

## ECOPORTS PORT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND STANDARDS

**The Ecoports Port Environmental Tools is the only standard especially developed by ports for ports. The Tools form a basic standardized port environmental management system that can be introduced in Port Authorities as a first step to organize environmental improvement. If introduced an independent auditor, Lloyds Register, may be asked to validate the results and eventually certify that the port has reached the required standard.**

Over 15 years of research-led collaboration in European Commission projects between port professionals and their organizations has led to the development, validation and implementation of these cost- and time-effective tools specifically designed to deliver compliance and risk reduction evidenced through transparent benchmarking and independent certification to agreed standards. The Tools are developed for several reasons, inter alia as an approach for the differences that are seen between ports in the implementation of the same environmental rules, leading to different costs and therefore to an influence on port competition. Creation of a level playing field in port environmental issues was seen as important. The European Commission supported this approach strongly and the voluntary character of it. This could eventually prevent creating new environmental rules for issues that already are covered by voluntary measures. The “Ecoports approach” concentrates on: cost and at the same environmentally effectiveness and delivers a combination of ‘top down and bottom up approach’: commitment from management as well as the operational level of the Port Authority. This starts a process of creation of awareness of the environmental impact of a port and its tenants. An Ecoports Organization was set up by a group of member ports of the European Seaports Organization, ESPO: 6 large European Seaports, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Genoa, Gothenburg, Hamburg, Rotterdam and the British Ports Association, a group of 86 large and small UK ports to introduce Ecoport Tools in seaports.

### The Tools

The first Tool is the *Port Environmental Self Diagnosis Method (SDM)*. This Tool delivers insight in what elements of environmental management a port authority already has in place and what elements are still missing and a possibility to state priorities, needed to design a port environmental policy. ECOSLC delivers a Gap analysis and Benchmark of its results against the port sector’s average, using a database of results of all ports that introduced SDM. This information is treated confidential. A port that introduced SDM will formally be recognized on the ECOSLC website as an “*Ecoports Port*”.

The second Tool is the *Port Environmental Review System (PERS)*. This requires, amongst others, the formulation of a basic environmental policy that is signed by the Executive Director. A key part of PERS is the so-called Environmental Aspect Register. By creating this Register a port can prove that it has, in general terms, awareness and understanding of the environmental aspects and impact of activities in its port area, not only of its own, port authority activities, but also, in general terms, of those of its tenants. Introducing SDM and PERS may lead to *certification* after validation by Lloyds Register. If certified, the port will formally be recognized on the ECOSLC website as an “*Ecoports PERS Certified Port*”. Large and small ports in all European countries have introduced SDM and PERS.

The third “Tool” is the *Ecoports network to exchange good practice experience*. The process of permanent environmental improvement is a process of introduction of good practices. Here the costly risk of re-inventing the wheel could come up. The network of colleagues from other ports can help to learn about good and bad practices in improving the environment. This helps to lower the threshold to find solutions in the daily operations of a port and can keep the costs acceptable and can speed up the introduction of solutions. The Environment has consistently been acknowledged as pre-competitive throughout the sector.

It is the experience that starting the introduction of Ecoports with an introduction workshop for a number of ports is helpful to succeed in the introduction of the Tools and this starts a network of port colleagues. The European EcoPorts and Global ECO-SLC networks are catalysts for the exchange of experience and good practice between Port and Chain professionals.

In 2010 a key team of Ecoports started, with the support of ESPO, a new neutral non-profit Foundation: ECO Sustainable Logistic Chain (ECOSLC) to introduce Ecoports Tools worldwide. ESPO is the contact organization of Ecoports for European member ports. AAPA has cooperation with ESPO, in 2013 extended to ECOSLC.

ECOSLC added recently a management system for Sustainable Ports and Logistics Management similar to Ecoports.

**The Organisation:** Chairman, Advisory Board and Training Team, affiliated with 6 universities and major ports in 5 countries.

Contact Details: ECOSLC Foundation Website: [www.ecoslc.eu](http://www.ecoslc.eu)

Chairman: Herman Journée [herman.journee@ecoslc.eu](mailto:herman.journee@ecoslc.eu). Former functions: Director Strategic Development, Port of Amsterdam, Member of ESPO Executive Committee and Chairman of the ESPO Environment Committee

Science Coordinator and senior trainer: Dr.Chris Wooldridge, connected with Cardiff University (UK)