



# Traffic management tools discussed during BPO's Digital Working Group meeting

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**The members of the Baltic Ports Organization's (BPO) Digitalization Working Group have recently met. The gathering featured a presentation of the Port Activity App, plus other projects related to sea traffic management. Participants also had the chance to discuss the findings of the *Digitalisation in Baltic sea ports* report.**

**T**he second meeting of BPO's latest working group was held to answer the need for a better exchange of knowledge and experience accumulated by the Baltic Sea region's ports (BSR) related to the implementation and development of digital solutions. Tools related to the concept of sea traffic management took the spotlight during the meeting.

## The Port Activity App

The mobile app, implemented last year in the Swedish Port of Gävle, is an information-sharing tool, which provides the same data to all involved parties before and during a port call. It is an open-source, scalable and cost-effective solution, developed specifically with ports in mind. The app has been built as part of the Swedish Maritime Administration's EU co-funded EfficientFlow project.

By communicating arrivals and departures for ships, the app enables port operators to increase efficiency within the whole call process. It also reduces the environmental impact, an increasingly

important aspect in this time and age, due to the benefit of a better optimised, customised schedule.

The app also functions as an inter-organisational cooperation platform. Traffic info for port calls is shared between all actors and uses estimated and actual timestamps (ET/AT), providing real-time information and calculated estimated arrival time. Data sources include the maritime single window, pilot systems, the automatic identification system, manual input and more, making the tool a true port single showroom.

The meeting also featured a brief showcase of several other projects presented by the representatives of Sea Traffic Management (STM). These included STM BALT SAFE, developed for increased tanker navigation safety in the Baltic; Real Time Ferries (RTF), connecting ferry-lines in the BSR to hinterland transport and integrating ship voyages into the transport chain; and Linking Sea and Land (LISA), a BSR flagship process, aiming to facilitate innovative technologies in the region to promote sustainability and efficiency of its transport system

**(more information about the projects can be found on STM's website).**

## Baltic port digitalisation

The gathering also saw a short overview of the preliminary findings of the *Digitalization in Baltic sea ports* report, prepared as part of the Connect 2 Small Ports (C2SP) project. Key takeaways are that the digitalisation strategies of many ports are still in their respective development or implementation phases. It is also true for the implementation status of ports' R&D cooperation initiatives. The overall trend is that ports are steering increasingly more funds towards digitalisation projects. The compatibility of the port operation systems in the BSR and their IT security levels have been evaluated as good.

BPO's new working group will continue to monitor the latest developments linked to the digitalisation of the maritime sector and strive to foster communication by providing its Members and other stakeholders a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience. ■