

NEWSLETTER

From the Coordinator

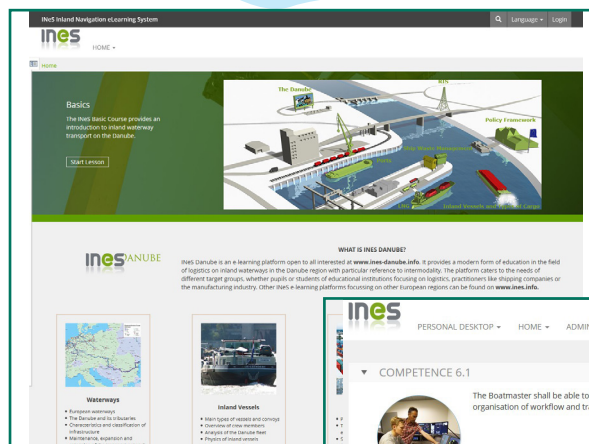
After a tough Covid-19 schoolyear we are on the edge of a Summer break which we all look forward too. Fortunately, the pandemic situation is improving. Travel limitations are being levied here and there. If I speak for myself I am really longing for physical meetings including more personal contacts with the entire consortium.

Looking back we can conclude that we already have accomplished a lot: the first train-the-trainer event about the course manual for communication, the e-learning platform with a modern look, the European Training Record Book and lots of draft educational materials in all competence areas. After the Summer an additional six months of perseverance will be waiting for us: finishing all course manuals and all blended learning items needed, having the audit system officially approved by the CESNI fora including execution of the tests and officially finalizing the project for EACEA.

For now I wish you all a great Summer with your families and friends. Stay safe and healthy.

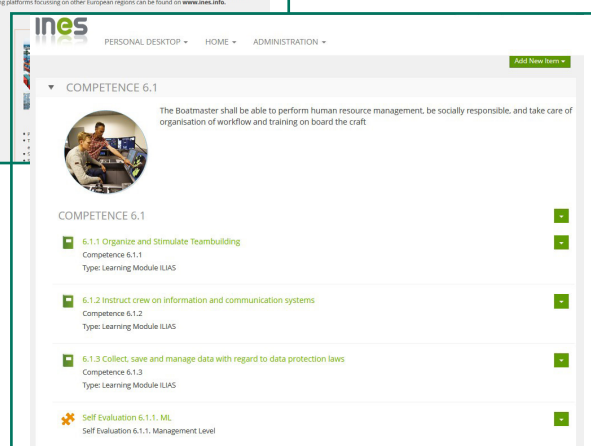
PROJECT COORDINATION:

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The new designed start screen of <http://www.ines.info>.

Learning material is structured according competences and skills and self-evaluation is provided in form of a quiz per competence.



A new look for the INES platform

INES - "Inland Navigation eLearning System" is an e-learning platform that provides free accessible learning modules to support modern forms of learning in the field of inland waterway education. The platform caters to the needs of different target groups, whether pupils or students of educational institutions, practitioners like shipping companies or the manufacturing industry.

INES is based on the ILIAS open source e-learning platform including powerful and flexible tools for creating digital learning material and for collaboration and communication of learning communities.

With the latest software update we gave the platform a new and fresh look, making use of the responsible design approach by the ILIAS system. The learning tools are easy to access and provide the same user experience on all kind of devices, i.e. from the beamer in the classroom to students working on mobile devices.

The COMPETING consortium will use the INES platform to distribute all lesson material developed for an EU wide harmonized education in the shipping sector on operational and master level. Educators, trainers, students and practitioners will have access to learning material and quizzes for self assessments on all competences and

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>>> follow-up

skills according the Directive (EU) 2017/2397 on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation. The learning modules will make use of different forms of media (audio, video) and will include interactive elements for better learning experiences and individual learning paths allowing different types of didactical concepts from presence formats to blended learning or inverted classroom setups.

The Ines platform was setup and continuously extended within a series of co-operations of partners from educational institutions and organisations from the inland waterway sector in the course of several EU projects and is currently hosted by viadonau (Vienna/AT). Within the next months, the hosting and management of the INeS platform is to be taken over by EDINNA, the European umbrella organization for inland navigation trainers.

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Solutions to overcome the COVID-19 crisis



2020 will be remembered as the year that has thrown the whole transportation system into a never-before seen level of uncertainty. The governmental

restrictions introduced in response to the pandemic have caused disruptions severely affecting ports, shipping, transport, and supply chains. While the longer-term impact of the outbreak is yet to be fully understood, all economic indicators, as well as the feedback received by Pro Danube from the industry, point to significant challenges for the IWT sector. Both cargo and passenger transportation were heavily affected, with the latter coming to a complete standstill. The overall effects on cargo transportation were not as dramatic as expected: volumes of petrochemical, chemical and agricultural products as well as ores and minerals decreased in Q1-Q3/2020 up to 30%, while the agricultural sector was the only one to give signs of recovery in Q4/2020.

