

## **Port of Igoumenitsa: Strong commitment to the digital and sustainable development of the maritime sector**

The Port of Igoumenitsa is moving forward with **steady steps toward digital transformation and sustainable development**, strengthening its role as a strategic maritime hub in the Adriatic–Ionian region and a key gateway of Greece to Western Europe.



At a time when European shipping is redefining its role in light of the green transition and digital integration, **Igoumenitsa Port Authority S.A.** is shaping an integrated development model that combines operational efficiency, sustainability, and cross-border cooperation.

### **Strategic position and development potential**

The Port of Igoumenitsa holds a strategic position at the entrance to the Adriatic Sea and features modern infrastructure that supports **combined transport**, offering **a safe and fast connection with Italy, as well as direct links** to the Egnatia and Ionian motorways.

Its regular connections with Bari, Brindisi, Ancona, and Venice, as well as with Corfu and Paxos, form a strong maritime transport network that **serves both passenger mobility and freight flows**.

Today, its facilities include the Old Port, the Domestic Ferry Port, and the New Port, which is considered one of the **most important Ro-Pax ports in the Mediterranean** — a key link between Greece, Italy, and wider European markets.

Since the inauguration of the New Port in 2003, Igoumenitsa has evolved into **a major gateway for the movement of passengers and cargo** between Greece and Western Europe, bypassing transit countries outside the EU and strengthening European territorial cohesion.

2024 marked a milestone year, confirming the consolidation of the recovery in the post-COVID era, with record-high figures (arrivals and departures of vehicles, passengers, and trucks — Ro-Ro / Ro-Pax).

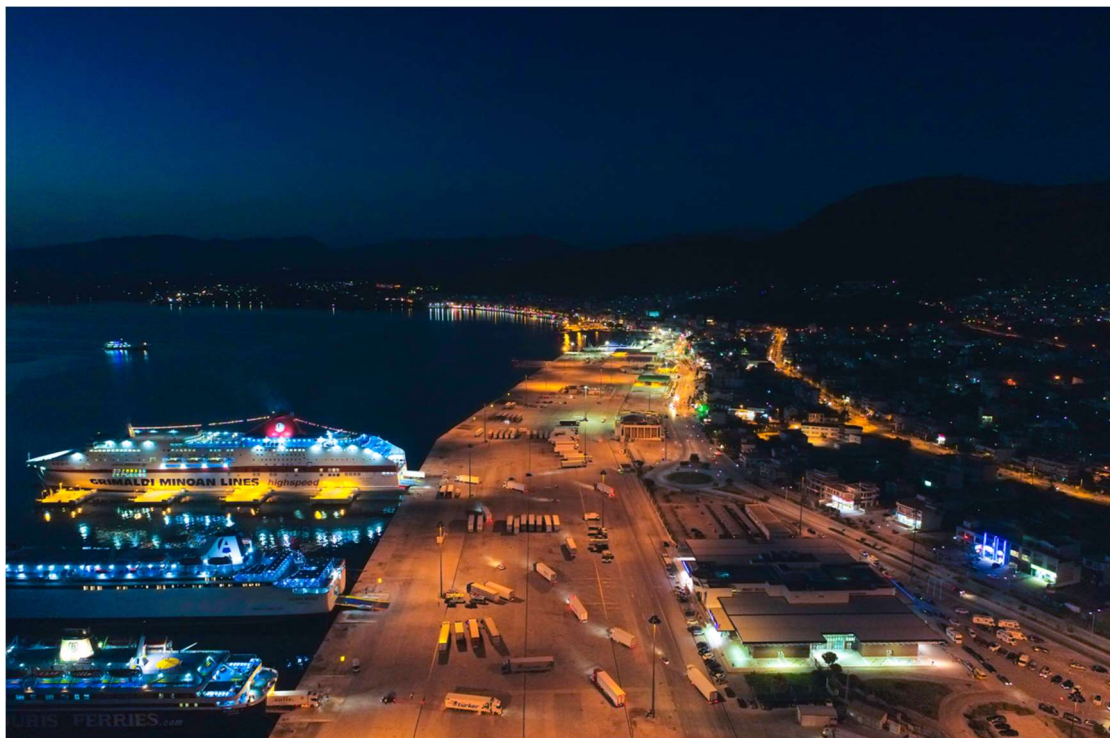
To accommodate the increasing traffic, **works for the further expansion and modernization of infrastructure and services** are currently underway, aiming to ensure the efficient handling of larger Ro-Ro and Ro-Pax vessels.

