



4A. Smart and green ports, connected hubs: Implementing the EU Port Strategy

24 October | 10:15 – 11:15 hours

Session hosted and organized by **Giuseppe Luppino** (Giuseppe.Luppino@etp-alice.eu), Programme Manager [Corridors, Hubs and Synchromodality](#) (Thematic Group 2) and [Systems & Technologies for Interconnected Logistics](#) (Thematic Group 3)

Linked exhibitors: [Pioneers](#), [FOR-FREIGHT](#), [MultiRELOAD](#), [TRANSCEND](#), [AutoSUP](#) and [AutoMoTIF](#)

Session teaser

[Ports](#) are becoming key enablers of Europe's green and digital transitions. This session explores how to implement the forthcoming EU Port Strategy, turning research and innovation into real deployment across European port ecosystems.

Speakers from [Waterborne TP](#), [Valenciaport Foundation](#) and [Tehnopol Association \(Galati\)](#) will share perspectives on innovation, digitalisation, energy transition and the inclusion of smaller and inland ports. It will also connect to upcoming [Horizon Europe opportunities](#), including the 2026 call "Ports of the Future (ZEWT Partnership)", supporting sustainable and digital strategies for European ports of all sizes.

Session description

Ports are at the crossroads of Europe's transport, energy and digital networks. As gateways for trade and logistics, they are now evolving into **innovation ecosystems** that enable the **twin transition** and strengthen Europe's resilience and competitiveness. The forthcoming [EU Port Strategy](#) will define the framework for this transformation, but success will depend on how innovation is scaled up, coordinated and implemented across different types of ports.

This session builds on the work of the [ALICE Ports & Hubs Task Force](#) and [recent contributions to the European Commission](#). It will examine:

- How to bridge **research, innovation and deployment** in port ecosystems;
- The role of **ports as energy and data hubs**, integrating renewable energy, smart grids and logistics data spaces;
- How to connect **maritime and inland corridors** through digitalisation and multimodality;
- How to ensure an **inclusive transition**, empowering smaller and inland ports to participate in Europe's innovation landscape.

Through perspectives from [Waterborne TP](#), [Valenciaport Foundation](#) and [Tehnopol Association \(Galati\)](#), the session will highlight the collaboration needed between policy, industry and research to turn the EU Port Strategy into action.

Who will participate

Moderator: [Giuseppe Luppino](#), ALICE

Panellists

- [Jaap Gebraad](#), *Waterborne Technology Platform*
- [Salvador Furió](#), *Valenciaport Foundation*
- [Alina Beatrice Raileanu](#), *Technopol Association (Galati, Romania)*

Q&A Moderator [Elvina Nowak](#), ALICE

Background – link to ALICE activities

This session is organised within the framework of [ALICE Thematic Group 2 \(Corridors, Hubs and Synchronomodality\)](#), which promotes the integration of logistics nodes and transport corridors into a **connected, efficient and zero-emission European logistics network**.

Within TG2, the [Ports & Hubs Task Force](#) brings together ports, terminal operators, logistics companies, technology providers and research organisations to coordinate innovation and policy dialogue on **port digitalisation, automation and green transition**.

The Task Force has been actively contributing to the **forthcoming EU Port Strategy, preparing the ALICE Position Paper on Ports**, which reflects a collective vision on how to turn European policy objectives into innovation-driven and resilient port ecosystems. The session also aligns with [TG2 activities on multimodal corridors and interoperability](#), building synergies with projects such as [Pioneers](#), [FOR-FREIGHT](#), [MultiRELOAD](#), [AutoSUP](#) and [AutoMoTIF](#), among others.

The discussion will also look ahead to future R&I opportunities under the [Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026–2027](#), particularly the topic **HORIZON-CL5-2026-05-D5-14: Ports of the Future (ZEWT Partnership)**¹. This Innovation Action (IA), opening in December 2025 with a deadline in April 2026, aims to support the deployment of sustainable and digital strategies for medium- and small-sized maritime and inland ports across Europe, strengthening their climate resilience, competitiveness and contribution to the EU Port Strategy objectives.

 See previous related activities [here](#)

For more information, contact **Giuseppe Luppino**: Giuseppe.Luppino@etp-alice.eu

¹ If you are interested in this opportunity, please share your interest and connect with other potential applicants through the [ALICE Knowledge Platform](#).