

INTRODUCTION



Welcome to the third Optimed Newsletter! The purpose of this eNewsletter is to provide information and updates about OPTIMED project, co-financed by the ENPI CBC MED Programme under Priority 3 (Promotion of better conditions and modalities for ensuring the mobility of persons, goods and capitals) - Measure 3.2 (Improvement of conditions and modalities of circulation of goods and capitals among the territories).

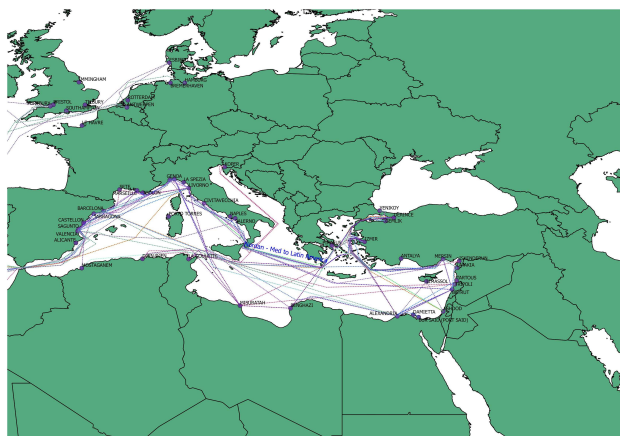
In this issue you will discover the findings of the training course in Short Sea Shipping for future trainers that took place last February in Barcelona, and the progress on the preliminary design of the Porto Torres port's new layout, unveiled during the visit to Porto Torres in March. In addition, all the news related to the participation of OPTIMED Project to the world-class International Logistics and Material Handling Exhibition which took place in Barcelona last June. Finally, an overview of the conclusions of the fourth Steering Committee, held in Barcelona (Spain) in June 2015. Enjoy your reading!

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THE PROJECT

About Optimed



The development of maritime transport and logistics sector in the Mediterranean still needs to be improved in order to ensure more efficient and sustainable trade relations between the northern and south-eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

In this context and by means of a virtual logistics platform structured around the ports of Porto Torres (Italy) and Beirut (Lebanon), OPTIMED project – funded by the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin

Programme 2007-2013 - will promote better commercial connections among Lebanon, Italy, Spain and France.

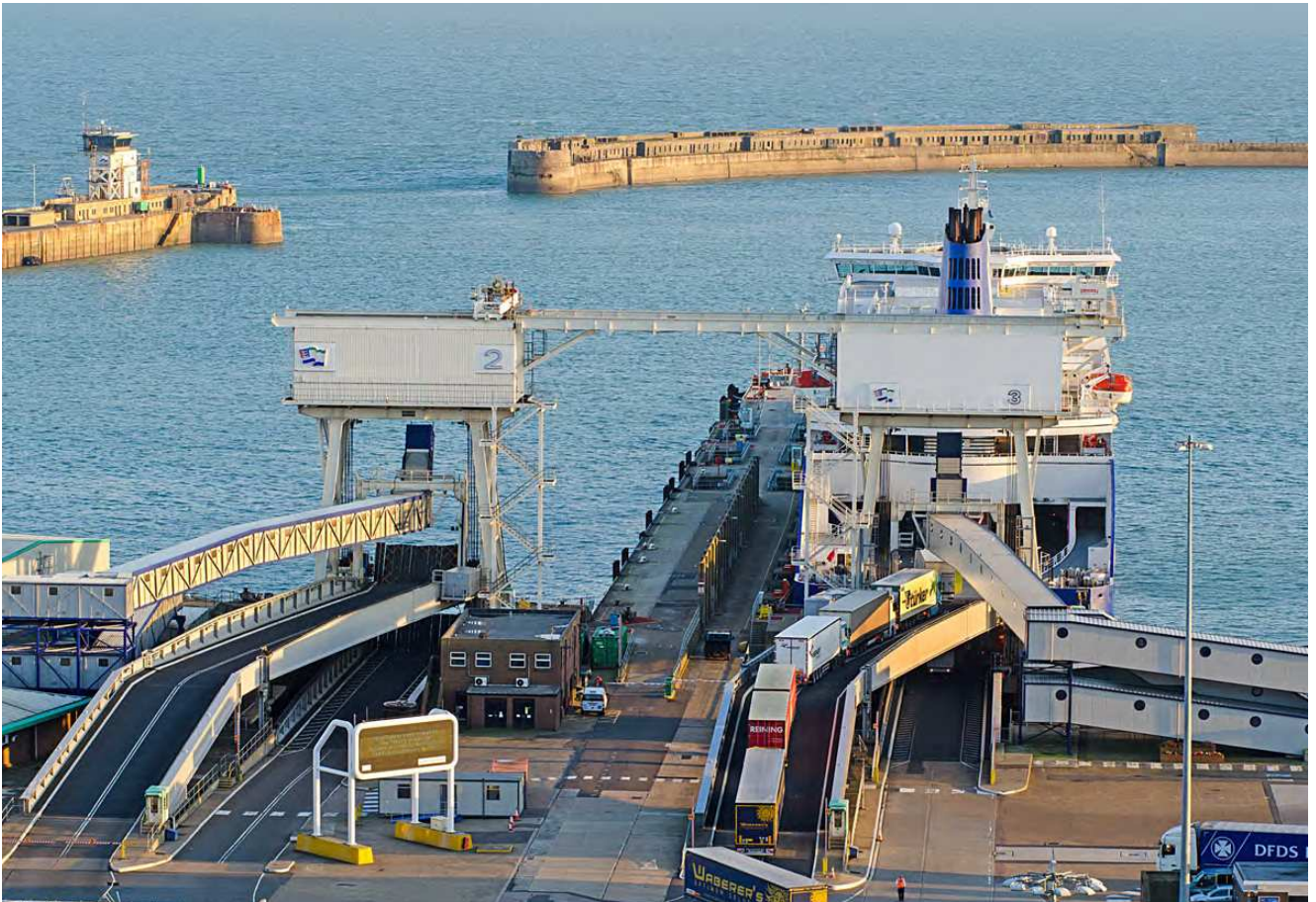
The seven actors part of the project will also develop new tools (such as the organization of business meetings and the promotion of short sea shipping) thus contributing to a more efficient transport and logistics model, characterized by better delivery times of freight and consequently by a greater competitiveness.

