

3. OBJECTIVES PURSUED BY THIS WORK PROGRAMME AND THE FUNDING PRIORITIES:

3.3 Priorities for the objective of optimising the integration and interconnection of transport modes and enhancing the interoperability of transport services, while ensuring the accessibility of transport infrastructures

3.3.2. River Information Services

Priority open to all Member States

General objectives

Article 16 of the TEN-T Guidelines sets out the implementing of telematics applications, including River Information Services (RIS), as one of the priorities for inland waterway infrastructure development. RIS are regulated through Directive 2005/44/EC which defines binding rules for data communication and RIS equipment as well as the minimum level of services for RIS implementations. The Directive provides the framework for the deployment of harmonised and interoperable RIS across Europe with a view to enhancing safety, efficiency and environmental friendliness and to facilitating interfaces with other transport modes.

In order to meet these objectives, CEF funding shall be used to support the deployment of on-board and of land-based components of RIS.

Specific objectives

The actions (studies, pilot actions and works) on River Information Services shall focus on the on-board and land-based components of RIS. These include RIS

- Infrastructure,
- Technologies,
- Equipment including fixed or mobile hardware and software,
- Services and applications,
- Inter-linkage with components of telematic applications of other modes of transport and of logistic services.

RIS projects shall contribute to a coherent deployment of EU-wide harmonised RIS components. For this purpose, neighbouring countries may also participate in projects.

RIS components shall support the deployment of harmonised information services to support traffic and transport management in inland navigation, including, wherever technically feasible or relevant, interfaces with other transport modes.

River information services and applications shall aim at the deployment of interoperable, harmonised solutions and shall address services such as fairway information, traffic information, traffic management, calamity abatement support, information for transport management, statistics and customs services and waterway charges and port dues. Further RIS services and applications shall focus on those which lead to an increased level of safety, to measureable benefits for inland navigation actors and users or to a better integration of inland navigation into the door-to-door logistic chains.

Projects may also comprise

- The testing and validation of technical feasibility, interoperability and compatibility of technologies, systems, services and applications,
- The further development of favourable conditions to support a coherent deployment of RIS for instance with regard to reporting requirements,
- The maintenance and amendment of standards and technical specifications,
- The definition and implementation of harmonised concepts for (cross-border) exchange of data between authorities, inland waterway transport operators or users,
- The interconnection of national systems with systems at EU level as well as related technical and administrative agreements,
- The further enhancement and fine-tuning of RIS key technologies, systems, services and applications to take account of the state of the art.

Proposed Actions under this priority shall address either works or studies (including studies with pilot activities).

Proposed Actions for studies with pilot activities shall serve at least one of the following objectives:

- to develop, improve or adapt a solution and implement it in order to test its feasibility and suitability as well as its added value for inland navigation before deploying it on a larger scale;
- to implement an existing RIS technology, infrastructure or service (i.e. already in use elsewhere but new to a particular organisation, system or geographical area) in order to gain experience and learn lessons with a view to preparing the best conditions for deployment on a larger scale;
- to demonstrate developments and improvements for the interoperability of RIS in the context of evolving RIS standards.