These investments are expected to strengthen Igoumenitsa's role as one of the most important transport hubs in the region, **capable of meeting the demands of future trade** while at the same time, the Port is also investing in the adoption of green practices, in line with the European strategy for sustainable mobility and the decarbonization of transport.

### **Cargo Flows: Igoumenitsa as a logistics gateway**

As a key port of the **Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)** on the **Mediterranean Corridor**, the **Port of Igoumenitsa** constitutes an integral part of the **Motorways of the Sea (MoS)**, strengthening its role as Greece's gateway to the **European transport backbone**.

Ro-Ro and Ro-Pax services play a decisive role in the movement of vehicles and goods in the Mediterranean, making the region a vital passage to Greece and the Balkans.



As demand increases, the Port is investing in **improving its operational capacity while maintaining high service standards**.

According to a survey conducted by Igoumenitsa Port Authority S.A. (June 2025) among truck drivers within the Port's facilities, Igoumenitsa operates **as a hub for the transport of a wide range of cargo**, primarily including perishable goods (food and pharmaceuticals), industrial products, raw materials, spare parts, as well as liquid and dry cargo.

**This diversification strengthens the Port's role as a stable transshipment hub of European scope.** The main cargo flows originate from Greece and countries of Southeastern Europe (Bulgaria, Turkey, Romania, etc.) and are directed toward Italy and markets in Western Europe, including Germany, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Belgium.

### **Digital Transformation through the WATERBRIDGING project**

**Igoumenitsa Port Authority S.A.** reaffirms its commitment to sustainable development and green innovation, aiming to provide high-quality port services and **the continuous upgrading** of infrastructure for the benefit of port users.

Through the European project **WATERBRIDGING**, in which it participates as a Partner, the **Port of Igoumenitsa** is enhancing its **operational efficiency** and **digital connectivity**.

Within the framework of the project's pilot action, it is developing a **web-based Cargo Management System (CMS)** platform, which will provide real-time information to passengers, drivers, and transport operators and will be interconnected with corresponding systems of other ports.

For the design of this digital system, the Administration of **Igoumenitsa Port Authority S.A. conducted a survey** in 2025 among key users of the Port, which highlighted the following main needs:

- **Real-time data monitoring:** faster decision-making, improved cargo management, and reduced delays at the Port.
- **System integration:** simplification of communication and improvement of data accuracy, entry, and exchange through the use of a central digital platform.
- **Security and automation:** integration of technologies such as license plate recognition and automated barriers to enhance security and traffic flow, as well as to enable the automatic updating of the Port's records.
- **Regional connectivity:** emphasis on the Port's integration with other regional ports, strengthening cross-border cooperation, transport efficiency, and the possibility of remote access to critical information.
- **User-friendly and accessible digital tools:** emphasis on the need for user-friendly, mobile, and flexible platforms to facilitate interaction with users, along with user training capabilities.

