



“The European Technology Platform of Waterborne Industries”

Synergies in the Horizon Europe programme

The Waterborne Sector fully subscribes to the new direction of Horizon Europe to break down the silos between modes and sectors. The clusters envisaged in the proposal of the European Commission, support the creation of synergies to achieve common objectives, like in the cluster of climate, energy and mobility.

Decarbonization is a key priority for the waterborne sector. Not only from a societal point of view, but from a legislative point of view as well, following the [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy](#) as adopted by the IMO in April 2018, and the EU Inland Waterway Transport action plan [NAIADES](#).

Achieving the decarbonization of Waterborne transport by means of use of alternative energy sources and technologies, needs to be supported by cooperation with research on energy and climate. Another example is the cluster on digital and industry, supporting research in the area of smart shipping and aquatic drones, digitalization of shipbuilding, construction of offshore platforms and integration with the land grid.

Finally, sea levels will rise and the waterfront will change under global warming and it is of utmost importance to devise innovative win-win strategies for climate adaptation, another important reason to work in synergy on transport and climate.

The Waterborne sector thereby calls upon the European Commission as well as the Member States, to ensure that the synergies as foreseen in the proposal of the European Commission, are to its full extent included in the final version of the Horizon Europe programme, just as they are in the Connecting Europe Facility and InvestEU.

Contact

SeaEurope | Jaap Gebraad jg@seaeurope.eu | +32 493 835626
Inland Navigation Europe | Karin De Schepper | kds@inlandnavigation.eu | +32 2 5531480

More than 70% of the globe covered by water and 50% of Europeans live close to the coast and the valleys of the 15 largest rivers. The Waterborne sector is at the core of the EU's economy creating 5.4 million jobs (about 2.25% of all European employment) and generating currently €500 billion a year (3.4% of EU GDP). Moreover, waterborne transport enables nearly 90% of international trade, 80% of external EU trade and 40% of internal EU trade. Waterborne tourism is annually growing at a [double digit rate](#).

WATERBORNE TP has been set up as an industry-oriented Technology Platform to establish a continuous dialogue between all waterborne stakeholders, such as classification societies, shipbuilders, shipowners, maritime equipment manufacturers, infrastructure and service providers, universities or research institutes, and with the EU Institutions, including Member States (www.waterborne.eu).

