

## **Lead partner study trip to Scotland**

In February 2010, Christian Bergman, representing Dryport's lead partner, Region Västra Götaland, visited the Scottish partnership SEStran (South East of Scotland Transport Partnership) and TRI (Transport Research Institute, Napier University) for a series of meetings and site visits.



The purpose of the trip was to strengthen and increase international exchanges within the Dryport project. It was also an occasion to follow up discussions and contacts after Dr Jason Monios (of TRI) made his research visit to Västra Götaland in December 2009.

The visit also provided an opportunity for Christian to attend a SEStran board meeting, at which he gave a presentation on the Swedish part of the Dryport project. He also spoke about Västra Götaland's planning system and the challenges of integrating the Dryport concept into national and regional transport policies.

*“It was very valuable to meet the colleagues at SEStran and to discuss and compare the planning systems in our respective regions. It was particularly interesting to hear how SEStran handles contacts with the business sector and other interests, something which programme manager Ian Mathie explained in detail,”* says Christian.

One of the meetings was held at Napier University, where TRI's researchers Gordon Wilmsmeier and **Jason Monios** presented their organisation and ongoing activities.



The researchers outlined the specific challenges of the Scottish transport system, in which a huge amount of exports, mostly whisky, goes through the Scottish ports while the lion's share of Scottish imports are handled by ports in England and delivered to Scotland by road.

TRI is now investigating the potential and possibilities of shifting goods from road to inland waterways and coastal routes, by establishing a well functioning Scottish Intermodal Gateway Network (SIGN). Particularly relevant will be the study of initiatives such as Dryport, and the way they can enhance the integration between sea and land transports.

The Scottish partners had arranged a fascinating programme, including visits to the Port of Dundee and to two intermodal terminals in the Glasgow area – John G Russell’s Hillington and Freightliner’s facility at Coatbridge. As well as Västra Götaland and Scottish project partners TRI and SEStran, guest researchers from Norway, Libya and Taiwan joined the terminal visits.



At all three facilities, there were discussions about the current state of integration between inland terminals and sea ports, and about potential areas of development that could be explored during the Dryport project. The **Coatbridge terminal**’s commercial manager, Kay Walls, also invited the delegation on a tour of the Freightliner facility, to see the activities and working routines of the terminal.

*“Overall, the study trip was an exceptional opportunity to learn more about intermodal freight terminal implementation and infrastructure planning in Scotland. Last but not least, it was a nice way to further develop the good relations between the Scottish and Swedish Dryport partners,”* says Christian.

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