

*Call for expression of interest***From**

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**Subject**

**Establishment of the task force for the development of the Digital Inland Waterway Area and Digital Multimodal Nodes concept**

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**Call for expression of interest****Background**

Inland waterways span across borders in Europe, connecting ports with the hinterland. They provide key logistics advantages for some industries, while other industries are hesitant to connect their supply chain to inland waterways. Therefore the potential of inland waterways is not fully utilized, especially when it comes to the integration of inland waterway transport in larger multimodal supply chains.

Information exchange is considered a key enabler for the increased use of inland waterway transport. During the past decade the European Commission, Member States and infrastructure operators worked together to define, build and deploy River Information Services (RIS). RIS aims to facilitate navigation and information exchange between transport operators and infrastructure managers.

**A new approach: Digital Inland Waterway Area and Digital Multimodal Nodes**

In line with one of the ten Juncker priorities, the establishment of the Digital Single Market, a new approach is envisaged to interconnect information on infrastructure, people, vessels, management, operations and cargo. The approach consists of two interlinked concepts: 'Digital Inland Waterway Area' (DINA) and 'Digital Multimodal Nodes' (DMN).

DINA and DMN shall build on the achievements of River Information Services, related developments in other modes of transport (e.g. e-freight) and technological developments (smart monitoring-enabled components, ITS-tools, etc.). It is likely to include:

- the integration of information across all modes of transport, including maritime transport, road, rail and (multimodal) inland terminals;
- information exchange between end-users of inland water way transport (shippers and logistics service providers) and inland waterway transport operators;
- functionalities that relate to the operation of inland waterways and the needs of vessel operators.

The Commission contracted a consortium led by STC-Nestra and TNO to provide analytical input on the possible framework, roadmap and architecture of DINA and DMN and to set-up a taskforce of industry representatives to do this.

The outcome of the work of the taskforce will be used as input for the upcoming revision of the RIS-directive by the European Commission, as well as to set-up and support projects and initiatives relevant to the realization of DINA and DMN.

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## **Participate in the definition of the future Digital Inland Waterway Area**

We call on parties who would like to actively participate in shaping the future vision related to the development of DINA and DMN to express their interest. There are various ways to participate:

### *Consultation as an expert or project representative*

The project intends to consult experts and representatives of relevant organizations and to share ideas and participate in discussions. This will be done directly and/or by inviting experts and project representatives in taskforce meetings.

### *Taskforce*

A taskforce of approximately 20 members will be invited to actively discuss the framework and roadmap of DINA and DMN. The taskforce shall include a balanced representation of the following categories of actors:

- Shippers and cargo owners - (potential) users of transport services
- Logistics service providers for various modes of transport
- Inland ports and multimodal terminals
- Maritime ports and terminals
- (Fleet) operators of inland waterway transport
- Managers of inland waterway infrastructure

## **How to get involved?**

Persons or organizations that would like to actively participate in the development of the future vision related to DINA and DMN are invited to express their interest using the form on the following website: <http://www.ris.eu/dina>. Please indicate - in the form - your background and possibilities for involvement. The deadline for expressing interest is **Friday March 18th**.

## **Timeline**

The architecture and roadmap for DINA and DMN should be ready by the end of February 2017.

In this period three taskforce meetings are envisaged:

- a kick-off meeting in April 2016 in Brussels
- a meeting in parallel with the TEN-T Days in the week of 20 June 2016 in Rotterdam
- a further meeting in November 2016 to discuss the draft results
- an online conference in February 2017, to finalize the outcome and to agree on possible follow-up actions.

Between the taskforce meetings the contractor will consult individual stakeholders and project representatives where applicable.

The European Commission/DG MOVE intends to present the vision of DINA and DMN to the Digital Transport & Logistics Forum to seek further alignment and synergies with more general developments in transport & logistics.