



Introduction

A very successful 10th NETLIPSE Network Meeting took place from 22nd-24th May in Stockholm, Sweden. Our new partner, the Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket), has been so generous to cooperate with us in organising this meeting. Almost 50 delegates from 14 European countries attended the meeting and exchanged ideas and best practices in project management and organising large infrastructure projects.

Presentations and Site visits

The Network Meeting programme consisted of a diverse programme of project presentations, insight into and discussions on challenges faced by ministries and project delivery organisations in financing and managing their large as well as a panel discussion. In addition, Special Interest Group workshop took place as well as two very interesting site visits.

Lotta Brändström, Managing Director Major Projects of Trafikverket (the Swedish Transport Administration - STA) provided insight into the challenges faced as newly formed agency responsible for all modes of traffic: traffic on roads and railways, on the sea and in flight, planning for all modes of traffic for a long time to come. In focusing on the final customer perspective STA has shifted from a sectoral towards an integrated multimodal transport organisation.

Chris North, Head of Unit Air, Waterborne Transport, Logistics, Innovation and Co-modality of the TEN-T Executive Agency updated the delegates on results of the TEN-T programme thus far and discussed his vision on NETLIPSE challenges and possibilities as well as his ideas on how NETLIPSE could fit in the ambitions of the new TEN-T financial programme for 2014-2020.

Marcel Hertogh, NETLIPSE Programme Director gave delegates insight into the first IPAT assessment results and invited the delegates to find projects willing to undergo an IPAT assessment.

Professor Paulien Herder, from Delft University of Technology and Scientific Director of Next Generation Infrastructures, then provided insight into developments in the area of gaming and simulation for Project and Asset Management in Infrastructures.

In the afternoon we visited two large Swedish Infrastructure Projects. First the Norra Länken project (Northern Link Road). Project Director Björn Terstad provided insight into the challenges of the project focussing and initiating a discussion on stakeholder management and contracting issues. Afterwards we were very lucky to visit the 3 kilometre long tunnel by bus. Although still under construction, we were allowed to walk around and to see the construction ourselves. After leaving the tunnel, we visited the City Line Project. An underground railway expansion project including 3 new stations being built under the historic town of Stockholm. Project Director Kjell Ake Averstad inspired us with his presentation and discussion on new contracting forms and collaboration issues.

The second Network Meeting day started off with an interesting panel discussion on Swedish transport infrastructure challenges. Representatives from the Swedish Transport Administration representing Major Projects, planning and ports discussed challenges in managing and organising their projects.

After this, attendees were updated on NETLIPSE networking events by NETLIPSE Network Manager Pau Lian Staal and insight was given into the status of the application of the **IPAT** (Infrastructure Project Assessment Tool). This tool is being developed for the European Commission in order to help evaluate and assess large infrastructure projects. In addition, several interesting topics were discussed and worked on in parallel sessions organised by the NETLIPSE **Special Interest Groups** Stakeholder Participation & Communication and Procurement and Contracting.

The Network Meeting ended with a very interesting presentation by Professor Yury Erygin, Dean of the Finance and Economics Department of the Siberian State Aerospace University on the challenges and ways the lower Angara Region, specifically the transport infrastructure network, is being developed in Siberia Russia. In addition, UK's Department for Transport Project Sponsor Paul Fischwick provided insight into his experiences carrying out an IPAT-assessment on the Koper-Ljubljana railway project in Slovenia.



Looking forward

NETLIPSE is a programme that is going strong. More and more organisations want to join the programme and benefit from the knowledge management opportunities. None of this would be possible without some sort of sponsoring. This is why we are currently in the process of discussing the future organisational structure and EC-funding schemes.

At the Monday night formal dinner on the beautiful Island of Fjäderholmarnas Krog, NETLIPSE Board Chairman Leendert Boutert described the focus of NETLIPSE for the coming months as follows:

- Further expanding and formalising the network;
- Applying the Infrastructure Project Assessment Tool (IPAT);
- Developing an IPAT Assessors Training Programme;
- Expanding and strengthening the Special Interest Groups;
- Exploring collaboration projects and research activities with interesting international contacts in India, China and Brazil.

In order to realise these ambitions, we need your input. If there are LIPs, governmental institutes or research institutions in your country that would provide interesting input in the NETLIPSE programme and who would be interested in joining us, please let us know. If you would like to apply the IPAT in one of your projects, please also contact p.staal@netlipse.eu or approach us via the website www.netlipse.eu.

Thank you very much for your contribution! We look forward to meeting you (again) at the next, 11th Network Meeting that will take place in Bari, Italy on 28th-29th November 2011. As soon as the programme is complete, it will be provided on the website. If you are interested in discussing your project or challenges at the meeting, please contact Pau Lian Staal, p.staal@netlipse.eu.

Best regards,

The NETLIPSE Board