

SIMPLIFYING AND HARMONIZING **PORT** AND CUSTOMS **PROCEDURES** IN THE **MEDITERRANEAN**



MEDNET

SEAMLESS LOGISTICS



P R O J E C T



Project cofinanced by the
European Regional Development Fund

Million tons of goods every year pass in transit through Mediterranean ports. How to ease and smooth these exchanges of considerable freight volumes? This is what the MEDNET project is aimed at.

THE STAKE



STREAMLINING THE FLOW

Making maritime trade links more “fluid”, speeding up the goods supply chain and cutting down port logistic costs in the Mediterranean: MEDNET project objectives are related to the total economic activity.

Ports are the main entry points for goods essential to our economies. Every day, dozens of ships unload oil, cereals, foodstuffs, chemicals, manufactured goods and imported vehicles at our ports. Ship profitability relies on their quick turnover, for any wharfing delay will result in additional costs that eventually affect the entire economic chain, from the producer up to the end customer.

Based on the above, there is a major economic benefit in streamlining exchanges and improving port procedures.

OPPORTUNITIES



TIME IS MONEY

Observing, understanding what works well and what creates bottlenecks, testing solutions in order to harmonize procedures hereafter, and share best practices: this is the approach undertaken by all partners and players involved in this large-scale project.

The implications are very significant indeed; for ports and ship owners, for trading companies, as well as for end customers. These are expressed as debit rates, streams, time and (thus) costs. Streamlining freight exchanges means lowering costs!

To achieve its objectives, MEDNET will conduct analytical studies together with pilot actions at the project partner ports, as well as interviews and consultations with port and customs administrative authorities in each partner's respective country.

IMPACTS

→ On the way to the ideal virtual port

Key project benefits include primarily the generation and exchange of in-depth knowledge on operations and procedures, including that of customs, at each port related to the movement of goods.

In addition, MEDNET will identify best practices and develop an “ideal virtual port”, where the proposed harmonized port operations and customs procedures will enhance a seamless transport supply chain.

Finally, lessons learned from the pilot applications will largely contribute to the development of a Strategic Action Plan with invaluable benefits not only to the Mediterranean ports under study, but also to the extended European port community.





PORT OPERATIONS OBSERVATORY

SURVEYING & MONITORING

To be established as the project moves forward, the “Observatory of Port Operations in the Mediterranean” will act as an all-inclusive information center and knowledge base on port administrative requirements, logistic procedures, port operations and customs formalities. It will also aim at recording and disseminating best practices.

The Observatory will allow, through the use of a specialized database, for the understanding of the technical parameters related to port operations’ performance, while highlighting at the same time strengths and weaknesses of port operations. Moreover, it will build up a communication platform at European, national and regional levels. In addition, it will rely on a theme-classified discussion group.



KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

Private and public port authorities; customs administrations, port operators, vendors and customers will make up a rich information exchange pool.

ANALYZING, UNDERSTANDING

An on-site survey in every port of the MEDNET partnership will produce a complete picture of:

- Port and customs procedures in every port
- Bottlenecks in port operations’ effectiveness, including hinterland connections
- Obstacles to harmonizing procedures, including customs
- Best practices and opportunities for simplifying and harmonizing processes

MEDNET will promote best practice information, as well as appropriate solutions/ measures for simplifying and harmonizing port and customs procedures.



PILOT ACTIONS

DRAWING INSPIRATION, TESTING OUT, TAKING ACTION

Pilot actions concerning specific port operation procedures will be implemented at the MEDNET partner ports while certain pilot actions focusing on the application of a wider system will be implemented on a country level.


Some of the pilot actions proposed include:

- Analysis, enhancements and recommendations of procedures for lodging the Summary Declaration for Temporary Storage
- Introduction, promotion, extension of electronic and automatic processing of T2L declarations of goods transported by sea
- Berth allocation for RO-RO, RO-PAX, cruise ships
- EXS/ENS collaborative solutions amongst ports


All actions will relate to the key port processes and share a common goal: to improve and to streamline logistics chains. Pilot actions will be explicitly defined and fine-tuned according to survey results.

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