



Invitation for Green Inland Ports workshop on the application of Environmental and Sustainable Management Systems (ESMS)

Date & Time: 7 November 2024 9:30 – 12:30

Location: Port of Brussels (Pl. des Armateurs 6, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium)

Invitation to join a workshop to European inland ports

[Green Inland Ports](#) is a 3-year study commissioned by the European Commission focussing on the sustainable development of TEN-T inland ports. The study is going to result in [roadmap for the implementation and wide-scale roll-out of sustainability tools for TEN-T inland ports](#), embracing the key role that inland ports have in the realisation of the objectives of the European Green Deal to reduce transport emissions with 90% by 2050. The study is also supporting the European Commission and other legislators with advise for the [future policy agenda](#) to support European inland ports in their crucial role to enable the green transition as zero-emission and multimodal hubs. The project has a duration of 36 months between November 2022 and November 2025. The scope includes all TEN-T inland ports and connecting seaports where inland waterway transport is concerned.

The project will develop a set of practical, hands-on tools for the implementation of actions supporting inland ports to achieve their environmental objectives:

- [Environmental Management Systems \(EMS\)](#): The project team has developed a self-assessment tool for inland ports to establish a quantified environmental benchmark and for environmental monitoring. The next couple of months will be used to apply the tool with inland ports to tailor the tool to specific needs, and to understand how the tool should be applied to overcome the environmental challenges faced by inland ports.
- [Smart Development Systems \(SDS\)](#), providing pathways for sustainable development of inland ports focusing on (1) a self-assessment tool for digital readiness, (2) guidelines for further digitalisation supporting sustainable development, (3) the role of inland port in the logistics chain enabling the use of greener transport modes and (4) the role of the port as energy hub.

The Green Inland Ports project team is organising a workshop in Brussels on [7 November 2024](#) in close collaboration with the European Federation of Inland Ports (EFIP) and the Port of Brussels. The workshop is organised back-to-back with the [1st PLATINA4ACTIO Stage Event](#) taking place on 6 November. The workshop will follow an interactive format by zooming into [potential use cases for the actual application of EMS and SDS tools by inland ports](#). **The workshop gives you the opportunity to provide feedback, and to ensure that these tools will consider your port's needs, or the needs of ports that are a member of your organisation, regarding environmental objectives and challenges.** The agenda for the workshop, also introducing the use cases, can be found on the next page.

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Agenda of the meeting

The workshop will be focusing on [2 potential use cases for the application of Environmental and Sustainable Management Systems \(ESMS\)](#) developed by the Green Inland Ports project team, based on the results of the first 2 years of the project and initial feedback received by inland ports:

- Each use case will be introduced with a presentation outlining the results from the first 2 years and how these results have feed into the ESMS tools;
- This is followed by a discussion with participants with the objective to determine how the tools should be tailored in order to response to the needs of inland ports.

Inland ports and sector organisations representing inland ports are invited to provide feedback during the workshop. The tools will be further tailored after the workshop based on the input and feedback provided.

A provisional agenda for this meeting can be found below. Participants will receive an updated agenda and input paper providing more details on the potential use cases and discussion points one week in advance.

Time	Agenda item
09:30-10:00	Welcome coffee
10:00-10:15	Welcome words from the host and the organisers
10:15-10:30	Introduction to the general design and approach towards ESMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to our approach • Comparison & synergies with other standards and tools
10:30-11:15	Use case 1 – Self-assessment tool to calculate environmental impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrator – Presentation of a tool to calculate environmental impact • Which inland port activities cause what environmental impact • Which EMS tools provide effective solutions to improve environmental performance
11:15-11:35	Coffee break
11:35-12:20	Use case 2 – Self-assessment tool for digital readiness & digitalisation guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrator – Presentation of a tool to assess digital readiness • How can digital readiness contribute to sustainable development • Which SDS tools, providing solutions and good practices for further digitalisation, are most effectively addressing the need to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (1) strengthen the role of the port in the logistics chain promoting the use of green transport modes, and ○ (2) promote the role of the port as energy hub
12:20-12:30	Wrap-up and next steps

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Registration

The workplace will take place in a hybrid format and will be designed as interactive workshop aiming to gather your feedback. We can accommodate up to 15 registrations in-person. In addition, there is also the opportunity to join remotely. **Please fill in the following form before 30 October** in order to register for this workshop: [EUSurvey - Survey \(europa.eu\)](#).

You can contact us for questions at greeninlandports@ecorys.com.

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