CCNR
CENTRAL COMMISSION
FOR THE NAVIGATION OF THE RHINE

6-months internship position

Climate change adaptation and low water resilience in inland navigation

The Organisation:

The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) is an international organisation that plays a key role in the navigation of the Rhine. Its main objectives are to ensure good navigation conditions on the Rhine and to promote shipping that is safe and respectful of the environment on the waterways. It is active in technical, legal, economic, social and environmental domains. Many of the CCNR's activities now go beyond the Rhine itself and encompass European inland navigation in the broadest sense.

The CCNR is composed of five Member States (Germany, Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Switzerland) and works more and more closely with the European Commission, in particular within the framework of the European Committee for the Development of Standards in Inland Navigation (CESNI).

Located in Strasbourg and made up of an international team of about 30 persons, the CCNR is seeking to recruit for its Secretariat an intern to support notably work concerning climate change adaptation and low water resilience in inland navigation. The intern will work under the supervision of the infrastructure and environment administrator of the secretariat.

Internship description:

Within the internship there are **the following main activities:**

1. **Assist in the preparation of a workshop on the impact of low waters on Rhine navigation (Act Now!)**

Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of low water periods on the Rhine, affecting inland navigation operations and creating new challenges for infrastructure managers, public authorities, and industry stakeholders.

Building on previous workshops organized by the CCNR in the context of the Act Now! process, the intern will support the preparation of a workshop dedicated to the impact of low waters on Rhine navigation. Tasks will include preparing supporting documents for the workshop (speaking notes, coordination of the content of presentations, correspondence with participants and speakers and administrative tasks), as well as assisting in the preparation of follow-up documents, such as meeting minutes, press releases and a revised edition of the Act Now! reflection paper (link).

2. Prepare an inventory of infrastructure projects contributing to the resilience of European inland navigation to low waters

Various infrastructure projects and national initiatives are being implemented across Europe to improve navigability during low water periods and strengthen the resilience of inland waterways.

The intern will identify and compile information on pilot projects, infrastructure measures and national initiatives related to low water management or projects facilitating the use of the deepest parts of the navigable channel and comparable initiatives. The geographical scope will mainly be the Rhine Basin but does not exclude relevant pilot projects from other rivers. The intern will contribute to comparative analyses and prepare summaries highlighting good practices and lessons learned, based on desk research and interviews.

3. Contribute to the Masterplan Rhine and related analytical work

The CCNR decided to draft a Masterplan for the Rhine with a focus on infrastructure. Whilst Act Now! focuses on the impact of low water levels, the Masterplan has a different scope, aiming to improve understanding of the expected impacts of climate change on navigability on the Rhine, identify critical bottlenecks and determine which adaptation measures are feasible and effective. The Masterplan will serve as a framework for defining future actions.

The intern will support activities related to the Masterplan Rhine through desk research, data collection, preparation of briefing notes and presentations, and contributions to analytical work on infrastructure adaptation measures.

4. Support analyses on fleet adaptation to low water conditions

Adaptation to increasingly frequent low water periods also requires innovation in vessel design and fleet operation. However, there is currently no widely recognised indicator allowing inland vessels to be formally classified as “low-water-adapted vessels”.

The intern will collect information on vessels designed or adapted for low water navigation and contribute to the development of a database of such vessels. Based on desk research and interviews with companies and experts, the intern will analyse vessel characteristics and performance and support reflections on possible criteria for identifying low-water-adapted vessels.

5. Support knowledge management and literature reviews

A sound understanding of existing research and policy developments is essential for evidence-based decision-making in the field of climate adaptation and inland navigation.

The intern will identify, collect and review relevant scientific publications, policy papers, technical reports and studies related to low water periods, climate change adaptation, and the resilience of inland navigation. The intern will prepare summaries and analyses and contribute to the development of an internal knowledge base on these topics. These documents may serve as a basis for discussions within the Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEN), the Economic Committee (ECO), and the IEN/G working group.

6. Additional tasks

Depending on the available time, the intern may work on additional aspects. For instance, she/he may support economic and market analyses related to the impacts of low water periods on inland navigation and the effectiveness of adaptation measures.

Profile:

The person applying for the internship should be a master student in engineering, environmental sciences or by default in political science or equivalent. He or she should ideally have the following skills:

- Research orientated mindset and curiosity, especially to understand the methods for measuring and calculating emissions
- Ability to work autonomously and as a part of a team
- Good communication and excellent writing skills
- Motivation to work in an international environment
- Profound oral and written language capacities in English
- Basic knowledge of German is a minimum, Profound knowledge is an asset
- Good oral and written language capacities in Dutch or French are appreciated.

Conditions:

- Six months internship ideally from March 2027 to August 2027 (some flexibility with the internship period or duration is possible)
- Attractive internship remuneration (1000 € per month)
- Possibility to do some work from home
- Office located in Palais du Rhin, 2, Place de la République, F-67082 Strasbourg / France
- An internship agreement or equivalent is mandatory.

Please send a motivation letter and a CV **before 23 November 2026** to the following email address: career@ccr-zkr.org

In case of questions regarding the content of the tasks, please contact Friederike Stock (f.stock@ccr-zkr.org).