


# Can you help officer career path project?

 Nautilus members are being invited to support a new European study that is looking at ways to attract more young people to sea by showing the wide range of careers that seafarer training can lead to.

The EU-funded lifelong learning project Sail Ahead has been drawn up in an effort to provide seafarers — both serving and prospective — with clearer options for career paths in the shore-based maritime sector.

The project team is developing an online guidance tool to enable users to assess the possibilities of working ashore. The initiative also aims to produce a report listing the transferable skills of masters and deck officers by identifying the competencies picked up through formal and informal learning.

Research into these competencies will be based on a survey of at least 200 cadets in four countries, while the survey of competencies acquired on the job will involve at least 250 captains and deck officers.

The first phase of the project intends to cross-reference seafarer education and training requirements and competencies across the different

EU partner countries as well as the competencies developed on-the-job. The second phase will map the competencies and profiles for a number of alternative career paths ashore.

Researchers are planning to involve cadets, deck officers and masters from Greece, Poland, Finland, Turkey, Slovenia and the UK in the project — including pilot testing and evaluation.

They are inviting Nautilus members to help with some background research by completing one of two surveys — one for masters and deck officers, the other for cadets with a minimum of six months' seagoing experience.

Dr Martin Ziarati, director of the Centre For Factories of the Future (one of the project partners), commented: 'The purpose of these questionnaires will help us to find out which transferable skills captains, deck officers and cadets possess to aid us with the development of the online careers guidance tool.'

» More information about the project and surveys is available on the Sail Ahead website:

[www.sailahead.eu](http://www.sailahead.eu)