



Assessing effects of climate change on the inland waterway network and developing adaptation strategies in the ECCONET project.

On January 1, 2010, the ECCONET project (Effects of Climate Change on the inland waterway NETwork) officially started. ECCONET is a 3 year project, funded by DG TREN and conducted by an interdisciplinary consortium of 10 partners, under coordination of Transport & Mobility Leuven. The project builds on past and ongoing research in meteorology, hydrology, infrastructure operation, ship-building, transportation, and economics to assess the various effects of climate change on navigation conditions and to analyse adaptation measures to decrease the sensitivity of inland waterway transport to climate change.

The main results expected from the ECCONET project are an impact analysis related to the climate change and a strategic framework, bundling concrete adaptation measures and policy guidelines, for a continued development of the inland waterway transport mode. ECCONET will cooperate and co-ordinate its activities with similar FP7 projects, such as EWENT and WEATHER. Also, targeted input will be provided to the development plan for EU inland waterway infrastructure within the PLATINA project.

The first intermediate results of ECCONET will be available in the beginning of 2011. These are related to the area of study and the choice of representative climate scenarios.