

# IS EVERYONE ON BOARD?



Imagine-Think-Act, act purposefully. Do you recognize an unacceptable risk, is not everyone following the rules or do you see room for improvement?

Don't wait to intervene. Stop the works and think things through again.

STOP & RETHINK is an important element of our Imagine-Think-Act approach. It applies to everyone and provides you with the option to adjust to evolutions in a proactive and constructive way without losing sight of ITA.

We interviewed Geert Vanwesenbeeck, project manager for Jan De Nul for the maintenance dredging works on the river Scheldt. He gives a fine example how he gathered his team to rethink about a certain situation. "We recently had an incident with one of our smaller crew boats on the Scheldt. It made us realise once again how fast such small boats can sink in a worst-case scenario," explains Geert. "So what if? Who exactly was on board? I gathered the entire project team and we came up with a very simple system to ensure that all crew members are registered at all times."

The maintenance dredging project on the river Scheldt stretches over several kilometres. Therefore, we have several embarkation points so that the registration of staff and visitors cannot be centralized.

### At the mere touch of the send button

Geert soon realized that in order to be successful, the registration tool had to be straightforward and user-friendly. "The tool

we have developed is very easy to use: before every trip, the skipper or deckhand of the crew vessel ticks off the passengers on a list of names and enters both the embarkation point and final destination. He then shares the entered information with all project staff members by simply pressing the send button."

This procedure ensures that the project team knows who is working where at all times. "We now have this tool on the crew vessels and the visitor registration system on board of our suction hopper dredgers. There are no blind spots anymore and that is a major reassurance," Geert emphasises.

The tool also detects when someone is on board for the first time. This way, the skipper or deckhand knows that a visitor introduction is in order. "It is important that all passengers on board know what they should and should not do. There are rules that must be followed and these are illustrated with a short video."

### Added value for every project

Geert likes to share his experience with all his colleagues, he is convinced that this tool can offer added value to any project, anywhere in the world. "The tool operates in Excel and was developed in-house by our colleague Ruben Duyver. An important pre-condition, however, is the availability of an internet connection."

Although the need for such extensive registration was particularly high for the Scheldt project because of the different embarkation points, the system could also be useful for projects with a central marine base with radio operator. "With our tool, we could, for instance, develop a live platform that – driven by the tool – would be able to list the names of all people who are at work on the various vessels."



*Geert Vanwesenbeeck,  
Project Manager JV Zeeschelde*



"ITA makes people more aware of the risks and the ways to handle them. What I find particularly useful, are the ITA messages. They offer some kind of knowledge platform on which not only serious incidents are explained as lessons learned shared, but also positive and simple adjustments implemented on other vessels and projects are illustrated."

**IMAGINE  
THINK  
ACT**