



Press release

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New collaboration between Smart Marina and Seastop at the Vene Exhibition in Helsinki

The European Regional Development Fund has enabled the Smart Marina and Seastop projects to collaborate across borders in historic waters. The collaboration is new and will be on display at the Vene 20 Båt Fair in Helsinki on 7-16 February.

Elevated service level and environment in focus for Smart Marina

With many participating guest harbours, Smart Marina creates a significant quality increase for boaters. Smart Marina connects many of the guest harbours in Sweden, Åland, mainland Finland and Estonia in one project and creates opportunities for the archipelago environment and archipelago tourism to develop.

Smart Marina is a three-year guest harbour project in the Baltic Sea. The Smart Marina project connect 34 guest harbours and is an EU project funded by the Interreg Central Baltic program. The aim of the project is for the guest harbours to be able to offer the boat guests a higher quality of service and safety. Renovation of service buildings, new service buildings, floating jetties, mobile application called “Smart Marina” and payment- and booking systems are part of the investments. Various types of environmental investments will be carried out in the ports. The project only includes guest harbours. The lead partner for the project is Ålands Utvecklings Ab, which creates joint activities and recommends environmentally smart investments for the ports.

Environmental improvements are implemented, among other things, by installing solar cells, renewal of electricity systems, new electric systems, new electric pedestals, new blackwater discharge stations for recreational boats, waste sorting, treatment plants for drinking water and wastewater.

The European Union and other co-financiers have contributed financial resources, about 200,000 euro per port (a total of about 8,4 million euro), which will go to ports development through investment. Smart Marina strives for reduced energy use in the ports through energy efficient solutions.

-In one harbour we are now building an off-grid service building, which means that it is not connected to the electricity grid and has to manage on its own. The harbour will produce electricity from the sun to heat the water for the showers. In this way, a shower and laundry facility is created on an island that otherwise has no such opportunities, says Lennart Joelsson, Project Manager for Smart Marina.

The project aims to ensure that ports meet the Blue Flag standard. Blue Flag is an international environmental award and a tool for sustainable development that is adapted for guest harbours. Blue Flag verifies that the port meets environmental requirements, as well as requirements on water quality, safety and service level. For example in Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, many ports have Blue Flag certification and boaters from that region are used to plan their trip taking Blue Flag ports in to account.

- We try to get as many guest harbours as possible Blue Flag certified, then the tourists know that the ports have a high level of service and are environmentally friendly. Guest harbours in the project have the opportunity to invest in technical equipment to become more environmentally friendly and to increase the level of service, Lennart explains.

The project has five partners: Valdemarsviks Municipality, Östhammar Municipality, Skärgårdsstiftelsen in Stockholm, Novia University of Applied Sciences and Hiiumaa Vald, who are responsible for the objectives.

Seastop – modern ports in historic waters

The Seastop project started in January 2018 and runs until November 2020. The project raises the service level in 21 guest harbours along the historic routes in the archipelago of Stockholm, Åland and Åboland. This is done with 3,1 million euro from Interreg Central Baltic.

The Seastop project is also supported by the municipalities Värmdö, Österåker and Norrtälje as well as the County administrative Board in Stockholm, and Stockholm County Council, in Åland by the City of Mariehamn and the Government of Åland and in Finland by the Confederation of Southwest Finland.

The ports that will be renovated/expanded are Bomarsund guest harbour, Bromarv skärgårdshamn, Fiskö gästbrygga, Degerby guest harbour, Harö, Husarö, Ingmarsö, Sandviks guest harbour, Kyrkviken Berg, Långviks inner harbour, Långviks yttre harbour, Lappo guest harbour, Löka harbour, Lökholmen, Möja ström, Nässlingen, Peterzéns, Rödlöga, Maritime Quarter in Mariehamn, Stavsudda och Svartsö.

In order to raise the level of service in the ports, efforts are made to build more berths with electricity and water, desalination plants, sewage, treatment, service buildings with toilets, sauna, showers and barbecue areas.

-Through cooperation between the two development projects Seastop and Smart Marina, we now create a good platform to tell about the investments made. In the Baltic Sea area we are upgrading 55 guest harbours together, building new jetties, floating jetties and service buildings, says Mats Örbloom, Project Manager Seastop.

For further information please see www.smartmarina.eu and www.seastop.se or contact:

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If you are interested in writing an article and visiting some of the guest harbours during spring/summer 2020, please contact Communication Manager annica@smartmarina.eu



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