



Province of Zeeland organises partnermeeting Chain of Safety in Blankenberge

From March 21-23 the Province of Zeeland organises a partnermeeting of the European project Chain of Safety in Blankenberge in Belgium. The Province of Zeeland is leadpartner. The other partners are from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the UK, and the Netherlands. Projectmanager is Ron de Meyer. The Province Secretary, Mr. Viek Verdult, is chairman of the Steering Committee. The project has been made possible with the financial support of the Interreg North Sea Region Programme.

Main goal of the project is a more easily cooperation, knowledge-exchange en practical support between the North Sea regions in case of flooding caused by the North Sea. Eventually the project works towards an international contingencyplan on floodings for the entire coastal zone. The number of victims and the damages can be reduced by cooperating this way.

The project has four main activities. Analysing all the different plans on flooding on national, regional and local scale in the various countries. Coming to a framework for one international coordination plan. An inquiry of the available equipment and spreaded knowledge in the North Sea countries. And testing of the cooperation in a pilot cross-border area between the Dutch and Belgium coastal regions.

In Blankenberge the projectpartners come together to discuss the activities. A panel of experts from all countries will give an extra input for optimising the planned outcomes. Finally a visit is planned to the Maritime Rescue Cooordination Centre (MRCC) of the Flemish Community in Ostend. The coming years more partnermeetings will be held. The final results will be presented in a Conference in May 2008.