The geographical zone, covered by this Action, presents a number of bottlenecks related to the railway system of the Lake Mälaren area with its constraints in capacity and the main road system leading into and passing through Stockholm with its congestions during peak hours. At this time, there is an unused potential in the Lake Mälaren to increase the role of sea transport in the intermodal transport chain. The potential to attract on-land transport modes can be achieved by relatively limited infrastructure investments.

The current Action is part of a Global project, which aims at improving the maritime infrastructure in the Lake Mälaren in order to improve efficiency, safety of navigation and environmental performance. The physical works of the Global project include increased depth and width of fairways and canal, increased clearance and lengthening and widening of the lock. To start the investments a building permit from the Swedish Land and Environmental Court is a pre-requisite and it will be prepared and requested under the current Action. The upgrading of this infrastructure will support a modal shift from the overburden TEN-T Priority Project 12 Nordic triangle to sea transport, making sea transport more sustainable and cost efficient.

The implementation will give access to the Lake Mälaren for larger vessels and give possibility to direct calls to other European ports. This will increase cost-and time efficiency in sea transportation and is in direct relation to the TEN-T Priority Project 21 Motorways of the Sea. The current Action aims at preparing all necessary technical and environmental studies of the proposed investments in order to obtain a formal request for building consent from the Swedish Land and Environment Court.

State of progress on 31 December 2013:
The project has been finalised. The final design of fairways and the technical pre-studies for the locks and the canal have been completed. The application, in view of obtaining the environmental and building permit was finalised and submitted to Swedish Land and Environmental Court.