RISING, a project co-financed by the European Commission (DG TREN) within the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, will investigate for the next 3 years - February 2009 until January 2012 - how the efficiency of co-modal transport-logistics processes using Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) can be increased. This will be achieved by providing seamless traffic and transport-related information as well as standardised IT interfaces to transport-logistics actors and players.

The RISING consortium comprises 23 project partners from 11 countries - EU Member States and Non-Member States - in different geographical regions covering the 3 major European inland waterway corridors (Rhine/Scheldt, Danube, Elbe/Weser).

The European Union, which has recognized the importance of River Information Services (RIS) for an improved economic development of the inland waterway sector, has committed the Member States to the implementation of Directive 2005/44/EC which ensures the deployment of RIS as well as the development of new RIS services for transport-logistics purposes. Accordingly, within RISING, already existing RIS services will be further exploited and new ones identified in order to guarantee a seamless 3-step IWT-based process: planning, execution, completion. These new RIS services will be created in collaboration with key players from the transport-logistics sector. Co-financed by the European Commission (DG TREN) within the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, the RISING project is coordinated by the Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics (ISL) in Bremen, Germany.

IWT has become an integral part of co-modal transport-logistics chains: as such the sector has to comply with requirements of supply chain management. Effective transport infrastructure and high-performance Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) must be further developed which will play a key role in this process. There is therefore a need to exploit existing and identify RIS services for almost every step of an IWT-based process (planning > execution > completion), ranging from voyage planning, fleet management, transport monitoring and event management.
The following are potential examples for new RIS transport-logistics services:

- **RIS information for voyage planning** of IWT-based operations by providing data on water levels and depth, berth availability, lock occupation (actual and predictions/forecasts) used e.g. for IWT routing and stowage planning.

- **RIS information for fleet management** of Inland Navigation equipment incl. barges by identifying their current position and status of operation (e.g. empty, loaded, in transit).

- **RIS information for transport execution** facilitating monitoring (Tracking and Tracing) of IWT-based transport processes by enabling IWT operators to pass actual information on their transport schedules. This includes IWT-based process data (e.g. vessel positions, passing waypoints, and occurring deviations) as well as value added services, such as Event Management.

- **RIS for ports and terminals** including the provision of Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) updates and reliability time windows. Those RIS services will support inland and sea ports on e.g. berth operations, resource management as well as harbour/ port dues collection.

Collaborative interrelations will be established between the RISING project and other synergetic European projects focussing on River Information Services (e.g. IRIS EUROPE I/II, PLATINA) and co-modal transport-logistics processes (e.g. FREIGHTWISE, eFreight); this in order to strengthen awareness and usage of innovative RIS-based services for the European transport-logistics sector.

**The RISING consortium** comprises 23 project partners from 11 countries (EU Member States and Non-Member States). The partners represent transport operators; logistics service providers, port and terminal operators, but also port information service providers, research institutions, software developers, promotion agencies and RIS providers. This combination of expertise, experience, and market presence will guarantee a successful implementation of RISING project activities and results.

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www.rising.eu (under construction)