and passenger flows, aiming at identifying actions to remove congestion and bottlenecks in the interface between ports and related hinterland territories;
- further development of intermodal transport planning by integration of rail and maritime services;
- stimulation of pilot projects, innovative solutions and best practice transfer;
- decrease of the logistics polarizations via Northern EU seaports and shortening supply chains in a geographic perspective by improving MED seaports and logistics platforms performances;
- development of system for identification of areas of needed cooperation focused at action plans and investments of common interest;
- enhance private-public cooperation in order to define and implement strategies which create business value;
- provide KPI on interest area (region, port, services..) to substantiate the need for specific policies in order to bridge the territorial performance gaps;
- focus on reduction of externalities by means of sustainable middle and long term development strategies.

Strategically important achievement of the FUTUREMED project is establishment of observatory, which will follow on the permanent basis the FUTUREMED project results, measure their impact and update the output taking into account the changes in the political, regulatory and economic environments and in technologies. **Observatory will** gather and coordinate the already existing initiatives and solutions, couple them with the technical developments and create governance procedures. Above mentioned recommendations will serve as guidelines for future topics to be specifically addressed by the observatory to assure sustainability and effectiveness also after the project lifecycle.

Great achievement of the FUTUREMED project is also establishment of visibility platform for freight (www.visibility.imet.gr) and cruise (www.cruise.imet.gr) which is providing extremely useful and complex information about maritime services, ports and hinterland connections in the Mediterranean area. Different tailor made solutions and tools developed within the pilot projects might paved the way for future solutions to improve competitiveness of specific segments within the supply chain and by time make the whole system better and more efficient.

FUTUREMED project has also developed (within the pilot activity) conceptual solution for information system for cruise passengers. Mediterranean is namely one of the leading destinations on the world in the field of cruise tourism (almost 26 million



passenger movements, 14 000 cruise calls in 2014). The cruise market in Mediterranean is maturing therefore it requires new approaches and new services. The proposed system is based on the state of the art technologies, which enable better and user-friendly visibility of the city port attractions, near hinterland attractions, overview of transport and other available services in the city port and near hinterland etc. Results are improved visitors and services providers' satisfaction, reduced congestion in the port etc. The idea for further development and introduction of the single standardized information system for cruise passengers, which would be introduced in future in all MED cruise ports was fully supported. Special attention should be also devoted to the development of, for all relevant stakeholders acceptable, business model.

The project intention to make freight and passenger flows in the MED area seamless by means of experimental activities and pilot projects concerning interoperable information systems, which integrate port systems with inland logistics infrastructures and with transport and service operators was on the project level fully achieved.

For further information, please contact the staff from ITL – Institute on Transport and Logistic:

www.fondazioneitl.org

Stefano Dondi - sdondi@regione.emilia-romagna.it

Chiara Iorfida - ciorfida@regione.emilia-romagna.it

Alberto Preti - apreti@regione.emilia-romagna.it

Project's website:

www.futuremedproject.eu

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