INTRODUCTION TO THE #myportforTurku EXHIBITION
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The port conjures images of harbours, lighthouses, epic adventures, vessels and sailing ships; it is a starting point, metaphor of silent contemplation and horizons filled with stormy seas and safe shelter, of waters reverberating light and metamorphic visions. But ports are also the living and throbbing part of the seaside towns they are part of, the charm of cranes and steel, industrial and hardworking local entities, stories of men who built them and cross them, international trade, crossroads of cultures and transits.

This is revealed by the gaze of people who, from all over Europe, have photographed their favourite ports, taking part to the #myportforTurku photo contest. Sponsored by the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission (DG MARE), it aims at raising awareness of the three thousand port cities in Europe and so celebrate the 2016 European Maritime Day, that this year was held in Turku, one of Finland’s oldest ports.

Through the #myportforTurku hashtag on social media like Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, 234 citizens from 24 different European countries, including amateur and professional photographers, bloggers, journalists and sea lovers, have posted 579 photos. The shots reveal fascinating aspects of 166 different ports outlining a choral account of the sea and drawing a new map of port cities, created by the transversal network of social media.

Walking through the rooms of the Electric Power Station of Trieste you can discover the port of Antwerp shrouded in fog and the colours of Copenhagen and then pass from the impressive cranes of the port of Hamburg to a sunset in Valencia. You can savour the melancholy of Venice and the night atmosphere of the port of Saint-Malo while getting carried away by a container ship of a northern town. Imagine reaching the Croatian waters of Zadar and end up by contemplating the calm of the port of Ibiza. Kaleidoscopic photographs that invite you to travel and look for unusual corners of Mediterranean ports and northern European seas.

Of the 50 pictures selected as winners of the contest, as many as 6 photos in the exhibition come from Trieste, by far the most photographed city among those taking part to the contest: a sign that the local community is rediscovering and appreciating the beauty and history of the port, also emotionally reclaiming the extraordinary cultural, architectural and maritime tradition of Trieste.

Thanks to the increasing number of initiatives promoted by the Port Authority and aimed at the public at large - such as the Open Day - the port has begun to symbolize, once again, a living and fundamental part of the soul of this city. 

#myportforTurku has succeeded in conveying many pictures of Trieste, spontaneously posted by locals and tourists, flickering lights of a community that is very active on the social media, seeds of the rebirth of Trieste’s collective awareness of its Port and a never faded love for the sea.

Enjoy discovering and tracking down the magnificent views of the port of Trieste through the photographs on display, and navigating among Europe’s more social and unexpected ports.

It is a game of relationships and connections, a weaving of the past and into the present.