

# THE CCNR PUBLISHES ITS THEMATIC REPORT / AN ASSESSMENT OF NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT

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The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), in partnership with the European Commission (EC), publishes annual and biannual reports dealing with the European inland navigation market. Thematic reports are also published covering certain aspects of the inland navigation market.

The new thematic report “An assessment of new market opportunities for inland waterway transport” can be downloaded in [PDF format](#) (in English) or viewed online at [www.inland-navigation-market.org](http://www.inland-navigation-market.org).

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New markets in inland navigation become essential in the framework of a transition towards a more sustainable transport sector and a climate neutral Europe. Inland navigation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century also faces several bottlenecks both on the supply and demand sides. On the supply side, low waters and their negative effects call for a diversification of the areas of operation of vessels, towards more urban waterway logistics where water levels are less critical. On the demand side, the outlook for several goods segments points to saturation or even decline (e.g. coal). While the energy transition changes the product portfolio of inland navigation, it also creates potentials, in the form of new markets.

New markets require from the inland waterway sector certain adaptations. The reason is that new markets trigger not only a change in the product portfolio, but also new types of logistics, new types of vessels and new areas of operation. For example, one important new market, urban inland waterway transport (IWT), does not only lead to a change in the type of cargo transported (e.g. parcels instead of mass cargo), but also to a change in the areas of operation (urban logistics instead of transport crossing borders), a different range of logistics (short-distance instead of long-distance transport), and different types of vessels (smaller vessels instead of large vessels).

The following new markets for IWT have been identified:

- 1) Urban passenger and freight transport by inland vessels.
- 2) New cargo flows stimulated by circular economy strategies.
- 3) Transport of renewable energies or components for their generation.

The report shows that new markets for IWT exist with high potentials. However, they are not yet sufficiently developed or not yet fully exploited by IWT. The reasons are technological challenges, risks and uncertainties, as well as a high degree of intermodal competition. The report sheds light on these factors but describes also many key projects in different new markets and areas, where first success stories can be told.

We wish you an enjoyable read!

## ABOUT THE MARKET OBSERVATION AND MARKET INSIGHT

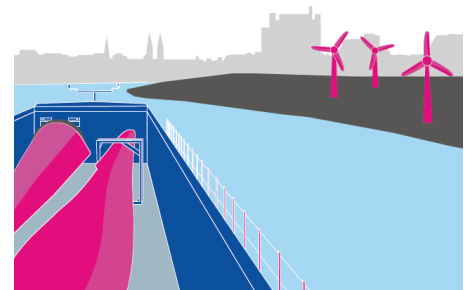
*The Market Observation and Market Insight reports are publications by the CCNR dealing with the European inland navigation market. The CCNR also publishes thematic reports, the theme of which is defined in consultation with the European Commission. These analyses of the economic situation, which are free of charge, aim to assist strategic decision making in this sector in Europe, by both the profession and firms as well as in terms of transport policy and within administrative authorities. The gathering and analysis of this data by the CCNR has been co-financed by the European Commission since 2005. This fruitful collaboration has enabled the CCNR to extend this activity, which historically it has been carrying on for almost two centuries, beyond the Rhine region to cover all Europe's navigable waterways.*

## ABOUT THE CCNR

*The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) is an international organisation that exercises an essential regulatory role in the navigation of the Rhine. It is active in the technical, legal, economic and environmental fields. In all its areas of action, its work is guided by the efficiency of transport on the Rhine, safety, social considerations, and respect for the environment. Many of the CCNR's activities now reach beyond the Rhine and are directly concerned with European navigable waterways more generally. The CCNR works closely with the European Commission as well as with the other river commissions and international organisations.*

## THEMATIC REPORT AN ASSESSMENT OF NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT

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**CCNR**

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