In these times of economic uncertainty, Pro Danube has made several proposals to limit the pandemic's impact on the businesses operating on the Danube and its navigable tributaries:

- Uniform regulations for the exchange of crew members
- Keep border control locations as in regular conditions
- Europe-wide harmonized approach for the cruising and shipping industry
- Other short & midterm proposals include the waiver of port and channel fees for a limited period to boost economic recovery, whereas terminal investments should be adequately financed to accelerate loading times, increase efficiency, and secure 24/7 operations. Finally, financial instruments to support the adaptation to the new legislative requirements considering the European Green Deal, should be made accessible.

COLUMN

COMPETING PUTS ITSELF TO THE TEST



One of the stepstones in the lifespan of the COMPETING project is about to be taken. Over the last two years, the consortium developed a quality control and quality assurance system to ensure education and training of inland navigation crew members throughout the EU meets a minimum of requirements and guarantees a high level of quality.

The main instrument for doing so is an audit list, which is has finished its development stage and is already widely accepted with all the key players in the European IWT world. This tool is designed to be a contemporary and user-friendly instrument used by authorities to monitor training institutes and examination boards.

The list is based CESNI ES-QIN standards and is composed according the new EU directive for the harmonization of inland navigation education.

COMPETING is currently gearing up to put this instrument to the test in the fall of 2021.

Two pilot assessments of selected parts of the audit list, which will serve as a proof of concept, are set up at different public IWT schools in different parts of Europe. One at CERONAV in Galati (Romania) and the other at the STC in Rotterdam (The Netherlands). The relevant authorities and the respective assessing bodies of Romania and the Netherlands are invited to see for themselves how the audit system works and to give their input for improving it.



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COMPETING 2.0



As the current COMPETING project is sailing towards its destination (Q1, 2022), the consortium is brainstorming about the focus and scope of a follow up project (a new horizon). STC's course leader Cor van Wijngaarden mentioned the other day 'it would be a pity if this energetic consortium would come to an end'. In the last weeks several pressure cooker sessions have taken place in which the impact has been discussed we want to make in this sector.

The challenge that we foresee in COMPETING 2.0 will have three elements:

- Create resilient, easily accessible and future-proof education for the IWT sector
- Build a strong brand to further improve the positioning of the branch
- Achieved by a process of structured cooperation between the fields of education, industry and social partners.

Until so far our ambition has been named 'One system for IWT learning: upskilling pathways'. Since the start in 2009 EDINNA has pledged for 'one language' and 'one standard' in the IWT sector. EU directive 1997/2397, which will come into force January 17th 2022, will mean imple-

mentation of 'one standard' as promoted by EDINNA since the MoU of 2009.

In order to come to 'one language' standard communication phrases for inland navigation have been developed under the umbrella of EDINNA. Distress-, urgency- and safety communication forms an important part of these phrases. The number of incidents and near misses until this day, in many cases dealing with 'ship to ship' or 'ship to shore' miscommunication, calls for action.

In the COMPETING 2.0 project we want to build a Community of Practice for structured cooperation between the fields of education, industry and social partners. In this Community educational needs can be picked up and be met with an offer in a user centric, digitalized way. EDINNA and its twelve years of fruitful cooperation will act as starting point of expansion into the professional network. We are confident that by offering and organizing more individualized learning plans, a culture of permanent education in this sector can start growing.

The changing paradigms related to greening and digitalization call

Train-the-trainer



Train-the-trainer sessions are organised In order to evaluate the course manuals and lesson materials developed during the project, as well as in order to be able to train the lecturers of the IWT institutes. In addition to the lecturers, key stakeholders were invited to provide opinions on material developed from the point of view of the industry or other interested organizations. Due to the pandemic limitations, the first TT session was held online between 12th and 14th of April 2021 and was led by CERONAV's team with the help of STC and FHO0 as organizers. As part of the COMPETING project and in line with the DIRECTIVE (EU) 2017/2397 seven course manuals for each competences for operational and management level must be developed . Communication at management level was the first competence chosen to be prepared and delivered as TT. The content was presented on the Ines Danube platform as an e-learning module in a digital environment accessible online by each participant. A great emphasis was put on the practical scenarios and exercises as well as on the study of real case scenarios. The participants were very active, shared a lot of valuable informations, acknowledged that the material is suitable to the project's purpose and overall we received a great feedback. The next TT sessions will be focused on the Navigational and Heath and Safety competences and held at the end of the year.

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for it. If skippers experience barriers on their way to school, we will bring the school to the skippers.

The recently published Naiades III document from the European Commission, together with the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, the European Green Deal and the Position Paper of Renew Europe, can act as push barges for our challenge.

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