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## Smart Marina guest harbours get certification and new Smart Marina app

Smart Marina is slated to complete environmental and sustainable investments to thirty four guest harbours in the Baltic Sea. The three-year project, funded by the Interreg Central Baltic program, offers visiting boaters an enhanced service and safety experience.

The guest harbor project involves reconstruction investments in new service buildings, floating docks and solar panels. Various types of environmental investments have also been made at the guest harbours.

The lead partner for the project is Ålands Utvecklings Ab, which among other things creates joint activities and recommends environmentally smart investments for the guest harbours. In 2020, the Smart Marina app will be launched which allows boaters to better plan their visit to the guest harbours.

The aim of the project is 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 ports. Blue Flag verifies that the port meets environmental water quality, safety and service requirements. For example, in Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, many ports have Blue Flag certification and boaters from that region use Blue Flag guest harbours to plan their visit.

"Five Åland Smart Marina guest harbours have received Blue Flag certification, which we are very happy and proud of. We will now work on getting more guest harbours certified in 2021," said Lennart Joelsson, Project Manager, Smart Marina.

"Mariehamn Seglarförening, Mariehamn Sailing Association (MSF) has worked hard to focus on the environmental development of the guest harbour. From the beginning of the project, we have been positive and worked hard to achieve the high standards that the Blue Flag certification requires. We hope that all guest harbours take their responsibility and join the certification, so that we can continue to be an attractive player in a clean archipelago," said Simon Karlsson, Port Manger at MSF Guest Harbour.

## Higher service level and environment in focus for Smart Marina

"Large investments have been made within the Smart Marina project, which has raised the standard and service level in the guest harbours," said Annica Grönlund, Communication Manager.

Interreg Central Baltic and other co-financiers have contributed financial resources of 8.4 million Euro to Smart Marina guest harbours. With these investments, Smart Marina strives to reduce energy consumption at guest harbours by using energy efficient solutions. These environmental improvements include the installation of solar panels, renewable electrical systems, new electric pedestals, new black water discharge stations for recreational boats, source sorting, and treatment plants for drinking water and wastewater.

"Our Smart Marina project is investing about 200,000 Euro per guest harbour. By the summer of 2020, most of our thirty-four guest harbours will have completed their improvements," added Grönlund.

"Other news at Smart Marina include signs with maps of the guest harbour area as well as necessary icons to meet the international Blue Flag standard. We will try to get as many guest harbours as possible Blue Flag certified so that 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," explains Lennart Joelsson, Project Manager, Smart Marina.

"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," said Joelsson.

"Smart Marina will together with Gitech Ab launch a Smart Marina app in 2020. The guests can plan their guest harbour visit in the Smart Marina harbours through the app and visit digitally our guest harbours in Finland, Sweden, Estonia in 360, among other things," adds Joelsson.

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

For further information, please see [www.smartmarina.eu](http://www.smartmarina.eu) or contact

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