

Press Release #1  
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## **Safe, Efficient and Autonomous: Multimodal Library of European Shortsea and inland Solutions**

On 16th and 17th of February 2023, 47 representatives of 26 leading partners from different industries, R&D and technology areas covering 12 EU countries got together in Brussels (Belgium) for the SEAMLESS project kick-off meeting.

SEAMLESS, started on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, will last for 48 months to develop, and adapt missing technological building blocks and key enabling technologies into a fully automated, economically viable, cost-effective, and resilient waterborne freight feeder service for Short Sea Shipping (SSS) and Inland Waterway Transport (IWT).

The project will focus on developing and adapting missing building blocks and enablers necessary for the successful implementation of the service. One of the key goals of SEAMLESS is to shift the movement of road freight towards waterways by developing and integrating autonomous systems. These systems will be designed to ensure safe, resilient, and efficient operation, while minimizing the environmental impact of the service. To achieve these goals, the SEAMLESS project will focus on several key areas. These include developing and integrating new technologies for autonomous navigation, cargo handling, and energy management. The project will also focus on developing new business models and regulatory frameworks to support the implementation of the service. Overall, the SEAMLESS project represents an important step forward in the development of more sustainable and efficient freight transport systems. By leveraging the potential of waterways and autonomous technologies, the project will create a cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional road freight transport.

The SEAMLESS project addresses the call topic *HORIZON-CL5-2022-D5-01-05: Seamless safe logistics through an autonomous waterborne freight feeder loop service* and has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 101096923.



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The SEAMLESS consortium gathered on February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in Brussels (Belgium) to present and review the project objectives, activities, and work plan.



All the activities will be coordinated by National Technical University of Athens (NTUA).

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