

Financing instruments supporting the voyage towards carbon neutral shipping

Date: Friday, 26 April 2024

Theme: Green Shipping

Workshop Summary

European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Speaker: Marlene Riedel

Marlene Riedel discussed the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, emphasizing it as a platform for cooperation and coordination to address common challenges. The strategy focuses on three main objectives: saving the sea, connecting the region, and increasing prosperity. Key elements include bridging actors and policies, fostering climate action, and facilitating policymaking. Riedel highlighted the availability of EU funding for clean shipping initiatives through various programs such as Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for Energy and Transport, Horizon Europe, EU Climate Fund, EU Innovation Fund, LIFE, Interreg, and the Invest EU Programme.

EU Strategy Project Support

Speaker: Milla Harju

Milla Harju outlined the structure of EU strategy project support, which includes three main objectives and fourteen areas. Specifically, the PA Ship initiative focuses on:

- Supporting measures to reduce emissions from shipping through digitalization.
- Funding research on clean shipping's environmental impact in the Baltic Sea.
- Developing shore-side facilities to support climate-neutral fuels.

Harju stressed the importance of project support in facilitating widespread dissemination of clean shipping technologies.

National Funding Instruments and Collaboration: MarLEN Project

The session covered the role of Management Jülich in administering German government funding for research and innovation. The MarLEN project aims to increase the impact of funding, promote cooperation, identify research gaps, create critical mass, enhance cost-effectiveness, develop common standards, and contribute to the competitiveness of the European research community.

EU SME Support

Speaker: Nora Fischer

Nora Fischer highlighted the challenges and needs of SMEs in accessing EU funding. She detailed the support structure involving six different organizations in Sweden that assist SMEs by providing information on funding access, offering guidance, and supporting innovative small companies with limited resources. The session also emphasized the importance of adapting funding programs to better meet SMEs' needs based on their experiences.

Action Points Agreed On

1. SME Perspective:

- Pilot funding to better understand company needs.
- Increased workshops and collaboration.
- More autonomy for funders to create their own administrative groups.
- Enhanced knowledge of available funds.
- More diverse and specific funding pools.

2. Joining Funding Resources:

- Addressing pre-financing requirements.
- Simplifying administrative procedures and reducing bureaucracy.
- Implementing cascade grants.
- Reducing the number of actors involved in the value chain.

3. Green Corridors:

- Facilitating workshops and educational sessions among different stakeholders.
- Developing an integrated umbrella strategy for green shipping to achieve carbon neutrality swiftly.