Objectives

OPTIMED project aims at promoting the trade network between the northern shores of the High Tyrrhenian arc and the eastern-southern shores of the Mediterranean sea, thus improving commercial connections and relationships between public and private operators in maritime transport and logistics sector of Lebanon, Italy, Spain and France (General objective).

In order to achieve the aforementioned goal, an innovative virtual logistics platform structured around ports strengthened as Ro-Ro hubs will be implemented (Specific objective).



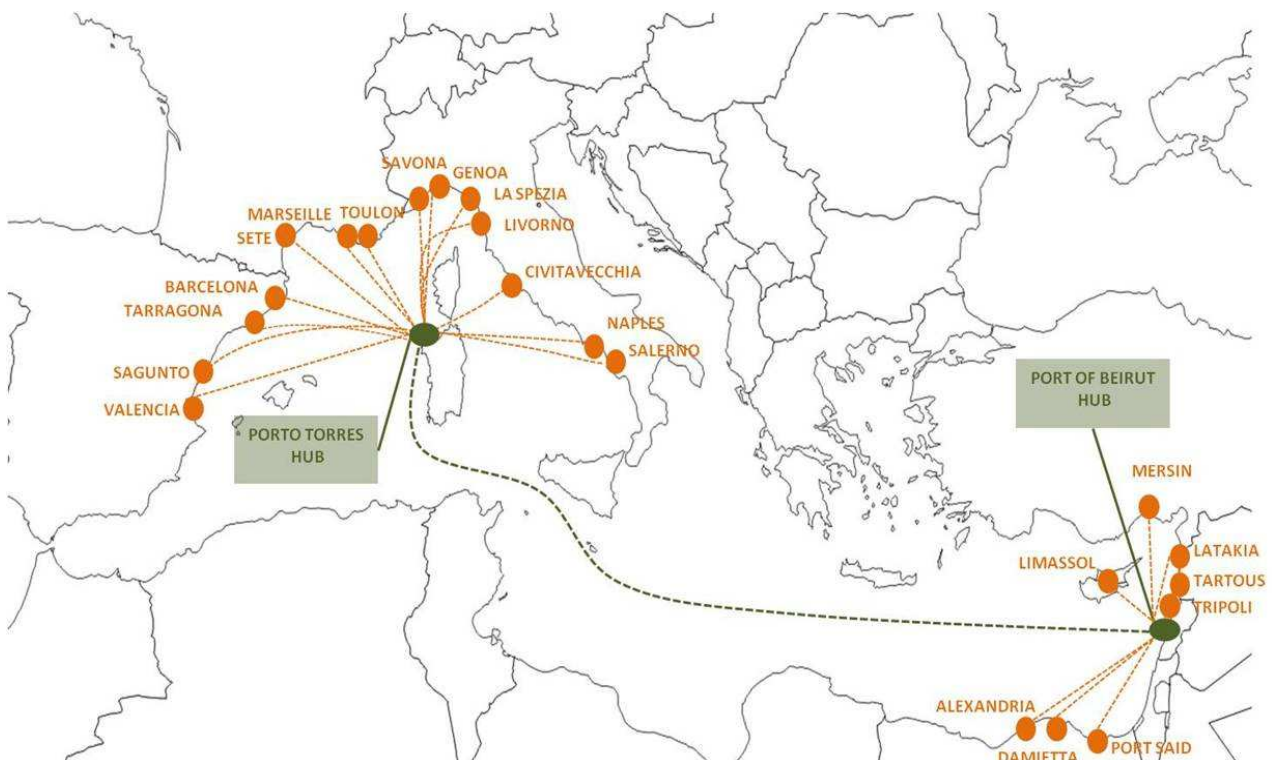


Main activities

- Design of a new-hub based network structure for connections between the French-Spanish-Italian arc and the southern-eastern part of the Mediterranean area.
- Design of a new hub-based port facilities in Beirut and Porto Torres.
- Design, development and implementation of an information system for traffic management enabling businesses to plan shipping and identify the best transport option.
- Implementation of B2B meetings in France, Italy and Spain and Lebanon.
- Training of concerned public and private operators on the benefits of Short Sea Shipping, Motorways of the Sea and e-freight.

Expected results

- The optimization of the maritime trade network between the northern shores of the High Tyrrhenian arc and the south-eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, allowing to identify new opportunities for economic operators and institutions.
- Interventions to port infrastructures of Porto Torres (Italy) and Beirut (Lebanon) in order to improve their performance as RO-RO hubs in the framework of the freight shipping network (RO-RO ships are vessels designed to carry wheeled cargo, such as automobiles, trucks, semi-trailer trucks, trailers, and railroad cars, that are driven on and off the ship on their own wheels).
- Shift of freight from current modes of transportation to more efficient ones through the implementation of the virtual platform supporting the new optimized maritime trade network.
- New business relationships based on the opportunities of new optimised maritime trade network through the stimulation of target groups and stakeholders.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Training course in SHORT SEA SHIPPING for future trainers, February 2015

A group of ten people from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia underwent a specialized training dedicated to intermodal transport as a way to improve the efficiency of freight circulation between ports of the Mediterranean Sea.

