


Study seeking to open up EU jobs

 Work has begun on a new project that seeks to make it easier for masters and officers of small commercial vessels to work under the flags of other EU member states.

The two-year TRECNET (Transnational Recognition of European Certification in Vocational Education and Training) project, being developed through the EU's Lifelong Learning programme, aims to boost the mobility of labour through greater recognition of qualifications, primarily in the maritime sector.

The project has been established in an effort to ensure that nationally qualified professionals can work on or command identical vessels operating under different national flags.

TRECNET was launched in response to the numerous industries and professional bodies whose

regulations, training methods and examination requirements vary in line with the specific requirements of individual member states — meaning that qualifications and certificates are not universally accepted or transferable.

The project is seeking to develop a novel software tool, which enables cross-referencing of different small commercial vessel (SCV) education and training syllabi to make them comparable in an objective way. This is expected to help seafarers in the SCV sectors to secure recognition of their qualifications by any EU member state other than their own.

The project is being undertaken by five partners — including the Centre for Factories of the Future from UK — and will initially focus on the UK, Germany and Spain, before moving on to other EU member states in the longer term.