



## **Economical Aspects of Introducing Smart Shipping in Inland Shipping**

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### **Abstract**

In the Netherlands as well as some other parts of North-western Europe the importance of inland shipping is huge. More than 40% of all freight transport in our country is carried out with inland shipping. One of the main advantages of inland shipping compared to trucking is that it is a more sustainable mode of transport. Given sustainability goals it has to become even more greener. And with the age of the current population of skippers becoming older and more grey, having well trained personnel in the future becomes more and more of a problem. Smart shipping, automated sailing, can contribute to these challenges.

In a recent study carried out in order of our Ministry, these are the questions addressed. To encourage private parties to invest in these techniques, it must be clear how these new techniques help inland shipping companies to enlarge their revenue or to lower their costs? Related to this question is the following: how can adaptations from the side of infrastructure accelerate the implementation of smart shipping? Are there social benefits that can justify these investments in inland shipping infrastructure?