

Presentation of a new cluster initiative

Westpomeranian Maritime Cluster of Poland

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1. Geography

Poland, as a country, has about 500 kilometers of the South Baltic shore. Main ports are Gdańsk and Gdynia on the east, which lay on the Vitula River estuary and Szczecin on the west, close to German Vorpommern, located on the mouth of Odra River.

In between lay small ports such as Kolobrzeg, Darlowo ,Ustka.

Some years ago Szczecin was considered as the biggest in Baltic Sea, meaning the biggest volume of the serviced tonnage.

Nowadays the complex Gdańsk -Gdynia is leading with its great volume of container trade, Szczecin somehow lost its priority in volume of the serviced cargo, most of which bulk: coal, ore and minerals.

2. History

The first Maritime Cluster of Poland was founded in year 2004 on the east coast in Gdynia and Gdańsk. After short period of activity that initiative was laid up, in spite of significant development of those two ports.

3. Today

The mouth or delta of Odra River - Odermunde, is the huge complex of land and water, like the other European river mouths of Elbe, Rhine, Schelde, Seine, Loire, Rhone.

While west European rivers are overcrowded with traffic and industry, our Odra river and its environment is still underdeveloped.

Aiming to accelerate the development of the maritime industries in the region, the Westpomeranian Maritime Cluster of Poland was founded.

Now it consists of 35 members, most of them private companies and individuals. We just started to build our structure from the bottom, with small companies, not being influenced by the administration and politics, however among our members are 2 big shipyards, a Maritime Academy and a University.

Now we are at the stage of organising, finding the funds for cluster activities, working on joint projects.

We regret not to be able to take part in this meeting in person, but we hope to do that in the future.

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