

Safe, efficient and autonomous: EU project SEAMLESS demonstrates possibilities for maritime and inland waterway transport

What are the implications of automation for future logistics chains?

On 16 and 17 February 2023, the kick-off meeting of the European project SEAMLESS ("Safe, Efficient and Autonomous: Multimodal Library of European Shortsea and Inland Solutions") took place in Brussels.

ISL is part of the consortium, which consists of a total of 26 research partners from twelve European countries and is led by the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA).

During the four-year project period, the SEAMLESS consortium aims to significantly advance the development of organisational and technological building blocks for safe, economical and autonomous shipping and their integration into the future logistics chains.

In order to be able to achieve the emission targets for freight transport as defined by the European Commission's Green Deal, a considerable shift of transports to waterways is necessary. Particular importance is given towards concepts of automation up to fully autonomous ship operation in order to increase the safety and economic efficiency of waterborne transports on the one hand and to enable the necessary transport volumes in view of the shortage of skilled workers that has already occurred. Against this background, the EU project SEAMLESS ("Safe, Efficient and Autonomous: Multimodal Library of European Shortsea and Inland Solutions") addresses the development of technologies for autonomous navigation, transshipment and digital integration into future transport chains. In addition, the regulatory framework and viable business models necessary for the introduction of autonomous ship transports are also going to be investigated.

Within the project, ISL will coordinate the integration and redesign of the logistical processes in the considered use cases from maritime and inland navigation.

"SEAMLESS is a great opportunity for us to apply our network as well as our logistics and technological expertise in the domain of automation. We are proud to be part of this top-class consortium", says ISL project manager Patrick Specht.



The SEAMLESS consortium gathered on January 16th and 17th in Brussels (Belgium) to present and review the project objectives, activities, and work plan.)



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