The training course, organised last February in Barcelona under the OPTIMED project, offered to participants the opportunity to develop their expertise in relevant concepts and tools associated to intermodal transport including: motorways of the sea, short sea shipping and e-freight (procedure aimed to largely eliminate paper documents from the maritime shipping value chain by replacing paper documents with standardised electronic messages transmitted via a regulated data exchange).



On returning to their countries, trained participants will seek to raise the awareness of public and private actors of the logistics sector on the benefits of intermodal transport, which are related to the optimization in the use of different modes of transport on their own and in combination.

"With the contribution of the OPTIMED project, intermodal transport has the potential to become a significant portion of the logistics sector in Lebanon because all the goods coming from Europe could be unloaded in the Port of Beirut and then transported by road to the neighbouring countries of the Middle East and the Gulf," said Wissam El Hossari from the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut and Mount Lebanon.

Preliminary layout of the port: Optimed partners visit the Porto Torres port and industrial area

Taking stock of the progress on the preliminary design of the port's new layout: that was the goal of the visit to Porto Torres, at the beginning of March, of the 3 Sardinia's Optimed project

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partners (RAS - Region Autonomous of Sardinia, University of Cagliari (CIREM) and the Port Authority of North Sardinia).

The meeting has been organised to verify the actual feasibility of the planned interventions, taking into account that the new layout is conceived in order to equip and organize the infrastructure so as to meet OPTIMED project objectives. Furthermore, the partners involved the Industrial Consortium of Sassari Province (the public authority responsible to manage the industrial site of Porto Torres), and organized a thorough inspection on the



areas behind the industrial port and assessed the port regulatory plan to identify which side of the industrial port is better suited for RO-RO operations (Roll-on/roll-off), the shipping system promoted by the project.

