

Le projet Connected River : innover pour des usages partagés et sûrs des voies navigables et de leurs rives

The Connected River : Innovating for safe shared uses of the waterfronts and waterways

Noémi Mené, Benno Bultink

AIVP, nmene@aivp.org / Rijkswaterstaat, benno.bultink@rws.nl

RÉSUMÉ

Le projet Connected River est un projet d'innovation transnational financé par l'UE qui vise à relever les défis liés aux voies navigables et aux fronts de rivières partagés. Ceux-ci sont essentiels pour l'économie, l'écologie et la qualité de vie dans la région de la mer du Nord. Cependant, leur utilisation changeante et de plus en plus partagée entraîne une diminution de la sécurité, de l'accessibilité et de l'habitabilité. Connected River s'attaque à ces problèmes en mobilisant des écosystèmes multipartites, en menant une innovation agile centrée sur l'utilisateur et en accélérant l'adoption de solutions numériques/intelligentes. Sur la base des enseignements tirés de six zones pilotes locales, le projet développe une méthode appelée Flow Forward et une feuille de route sur la façon d'intégrer cette approche dans les stratégies d'innovation. Les expériences menées dans les zones pilotes vont de la promotion de la sécurité de la navigation de plaisance sur la rivière IJ (Pays-Bas) à l'utilisation de l'art pour attirer de nouveaux résidents sur le front de mer désaffecté de Vordingborg (Danemark), en passant par la création d'une application de chasse au trésor pour aider les étudiants à découvrir le port de Hambourg (Allemagne) et les emplois qu'il rassemble.

ABSTRACT

The Connected River project is an EU-funded transnational innovation project which aims to tackle challenges related to shared waterways and waterfronts. Waterways and waterfronts are vital for the economy, ecology, and quality of life in the North Sea region. However, their changing and increasing shared use causes a decrease in safety, accessibility, and livability. Connected River addresses those issues by, mobilizing multi-stakeholder ecosystems, conducting user centric, agile innovation, and accelerating the uptake of digital/smart solutions. Based on the lessons learned out of 6 local pilot areas, the project delivers a playbook on the approach called Flow Forward and a road map on how to integrate this into innovation strategies. The experimentations in the pilot areas range from nudging safe leisure boating in the river IJ (Netherlands), to using art to bring people in discarded waterfronts areas in Vordingborg (Denmark) and creating an scavenger hunt app to help students discover the port of Hamburg (Germany) and its jobs.

MOTS CLÉS

1 ligne pour les mots clés en français : Innovation, expérimentation, coopération transnationale, usages partagés, écosystème

1 ligne pour les mots clés en anglais : Innovation, experimentation, transnational cooperation, shared uses, ecosystem

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There is a need for new, participatory innovation approaches that can adapt flexibly to problems and opportunities. Innovation approaches where more value is created in less time and with a smaller budget: for the organization, its partners, and the users of rivers and waterways. Emerging digital solutions can play a crucial role in this regard. Adapting to these changes requires a transformation of organizations, in its role, assets, and people, as well as in collaboration with other organizations and users.

To move the Connected River project forward, a strong and experienced partnership has been established, comprising of host partners, who are responsible for hosting and conducting the pilot projects, approach partners that provide expertise, methodologies and a strong knowledge network, and solution partners that will contribute to business and subject knowledge to accelerate the project findings within the North Sea region. A set of potential replication partner has also been involved in several events to study possible extension of the project and gather expertise. The project has been launched in 2022 and goes until December 2026.

In the IS Rivers Conference, we want to present to the audience the outputs from our pilots areas as well as some of the methodologies developed in the project so far.

The pilot of Nijmegen (Netherlands) is a good example of how to tackle challenges related to water and nature protection as well as safety regarding the different uses of the water. The Spiegelwaal in Nijmegen was created to achieve safe water levels to prevent flooding in combination with meeting water quality standards. It has since then become a bustling hub for water recreation. With a new water sports center, nearby residential construction, and the addition of a festival compound, crowds are only growing. The key challenge related to this area is how to facilitate shared use of the (Spiegel)Waal by different users, so that we can all enjoy the river and river park and at the same time ensure safety, accessibility, and biodiversity. The pilot team is working on how to engage unusual users and how to monitor and present the real time information of the condition of the waterway.

Other pilots like Lille (France) and Vordingborg (Denmark) are also good examples of river revitalization through continuous engagement with the local stakeholders, with the use of culture while guaranteeing safety improvement on the waterways.

Another very relevant aspect of the Connected River project is its transferability. The methods used to experiment and gather the stakeholders ecosystem can be relevant for other local and port authorities throughout the world. We are working on how to engage outside of the project partners and disseminate how to work in a short cycle and agile way. During the conference, we also want to share with the audience our way of working.