

The various managing organisations want to anticipate and thus avoid problems by, on the one hand, starting early some parts of the work required on the network and, on the other, organising consultations and discussion with all the stakeholders. In concrete terms this has resulted in:

- Work to improve the impermeability of the feeder channel from the Yonne, of certain pounds on the slope down to the Seine and of various locks (total cost of over 3,5M€ over the last few years) in order to limit the loss of water through leakage;
- The creation of a Progress Committee for the project, made up of representatives from the local authorities concerned, the 'Syndicat Mixte du Nivernais' and VNF plus the external stakeholders such as the Boat-hire companies, the various clubs concerned including ANPEI and DBA-The Barge Association and other users. This committee will have the task to put out progress information in real time and to organise decision-making on a consensual basis in order to safeguard, to the greatest degree feasible, the interests of all parties. This committee has already covered certain key elements:
 - o An agreed reduction of the period of navigation between end 2011 and start 2012,
 - o The bringing into operation of a communication plan that will start in Autumn 2011 from the start of the project,
 - o The basis for grouping boats at locks for specified periods if the need arises.

Therefore, the rumour that is circulating to the effect that there will be no water in the Canal during the 2012 tourist season is totally without foundation and far from reality. The numerous actions planned and already instigated by the various managing organisations (Regional Council of Burgundy, General Council of the Department of the Nièvre and their Canal Operator, VNF) and their partners are all ensuring that, to the best of their abilities, the risks associated with the project are minimised.

The demand for greater transparency between local Stakeholders and the State

The emptying of Pannecièrre is undoubtedly a unique project. The Regional Council of Burgundy had hoped to be associated with the Steering Committee set up by the State with effect from April 2011 in order to be able to counter any possible negative consequences arising from the operation. At this point in time, this hope has not yet been realised and presents a difficulty with regard to the coherent progressing of the project as a single entity.