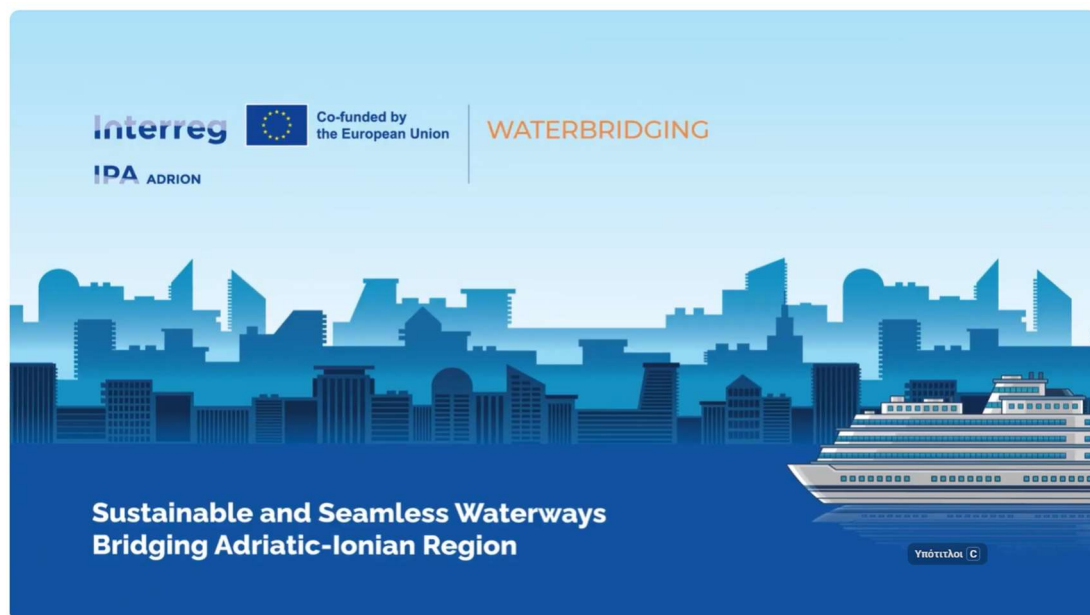
Taking all the above into account, Igoumenitsa Port Authority S.A. **has already awarded the supply of a web-based cargo management application, while it is gradually advancing with the remaining necessary equipment (surveillance systems, network infrastructure, etc.), ensuring the platform's completeness, reliability, and scalability.**

### **Conclusion: A Smart, Greener Future for the Port of Igoumenitsa**

The digital transformation of the Port of Igoumenitsa through the web-based Cargo Management System (CMS) marks **a new era for port operations.**

The CMS creates a **unified environment** for managing cargo and information flows, improving coordination among all stakeholders involved. Through real-time data exchange and interoperability with port and transport systems of other hubs, the Port

strengthens its role as a **critical transshipment hub within the Adriatic–Ionian supply chain** and along the East–West maritime corridor.



WATERBRIDGING: Transforming Maritime Transport in the Adriatic-Ionian Region



This digital transition has **direct operational and environmental impacts**: optimization of vehicle and cargo flows, reduction of waiting times and congestion, improved planning of arrivals and departures, and a decrease in emissions from port activities. At the same time, it creates the conditions for transparent and interoperable logistics processes, which constitute a key requirement of modern European transport networks.

At the strategic level, the CMS **strengthens Igoumenitsa’s position as a regional hub within the core TEN-T network and the Motorways of the Sea**, enabling a more effective integration of port operations into the broader ecosystem of combined transport. The capability for digital interconnection with other ports and transport operators across the Adriatic and the Mediterranean creates economies of scale, increases the port’s attractiveness for transport and shipping companies, and reinforces its role as a gateway for Southeastern Europe to EU markets.

With **vision, investments, and a clear orientation toward digital and green transformation, the Port of Igoumenitsa does not merely follow developments — it actively contributes to shaping them.**

The WATERBRIDGING project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg IPA ADRION Programme. The project brings together 8 partners from 6 countries, aiming to strengthen the sustainability and digital integration of maritime and inland waterways in the Adriatic–Ionian region. The consortium is establishing the Adriatic–Ionian MoS and IWW Network and is adopting a transnational strategy and action plan to achieve common sustainability objectives, ensuring continuity and long-term impact beyond the duration of the project.

Stay updated on the progress of the **WATERBRIDGING** project through its official website, [waterbridging.interreg-ipa-adrion.eu](https://waterbridging.interreg-ipa-adrion.eu), and its social media pages on **LinkedIn** and **X**.

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