

COURSE MANUAL FOR INLAND NAVIGATION EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for the ETF, European Transport Workers Federation, to welcome you all in our offices for the final conference of the course manual for inland navigation education and training - or the CMINET acronym we so often used.

Just for those of you who might not know ETF yet, the ETF is a Pan-European Trade Union organization organizing over 240 national transport workers trade unions from 41 European countries. In total we represent more than 3.5 million individual transport workers.

Those of you who know the ETF already a bit will notice a considerable change in our membership figures as we were lucky to welcome some Russian federations. The ETF family keeps growing steadily year by year.

We represent and coordinate international trade union activities and actions in 8 different sectors: Railways - Road Transport - Civil Aviation - Dockers - Fisheries - Inland Waterways - Maritime Transport - Tourisme.

Our mission is to represent the workers across Europe, defend their interests, achieve the best social rights, living and working conditions and to achieve a more sustainable Europe.

ETF fulfils its mission as a recognized social partner in 7 different European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees (Rail - Road - Civil Aviation - Dockers - Fisheries - Inland Waterways - Maritime Transport). We invest great effort and energy in dialogue and only when all else fails, we go into action.

ETF contributes to and promotes growth, quality jobs, social Europe and sustainable transport policy. We aim to find balanced solutions to social questions, develop social cohesion at EU and at national levels. The SSDCs where ETF is involved are amongst

the most productive ones, and we are proud to say that over 50% of all Social Council Directives ETF has been the co-signée.



ETF has a strong tradition to work closely with its affiliates, the European institutions and other relevant international bodies. We formulate and coordinate trade union transport and social policies, and ensure the adoption and proper implementation of transport and social policies, and organise concerted union activities and campaigns.

In order to achieve our goals, ETF also actively organizes and participates in European projects – as in the CMINET project. (TRUST (2006-2008): Trade Union Vision on Sustainable Transport - TRANSUNION (2010-2012) - TRAN-MAPS: Professional & Managerial Staff (2012-2014)

ETF throughout its sectional activities also invests largely in education and training opportunities and also sets up capacity building initiatives such as the ETF project on «Training to improve capacity building for Trade Union Officers of New Member States and Candidate Countries » - and our Transunion Youth (2012-2013) project.

The ETF work priorities 2013-2017

1. Transport policy and sustainable transport
2. Labour and trade union rights
3. Stronger unions: organising globally
4. Stronger unions: training and education, capacity building
5. Cross-border representation and coordination.

But coming back to the agenda of the day – we all welcome you here at the ETF to finalise the work of over 2 years on the development of a course manual for Inland Navigation Education and Training.