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## **Ports de la Generalitat invests 70,000 euros in pilot tests for the European project Psamides in the ports of Sant Carles de la Ràpita and Blanes**

- **Innovative utility supply points have been installed in the port of Blanes; in the port of Sant Carles de la Ràpita, vessel data monitoring systems have been implemented at the harbour mouth and jetties, with a further project to install solar paving for electricity supply. The total investment amounts to 70,000 euros.**
- **With 10 partners, the Psamides project will last for three years and is funded with 2.8 million euros by the European programme Interreg MED. It is aligned with the new Catalonia Ports Plan.**

With the launch of the Psamides project in early 2020, three pilot tests with innovative tools have been begun this year, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. The first is the installation of water and electricity supply points in the port of Blanes. The other two consist of monitoring systems by image analysis at the harbour mouth and the mooring points, and solar paving that will be installed in January in the port of Sant Carles de la Ràpita, with a total investment between the two ports of 70,000 euros.

The Psamides project promotes the implementation of innovative solutions to improve tourism flows, control operating costs, and diversify and improve the services provided to users. In this context, three pilot tests are currently in progress at the port of Sant Carles de la Ràpita. Two involve an innovative monitoring system using image analysis. In the first test, the images are taken from the vessel mooring points. This provides information about the use being made of harbour berths, improves management of the facilities and increases efficiency in port activities.

In the second test, images from the harbour mouth are analysed to determine vessel typologies, entry and exit times, and speeds at which the vessels pass through the mouth. The information gained about user behaviour will help in implementing safety measures or diversifying services. The third pilot test, implemented in January, consists of installing solar paving which will generate 700 kWh a month. This will be used by the port to supply electricity to different port activities.

■ Press release ■

In the port of Blanes, three smart remotely managed utility supply points have been installed to supply water and electricity and save energy resources at the jetty used by local tourist cruises and charter vessels. These points are able to detect operational problems and send alarms, and adjust to each user's consumption levels and forms of payment, which can be by card, app or individual customer code.

The four pilot tests will be monitored and assessed during next year with the goal of refining the projects to achieve optimal results.



Smart remotely managed supply points at the port of Blanes.

## Psamides

The primary goal of the European project Psamides is to optimise the functioning of small and medium-sized ports through the implementation of innovative tools that help manage tourism flows, control costs more efficiently, provide more services to users and boost these ports' eco-innovation, while reducing the negative environmental externalities caused by tourism activity. Psamides has a budget of 2.8 million euros, 85% of which is funded by the Interreg MED programme. Started in January, the project will continue for three years, until June 2022.

## 10 partners from different parts of Europe

Psamides is the acronym of the project's name, *Ports small and medium alliance for sustainable development*. And in Greek mythology, the psamides are the nymphs of the fine sand beaches that they preserve and protect.

The project has 10 partners: Ports de la Generalitat de Catalunya, Ports Illes Balears, Port de Sète, Port of Candia (Heraklion), Pôle Mer Med, Athena R&I Center, IMT Montenegro, the University of Rijeka, SAS Noveltis and the Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean (EPM).

## Ports plan

The European project Psamides is aligned with the strategic pillars of the new **Horizon 2030 Catalonia Ports Plan** and the policy lines it articulates to address the challenges facing the Catalan port system in forthcoming years. The new Plan's stated objectives are cross-cutting innovation, new governance instruments and collaboration formulas, port interconnectivity, port-territory synergies, environmental sustainability and climate action, economic sustainability, management transparency and accountability.

In line with this project, the Ports Plan proposes implementation of an organised, active innovation model that enables ongoing, systematic modernisation, favours the growth of cutting-edge companies, and contributes to new strategies in sustainable mobility and climate change adaptation and mitigation, in a context of climate emergency. Thus, the goal is to promote the integrated management of the Catalan ports' activities and foster port-territory synergies as an opportunity for social and territorial development.

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