



MariFuture is happy to announce that two new prestigious research projects have been funded by European commission and are now part of MariFuture Platform.

BRIDGE

Project BRIDGE, funded by the EU, through IPA, has commenced as of December 2012 and the 1st Partner meeting will take place on 8 January 2013 in Istanbul. Project BRIDGE aims to build bridges of knowledge connecting Turkey and the European Union through the partnership of chambers. The visible target groups and beneficiaries of Project BRIDGE are the chambers taking part in the project and their members, as well as the associates providing support for the realisation of the planned actions. However, this is only the tip of the iceberg, as the context of this project and expected outcomes are linked directly with Turkey's future accession to the EU, thus concerning business communities, policy makers, enforcers and regulators of legislations, civil society organisations, researchers and citizens both in Turkey and in the EU member states. Apart from effective implementation of business-related Acquis in Turkey, Project BRIDGE will create the necessary environment for sharing and generating best practices, creating business clusters and fostering relations between Turkey and the EU.

SeaTalk

On the other hand, Centre for Factories of the Future (C4FF) and Piri Reis University (PRU), with 7 other partners across Europe, will collaborate from January 2013 to develop Maritime English Training Modules and an ECVET based model for mutual recognition and transparency of learning outcomes and competences in the Maritime English sector in Europe. The SeaTalk project aims to:

- Up-skill advancement in the maritime industry, strengthen the maritime labour market by combating problems of poor communication at sea and imbalanced supply of sailors throughout European countries.
- Improving safety of passengers and the ships' cargo by combating deficiencies of misunderstanding between crew and passengers.
- Creating a comprehensive framework enabling seafarers to undergo common Maritime English training and National Authorities to assess their qualification levels, as well as the levels of training undertaken. This will facilitate workers mobility due to an easier and common qualifications recognition system in the EU.
- Creating a standard approach by combining the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) requirements for Maritime English (Training Modules), the highly successful MarTEL Phase tests and the creation of an ECVET system, which could allow National Authorities to recognise and assess such qualifications and levels in a standardised manner.
- Establishing the ME ECVET system to allow mutual recognition of seafarers' Maritime English Competence within the Maritime industry and directly linked to the CEFR of languages to promote greater mobility of seafarers' workforce, in line with STCW requirements.
- Developing Maritime English Training Modules (linked to CEFR) to facilitate the training and learning of Maritime English. The combination of Training Modules consolidation and incorporation in the ECVET system will facilitate the mutual recognition of competences thus enhancing workers mobility.
- Promoting good practice in Maritime English education and training across Europe.



News

The project will allow the consortium to work towards these goals, which are in line with the 'Europe 2020' priorities. By improving the quality of Maritime English education and training, the project will make the European MET sector stronger, resulting in more competent trained seafarers. This may well contribute to a reduction in the number of accidents at sea and make the European shipping industry more competitive. During the recent Italy cruise ship Costa Concordia accident, poor communication between the crew and the passengers was evident. If a standard training and assessment approach is enabled, the communicative ability of the crew would be higher and more effective in onboard communications.