

Nantes, February 21st 2017

Europe

Official launch of the CLIPPER project by the Region, for an industrial maritime strategy

The representatives of the 8 European partners and local actors were gathered today to start the project's working groups



The Pays de la Loire Region has recently been selected to lead the project CLIPPER (Creating a Leadership for Maritime industries – New opportunities in Europe) at European level. The project will contribute to the improvement of public policies supporting maritime industries, by working on four levers of competitiveness for the SMEs of the sector:

1. individual performance,
2. reinforcement of the value chain,
3. internationalisation,
4. risk-sharing (financial and investment tools).

CLIPPER, as an interregional cooperation project, brings together a consortium of 7 European partners along with the Region, coming from Liguria (Italy), Asturias (Spain), Schleswig-Holstein (Germany), Southwest Finland, Split-Dalmatia (Croatia), Fife (Scotland) and the CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions). Meeting today at the Pays de la Loire Hotel de Region, the consortium representatives launched the projects' activities.

A regional action plan

The project will result in the elaboration and implementation of a regional action plan for each partner, meant to support in an operational manner the industrial dynamics of the maritime sector. CLIPPER will benefit from an ERDF cofunding of 85% for its total budget (1,347 M€), and will be ongoing for four years and a half. **314 833€ will be exclusively attributed to the Pays de la Loire Region.**

The involvement of local stakeholders in the implementation of the project is a key element for its success; a group of Pays de la Loire actors interested in and/or identified as experts about the maritime industries field will thus be associated closely to CLIPPER's work.

CLIPPER illustrates the asserted will of the regional political majority to set up a European strategy that is both strong-willed and goal-oriented: *"A more useful Europe for a more efficient Region"*. Indeed, as was recalled by Paul Jeanneteau and Vanessa Charbonneau, vice-presidents of the Pays de la Loire Region, *"this European project meets the expectations for the Region to better exploit the financial programmes of the European Union, such as INTERREG, in order to create new levers of support to jobs and growth on the Pays de la Loire territory"*.

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