

Education and employment of seafarers

The vast majority of development in education and employment of seafarers is passing through the EU co-financing under the "lifelong learning programmes". Development projects are conducted in the framework of international consortia. Slovenian partners had an important role in this projects since 2006 and almost all results of this project are also applied in Slovenia. We will present in this article all the most important projects.

Maritime education UNIFICATION PROJECT UNIMET (2010-2012)

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) developed the first standard for Vocational Education and Training (VET) programme for merchant navy officers in 1978 which were upgraded later on, the last time in 2010. Despite these efforts there are no mechanisms for monitoring how these standards are being applied and many VET providers were found not to follow these requirements.

The huge shortage of seafarers in the sector has led to fears that training needs will be overlooked as the demand for officers and ratings is estimated to grow respectively. This is worrying considering the decline in young people choosing a career in merchant navy.

The UniMET project will use existing networks with extensive knowledge and experience of maritime education and training institutions whose participants have a vast number of years experience in leading and participating in EU projects to support the harmonisation and standardisation of HE programmes in Europe in line with objective of the Lisbon treaty and Bologna accord.

The first aim is to embed the UniMET programme within the partner countries through cross-referencing international and local/national requirements. This will ensure that all seafarers are compliant with the international requirements and will therefore increase their employability within the international labour market. The second aim is to inform local, national and international licensing and professional bodies about the programme, including the Chambers of shipping. By exploiting the programme to key decision makers within maritime and government bodies it is hoped that they will accept and support the programme therefore enabling changes to policies regarding MET to be made. The third aim is to establish a quality assurance and control system for the delivery of UniMET and other vocational programmes based on an existing BTEC/Edexcel system. The fourth aim is to spread UniMET further across Europe both during and after the project's completion, raising awareness and transferring good practices with the ultimate aim of improving the level of safety at sea worldwide.

www.unimet.pro

Contractor of the project: Centre for Factories of the Future (United Kingdom)

Partners: Tudev Institute of Maritime Studies (Turkey), Satakunta University of Applied Sciences (Finland), Osrodek Prac Rozwojowych (Poland), Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz (Netherlands), Spinaker, d.o.o. (Slovenia), Consorzio Armatori per la Ricerca (Italy), Polytechnic University of Catalonia (Spain), Lithuanian Maritime Academy (Lithuania).