The technical meeting strengthened the cooperation with all the involved bodies, laying the foundations for the actual feasibility of the actions planned within the project. The opinion given by the General Director of the Consortium is an expression of the agreement on the intentions and on the perspectives created by the project: "We definitely agree on the far-reaching opportunity given by this ambitious project, which would be able to capitalise and give value to the enterprises based on the industrial area and definitely contribute to the economic growth of the territory".

Optimed Project presented at the International Logistics and Material Handling Exhibition of Barcelona

OPTIMED project has been presented at the International Logistics and Material Handling Exhibition - SIL, one of the most important international events in the field of transportation and logistics, which took place in Barcelona June 9th to 10th, 2015.

The Autonomous Region of Sardinia, the University of Cagliari (Inter-University Centre for Economic Research and Mobility of the University of Cagliari, CIREM), the Port Authority of North Sardinia, the Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME) and the other partners from Lebanon and Spain have taken advantage of the opportunity offered

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by the initiative setting up an exhibition space dedicated to the project, and organizing two workshop presentations to enterprises and other stakeholders.

The "Circolo logistico" - the space of the exhibition devoted to the interaction between the representatives of companies in the sector - hosted the "Business to Business" meetings between the various companies specialized in the freight handling sector operating in the Mediterranean basin, that showed particular interest in investigating the feasibility of developing new business relationships through the innovative network system proposed by OPTIMED.



In the framework of the "8th Meda Port Summit" - international conference organized within the SIL - the first important results of the specialized studies carried out as part of project activities were presented. The current trading system, by land, will be improved, with a more competitive one, by sea. "For example, nowadays to ship goods by truck from Milan to Kurdistan, on the border with Turkey, it costs 3,700 euro and takes twelve days. "While" - explains Gianfranco

Fancello, Cirem researcher - "our project will increase the frequency of services by sea leading to a reduction in costs and time around 30 percent. How? With a regular service, a widespread dissemination of connections to smaller ports and, above all, the reduction of waiting times of goods in the yards". From the experts' reports, it emerges that with Porto Torres as a hub for the northern Mediterranean, the port will be connected with four weekly departures to Valencia and the same to Barcelona, six to Marseille and Seté, seven with Genoa, La Spezia and Naples and eight with Beirut.

During the Barcelona mission, it was also held the official meeting between the General Director of Transport of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Gabriella Massidda, the scientific coordinator of the project, Paolo Fadda, the director of the Escola Europea de Short Sea Shipping of Barcelona, Eduard Rodes, and the Director General of Transport and Mobility of the Government of Catalonia, Pere Pedrosa.

Optimed Project Steering Committee and Management Group in Barcellona

Taking advantage of the participation in the International Logistics and Material Handling Exhibition – SIL, all the partners met for the 4th Optimed project Steering Committee Meeting, held in Barcelona on 11th June 2015 and hosted by the Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME).



The partners discussed the state of play of project activities: the progress of the design of the new hub-based network system and the one of the new hub-based port facilities; the design and test of the virtual logistics platform; the results of the first edition of the training on Short Sea Shipping; the signature of a MoU “Short Sea Shipping Euro-Mediterranean Network”.

Mr. Salvatore D’Alfonso, Senior Project Manager of the Transport and Urban

Development Division of the UfM Secretariat, also participated in this meeting in order to show the support of the UfM to the OPTIMED initiative. He highlighted and appreciated the innovative and systemic structure of the OPTIMED project and its perfect consistency with the program that the UfM Secretariat is launching on the Motorways of the Sea with the aim to re-equilibrate the maritime flows in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. In this regard, it was analyzed the possibility that the project could be part of the “UfM MoS Program” and could contribute to the development of the “Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network” (TMN-T).

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THE PARTNERS

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The 2007-2013 ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme is a multilateral Cross-Border Cooperation initiative funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The Programme objective is to promote the sustainable and harmonious cooperation process at the Mediterranean Basin level by dealing with the common challenges and enhancing its endogenous potential. It finances cooperation projects as a contribution to the economic, social, environmental and cultural development of the Mediterranean region. The following 14 countries participate in the Programme: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Syria (participation currently suspended), Tunisia. The Joint Managing Authority (JMA) is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy). Official Programme languages are Arabic, English and French (www.enpicbmed.eu).

“The project OPTIMED total budget is € 1.999.403 and it is financed, for an amount of € 1.799.462 (90 %), by the European Union (ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme) through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument”.

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.