



This month's news reports on the contribution of MarEdu partnership (www.maredu.co.uk) to BRIDGE project (www.projectbridge.eu) during the BRIDGE project lifetime. BRIDGE project (Bridges of Knowledge for EU-TR Chambers) was initiated on 4th of December 2012, with the purpose of creating stronger and more efficient links between the European and Turkish Chambers. MarEdu partnership will continue to support the project at the post funding stage.

How MarEdu benefited from BRIDGE project?

Working with Chambers of Commerce and shipping within BRIDGE project has been a great opportunity for MarEdu to share knowledge and good practices. Support received from BRIDGE has led to formation of new partnerships to respond to EU initiatives and programmes such as Blue Growth, HORIZON and specific initiatives to support youth employment – see project proposals such as OMEGA and YCREW submitted by DTO and PRU respectively.

What MarEdu offered to BRIDGE Project

MarEdu has made several contributions to the BRIDGE project; it:

- Gave the Turkish Chamber of Shipping (DTO) a say in European maritime future – Visits to DGs and to European maritime organisations and institutions and involvement in a workshop in and participation in Europe Maritime Day in Malta.
- Facilitated the international acceptance of DTO supported projects and qualifications – accreditation of Piri Reis programmes developed as result of EU funded project such as UniMET (www.unimet.pro).
- It helped in bringing the decision makers in the maritime industry together – Visits to shipyards and to organisations such as TOBB office in Brussels and to BIMCO in Copenhagen.
- Responding to Identified Deficiencies in Maritime Education and Training as well as how partner countries can increase trade – tentative plans for ordering several leisure lake and river vessels with Turkey by Finnish shipping companies.
- Creating Wealth and avoiding loss of properties and lives – New EU funded projects approved such as Stress on Ships and Avoiding Collisions at Sea.
- Achieving Gold Standards – working with top companies to develop innovative projects and products – see new EU funded project European Boat Design Innovation Group – Wind Farm Support Vessels.
- Learning from Others – Visiting maritime organisations, shipyards, EU institutions and discuss topical issues and developing collaborative projects and proposals.
- Attracting Young People to our profession through innovative programmes and online products – see latest papers at www.marifuture.org.
- Reducing Officer Shortages – work on harmonisation of maritime programmes and qualifications.

MarEdu also contributed to BRIDGE project carrying out the following activities.

1. Visit to DG MOVE has led to an invitation to Turkey to send a representative to TEN-T Conference in Tallinn Estonia in November 2013. TEN-T is valued at 51 Billion EUR and will integrate the operation of all major EU ports – No involvement by Turkey so far in this major initiative; can BRIDGE change this?!
2. The Turkish, British and Finnish partners joined a working group to review EU's new R&D programme known as HORIZON. The key priorities for Maritime are Vessels Efficiency and



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Zero Accidents. In preparation for this major programme, two proposals were prepared: **ACTS project**: an EU Leonardo funded project aiming to reduce collisions at sea. Value 400,000 EUR
LeanShip project: an EU Eco-Innovation project proposing a new system to reduce fuel consumption and harmful exhaust emissions. Value 900,000 EUR.

MaEdu has had several business opportunities during BRIDGE project:

- The delegation from Finland has plans to place an order or two in Turkey.
- EU/EC are willing to sponsor a person in Turkey to carry out a feasibility as to how Turkey could benefit from TEN-T and plan for future expansion
- The visit to BIMCO has led to a proposal for interest in setting a joint institute with WMU and BIMCO.
- The Project BRIDGE has led to a project, called OMEGA, with several major business organisations in Turkey and United Kingdom, Finland to corporate in MET and help Youth Employment.
- Another proposal was prepared to transform the Yacht Crew training. This project is a joint project between the United Kingdom, Piri Reis University and TURMEPA in Turkey to create new opportunities and jobs for young.
- There are also two new projects, one to design the mother and support vessels for Wind Farms with support from the United Kingdom and Italy and the other assessing human stress on board vessels. Both were successful.