



**AUTOSHIP**  
Autonomous Shipping Initiative for European Waters



**NOVIMAR**  
VESSELTRAIN

**Interreg**  
North Sea Region  
AVATAR



## **WEBINAR**

### **MOVING FREIGHT BY WATER: SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND INNOVATIVE VESSELS**

*Towards more automation and autonomy in inland navigation logistics; use this opportunity to take part in a 2-hour digital webinar to broaden your knowledge on how some important European and EU funded initiatives contribute to meet the overall goals of the Transport White paper.*

**Date and time:** Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 to 12:00 CET

[Register here](#)

*("First come, first served"; there might be some limitations in number of participants due to limitations in the digital platform being used.)*

In line with the Transport White Paper, 30% of road freight over 300 km should shift to rail or waterborne transport by 2030, and more than 50 % by 2050. More automation and autonomy in waterborne transport is decisive for the competitive edge of waterborne logistics towards road transport, and thus a prerequisite for being able to meet these goals.

There is a series of European initiatives and EU funded research and innovation projects contributing to the overall policy as stated in the Commission's Transport White Paper. Close contact with potential stakeholders is an important part in all these activities for being able to operationalise innovations.

**The questions to be investigated in this webinar are:**

1. How will automation and autonomy contribute to efficient and sustainable inland navigation cargo transport in Europe?
2. What are the challenges and what are the solutions that these initiatives propose?

As an introduction to a panel discussion, a short presentation of some European initiatives will be given. A tentative agenda for the webinar is:

| Time  | Title  | Presenter                                 |
|-------|--|---|
| 00:00 | Welcome and introduction; the overall purpose of the workshop. | Ann-Sofie Pauwelyn/De Vlaamse Waterweg nv |
| 00:05 | The AUTOSHIP project   | Antoon van Collie, Zulu Associates        |
| 00:15 | The AVATAR project   | Senne van Baelen/KU Leuven                |
| 00:25 | The SEAFAR company   | Louis-Robert Cool/SEAFAR                  |
| 00:35 | The NOVIMAR project  | Edwin van Hassel/University of Antwerp    |
| 00:45 | The AEGIS project  | Mads Bentzen Billesø/DFDS                 |
| 00:55 | 10 minutes break   |   |
| 01:05 | Panel discussion   | Moderated by Ann-Sofie Pauwelyn           |
| 01:50 | Summing up and way ahead                                       | Ann-Sofie Pauwelyn                        |

## About the initiatives

| Project   | Objective   |
|---|---|
|  <b>AUTOSHIP</b><br>Autonomous Shipping Initiative for European Waters<br><br><b>AUTOSHIP – Autonomous Shipping Initiative for European Waters</b><br><br><b>Coordinator:</b> Ciaotech S.r.l. – PNO Group, Rome<br><br><i>European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under Grant Agreement N° 815012.</i> | AUTOSHIP aims at speeding-up the transition towards a next generation of autonomous ships.<br>The project will build and operate two different autonomous vessels, demonstrating their operative capabilities in Short Sea Shipping and Inland Water Ways scenarios, with a focus on goods mobility.<br><br><a href="https://www.autoship-project.eu/">https://www.autoship-project.eu/</a>   |
| <br><b>AVATAR - Autonomous Vessels, cost-effective trAnshipmenT, wAste Return</b><br><br><b>Coordinator:</b> POM Oost-Vlaanderen, Gent<br><br><i>AVATAR is a project co-funded by the North Sea Region Programme 2014 - 2020.</i>  | The AVATAR project aims to develop testing and demonstration of innovative and sustainable transport and logistics solutions to move large volumes of urban freight transport away from long-distance road transport with autonomous and emission-free vessels to achieve a modal shift from road to water (e.g. fleets, canals, waterways).<br><br><a href="https://northsearegion.eu/avatar/">https://northsearegion.eu/avatar/</a> |
| <br><b>Seafar Remote Shipmanagement - supporting shore navigation</b><br><br><b>Seafar NV, Antwerp</b>   | Seafar NV is an independent ship management company, offering services to operate unmanned and crew-reduced vessels for ship owners and shipping companies. Via our Control Center we manage and operate unmanned and crew-reduced vessels, with emphasis on effective and safe operations.<br><br><a href="https://seafar.eu/">https://seafar.eu/</a>  |
| <br><b>NOVIMAR - NOVel Iwt and MARitime transport concepts</b><br><br><b>Coordinator:</b> Netherlands Maritime Technology Foundation, Rotterdam<br><br><i>European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 723009.</i>   | The NOVIMAR project aims at adjusting the waterborne transportation such that it can make optimal use of the existing short-sea, sea-river and inland waterways, thus expanding the entire waterborne transport chain up and into the urban environment.<br><br><a href="https://novimar.eu/">https://novimar.eu/</a>   |



**AEGIS: Advanced, efficient and green intermodal systems**

**Coordinator:** SINTEF Ocean, Trondheim

*European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under Grant Agreement N° 859992.*

AEGIS will integrate new innovations from the area of Connected and Automated Transport (CAT) to design the next generation sustainable and highly competitive waterborne transport system in Europe, including more diverse sizes of ships and more flexible ship systems, automated cargo handling, ports and short sea shuttles, standardized cargo units and new digital technologies.

<http://aegis.autonomous-ship.org/>