Facilitation measures towards the competitiveness of Mediterranean ports - MEDNET Prototype in Taranto

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Pilot action overview

Description of the initiative

Set up of an integrated, user-friendly and computerised procedure to improve accessibility in the port of Taranto (as first specific function of the PCS, which will be implemented in the port of Taranto in the future)

Partner: Taranto Port Authority (TPA)

General Action: n. 6 - Single Window and Port Community System pilots

Pilot Specific Action Proposed: Re-engineering of the following procedures:

- Procedure 1: Enrolment in the Register foreseen by art. 68 of Italian Navigation Law;
- Procedure 2: Procedure of issuing of a permission for both people and vehicles to access the port of Taranto and computerisation of the new procedure into an easy-to-use interface.

Overall description:
The TPA initiative is the development and test of a new interface, which will based on functionalities coming from the integration and re-engineering of two different procedures:

1) Enrolment in the Register foreseen by art. 68 of Italian Navigation Law, which is asked by all private companies operating in the port;
2) Procedure of issuing of a permission for both people and vehicles to access the port of Taranto and computerisation of the new procedure into an easy-to-use interface.
Current situation and motivation

• The enrolment in the Taranto Port Authority (TPA) Register is required by all companies operating in the port. The Port Authority enrolls the operator, but the competent Public bodies involved have up to 60 days to finalize the control check and give authorization.

• Currently, port operator when applying for the enrolment in the Register, as stated in the art. 68 of the Italian Navigation Law, is requesting for a paper authorization (pass) for both employees and vehicles. It is a double request (referred to two different procedures) to be submitted having mostly the same requested supporting documents.

• Requests for accessing the Port are currently managed as manual procedures. They are generally inefficient and costly, especially if more procedures for the same objectives imply duplication of information (forms to be submitted are complicated and redundant).

• The procedure of issuing of the passes (authorizations) to enter the port is currently carried out by the local Harbour Master Office but, in the very near future, the activity will be under the TPA’s control. The activity is now characterized by significant delays in issuing the required passes, in particular when applying operator is a company with many workers to be all authorized. Also in this case, the Harbour Master Office has to involve other public entities for any kind of controls (i.e. Customs, Police, Financial Police, etc.).
Scope of the initiative

• Re-engineering of the two different procedures (Procedure 1 and Procedure 2) into a single IT based procedure with a single management interface, transforming the procedure from “preventive” to “fact-finding”.

• The pilot interface will accelerate the issuing the permits by reducing time various departments require to check relevant documents provided by companies and inform the relevant police forces. It will also significantly reduce the number of errors in entering information and the time required to carry out the procedures.

• The computerized system (prototype) will be handled through a single interface by storing and managing the Register of all port operators within the TPA’s terms of reference. TPA will verify and validate data and inform other competent bodies.

• According to an estimation done by the TPA, the procedures of issuing passes will require only few days (5-7 days maximum) against the current 60 days required.
Initiative#6.2. Set up of an integrated, user-friendly and computerised procedure to improve accessibility in the port of Taranto
Key stakeholders involved

- Taranto Port Authority
- National/Local Customs Agency
- Harbor Master’s office
- Border Police
- Financial Police
- Port Security Service
- Private operators operating in the port
Pilot phase (Workplan)

Step 1
- **Diagnosis** of the two procedures and re-engineering into one single procedure: 1) Enrolment in Registers foreseen by art. 68 of Italian Navigation Law and 2) issuing of passes (for both people and vehicles) to access the port.

Step 2
- Set up of system **functionalities** – (which will allow also information to the other competent authorities, such as Border and Financial Police, Customs) for handling the procedure for port accessibility.

Step 3
- **Prototyping** easy-to-use interface for managing the procedure

Step 4
- **Testing** (and **validating**) of the prototype
New regulation for permits

- The TPA’s **Ordinance no. 04/14 of 04.28.2014** approved the "Regulations for issuing the port entry permits" for people and vehicles.
- The ordinance has introduced significant changes to procedures linked with the issuing of passes.
- Main changes, compared to the previous manual procedure, refers to:
  1. The passes of the vehicles do not need no more to carry over the relevant plate, but only the data of the person who is authorized to access by his own vehicle;
  2. The new procedure foresees a fee for the issue of passes.

The Regulation will be reviewed within six months from the date of entry into force.
The proposed solution is an effective **IT based multi-user management tool** with a single interface register of all port operators.

The interface is based on functionalities coming from the integration and re-engineering of two different procedures: 1) the enrolment in the Register foreseen in art 68 of the Italian Navigation Law; 2) the procedure of issuing of passes, for vehicles and people, to enter the port area.

The computerised system will be handled throughout a single interface by storing and managing the Register of all port operators that the TPA has to manage.

The system allow other competent public entities operating in the port (which need to be kept informed about every enrolment in place in the Register and every pass issued) to monitor access permit requests by entering the system.

The application will not only allow to accelerate the procedure but also avoid the provision of redundant information which are currently requested in two different submission procedures (and now handled out separately with two different templates), being required the same information to be provided by operators.

The final stage will foresee the testing and validating of the system.
FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR 4 USER CATEGORIES

**Applicant**
- User qualification and accreditation (password and user provided by the PA)
- Access to applicant repository or new request
- Reporting and performance measurement

**Port Authority**
- User accreditation
- Access to permissions for approval/rejection/update
- Permission release

**Police/Custom**
- User accreditation
- Access to permission requests and status
- Communication with PA for alerting situations

**Port Security**
- User qualification and accreditation
- Access to authorised permissions
- Update permission with in/out access information
The proposed solution (3/6)

- The application will be a component of the TPA Port Community System (PCS)
• **Data Registration for Access Permit**
The proposed solution (5/6)

- Data Registration for Access Permit
The proposed solution (6/6)

- Creation of an Access Request
Expected results and impacts

- Enabling the Port Authority to manage and store permissions electronically/digitally
- Streamlining the procedure for issuing permits for vehicles and people
- Reducing the total number of permit requests
- Reducing average number of days needed for issuing a permit (from 60 up to 7 days)
- Reducing average time (hours) for managing documents (internally to the TPA)
- Reducing average time (hours) for submitting requests for permits (including all relevant documents) by port operators
- Reducing internal staff costs for releasing the permission
- Reducing the number of errors
- Increasing overall efficiency of port operations
TPA expressed the willingness to carry out the following additional activities:

1) Testing of the prototype and simulation in a real environment with a selected panel of TPA stakeholders.

2) Organisation of an international workshop at TPA open to a range of 3 to 6 port authorities and stakeholders belonging to the MED Programme area to exchange information on main benefits and lessons learned, transfer achieved knowledge, experience and the potential of innovation of this solution with recommendations.
Pilot initiative dissemination

- Public information on the final results of the Taranto pilot initiative will be accessible by the MEDNET Port Operations OBSERVATORY for a broad dissemination and knowledge sharing across port authorities and stakeholders at regional, national and European level.
Thank you!

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