The Adriatic Port Community – APC

**KeyWords:**
- Single Window, single interface, enhancement of information exchange of information, IT systems

**Description:**
The Adriatic Port Community (APC) project aims at developing an IT system prototype based on the "Single Window" principle, namely a single interface improving the exchange of information among the ports involved in the initiative: Venice (IT), Ploče (HR) and Igoumenitsa (GR). APC's goals include streamlining the administrative procedures related to the arrival and departure of ships especially in terms of time, managing the incoming and outgoing flows of goods in port areas and improving the management of parking areas within the port.

**Benefits:**
- Seamless, errorless and paper-less methods optimising current time- & resource-consuming administrative procedures
- Simple and secure interface for data & documents exchange
- Positive effects on port operations pre-planning and on maritime/intermodal network performance
- Incentive for infrastructure/equipment upgrades, business development, public/private investments

**Success Factors:**
- Indirect benefits due to improvements in services by harbour master & customs authority
- Faster exchange of information
- Supporting vehicle controls procedures (e.g. trucks, private vehicles ZOLL) – Keeping track of arrivals/departures
- Redundant channel of updating delays in ship arrivals
- Contribution to safety, security, protection
- Estimation of expected workloads

**Supported Strategic Targets:**
- Integration/cooperation with national customs IT systems and other stakeholders’ applications (ship agencies, forwarders, haulers etc.);
- Enhanced business & marketing strategies of ports exploiting & underlining this competitive advantage;
- Starting point for harmonised cooperation among ports in the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-region.

By analysing the procedures and processes of each port involved in the project – especially those concerning the flow of goods, custom operations and land transport – APC will identify the needs of the three port Communities (Venice, Ploče and Igoumenitsa), therefore enabling them to exchange relevant data. After identifying the requirements of the IT system to be developed, each Port will create four specific modules (management of arrival and departure of ships, application for the management of import and export goods, parking areas management), aimed at exchanging the information among partners through the shared software application, in order to implement the “Single Window” prototype. Such system involves the creation of a single interface to enhance the exchange of information collected by means of the different IT systems developed by each partner. Specialised training for the use of the system will be provided to port staff.
According to these last, APC will improve local IT systems by setting up four specific modules for the management of arrival and departure, import and export goods and parking areas. The modules will be able not only to perfect the administration of local port procedures but also to allow the exchanging of relevant information among partners through the shared software application, the “Single Window” prototype.

The architecture of the system meets the needs of a port with increased demands on reliability, integration with existing systems, communication with external users such as passengers, regular communication with clients such as shipping agents, security, maintenance of national and international rules and regulations, future tensions, etc. The system features modular design and all communications between applications are made through Web Service interfaces and through shared access to the database.

Contact details:
Dr. Chrysostomos Stylios
Computer Technology Institute and Press Diophantus
stylios@westgate.gr

http://www.apcwindow.eu/en/project
http://www.apcwindow.eu/sites/default/files/video/APC_video_1.flv

Port processes:
• Ship arrival management
• Ship departure management
• Custom export clearance applications
• Custom import clearance applications
• Custom Transit clearance applications
• Parking Space booking – Gate in Gate Out

More Best Practice cases and information about BESTFACT can be found at:
www.bestfact.net