



MariFuture: European Platform for Maritime Education, Research, and Innovation

Foreword

From time to time, the progress report will look ahead at what MariFuture partners intend to do or should be doing. This month, we are publishing a report compiled for discussions at the EU Maritime Day event in Malta, to be held next month. The report on MariFuture activities and presentations at the event will be published in May 2013 News, but this month's report, April 2013 progress, looks into the future and reports on the intention of the partners in realising the Future Map of the platform, identifying the specific areas for realisation of what is contained in the Map.

The success of MarEdu Partnership (www.maredu.co.uk) led to the establishment of MariFuture. The earlier MarEdu partnership has now been expanded and new partners are incorporated into the MariFuture platform. MarEdu partners for some 10 years have been working on identifying the deficiency of maritime education and training. This has been done by working through International Maritime Organisation (IMO) committees and working groups and reviewing the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) reports. Their work, supported by EU funding, through open competition, has led to several major tools/solutions such as www.martel.pro; www.surpass.pro, www.maider.pro, www.sailahead.eu). To sustain and maintain the existing projects, the partners set up the European Platform to integrate maritime education, research and innovation (MariFuture - www.marifuture.org) and developed with the EU support a mechanism (www.maritimetraining.pro) to evaluate innovation projects for inclusion in the MariFuture Platform. New proposals are to seek support to continue with MariFuture future roadmap. The key objectives being:

- the improvement of the quality of education and training through the enhancement of training capacity, by identifying and promoting good practices.
- the development of innovative staff development programmes encouraging quality teaching through joint programme development and delivery and at the same time giving the staff the opportunity of upgrading their skills and qualifications both in teaching and, programme design, management and delivery.
- enhancement of the collaboration among the partner Maritime Education and Training (MET) institutions, facilitating the organisation of common programmes and exchange of academic staff through thorough and agreed learning experiments, validation of experience and quality assessment and certification. This will be detailed in an agreement among the MET institutions involved.
- Dissemination of good practices with a view to unify the core of MET and through innovation making the MET programmes more attractive to young people.
- Development and adaptation of new technology processes and systems in the MET programmes to ensure young cadets are prepared for their jobs at sea and ashore.

Furthermore, MariFuture partners intend to focus on:

- strengthening training in maritime activities, including familiarisation with new technologies – See the SeaWork partners' work on MarTEL/MarTEL Plus (www.martel.pro) EGMDSS/E-



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- GMDSSVET (www.egmdss.com), SURPASS (www.surpass.pro) and Maider (www.maider.pro), EBDIG (www.ebdig.eu) and CAPTAINS (www.captains.pro);
- fostering closer inter-university, inter-school and institute links and links with and between businesses and other organisations involved in maritime activities – see MariFuture Platform established by the partnership (www.marifuture.org) to integrate maritime education, research and innovation and all the projects that some of the SeaWork partners have developed and successfully implemented so far, such as SOS (www.maredu.co.uk), MarTEL (www.martel.pro), EGMDS (www.egmdss.com);
 - exchanging information among universities and training centres so as to develop more uniform training, possibly a base curriculum in the different fields of maritime knowledge in order to reach a mutual acceptance of the degrees and skills obtainable in each institution; in this way the mobility of students, professionals, cadets will be much easier – See SOS and now the concluded project by some of the SeaWork partners, the EU funded UniMET Project (www.unimet.pro);
 - encouraging industrial partners on active participation in the initiative through supporting research, training and young workers' mobility programmes – See the partnership's SAIL AHEAD project (www.sailahead.eu), the 'Captain of Industry' initiative within the UniMET project, and the partnership's joint PhDs for personnel based in the maritime industry (see PhD programme by Akdemir in 2012 jointly with De Montfort University for instance).
 - strengthening links and networks between young people from European maritime regions and the development of a maritime culture among European citizens – see the creation of cadet association at national and international levels (Ziarati, 2013). Partners in the proposal have supported the formation of the World Maritime Students Association (WMSA) by organising the first WMSA Congress in 2010 with participation of 38 MET institutions from 34 different countries in the world (Ziarati, 2010). Some of the partners are executive members of association such as IMLA (International Maritime Lecturers Association) and its IMEC (International Maritime English Conference). IMLA has an NGO status at IMO. Several partners are active within International Association of Maritime Universities and International Association of Maritime Institutes. The project leader is Fellow of Institution of Maritime Engineering, Science and Technology who have agreed to support the accreditation of the SeaWork programmes. Several other awarding and licensing bodies (BTEC, Edexcel, IMarEST and so forth) have also agreed to approved or endorse the SeaWork programmes; and
 - promoting, in the long term, job mobility in maritime activities through the possible following actions (non-exhaustive) – See the formation of MarEdu and its Leonardo Mobility programme TRAIN 4Cs as a possible model for the future exchanging cadets, trainees; trainers, instructors, and developing Joint training programmes. The University partners have developed their own ERASMUS programmes which can also be used as model for consideration.

The MariFuture will extend the work of the SOS project (EU funded Safety On Sea – 2005-07) and the recently concluded EU funded UniMET project as well as some of the main constituent elements of the UniMET Project such as MarTEL, SURPASS; and the SeaWork project will be used as a catalyst for the expansion of MariFuture (www.marifuture.org).

In summary MariFuture, through its future projects, will rapid prototype the outcomes of the EU's recent transfer and development of innovation projects in MET, and through new proposals will amend the current strategy and will develop a new model for a student-based system (see UniMET – www.unimet.pro) for programme development, programme management and delivery, underpinned



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by a strategy for staff development and will apply recently tested models for programme accreditation, working in conjunction with major awarding, accrediting and licensing bodies with international recognition.

MariFuture intended to develop proposals to support internationally recognised seafaring qualifications as a response to current identified shortages and help companies to recruit personnel who are qualified to undertake various maritime employment and placements opportunities at sea or ashore, including ship operating, ship building, maritime service sector, etc. It intends to create opportunities for young trainees and maritime personnel to find jobs commensurate with their qualifications. And also create a web based platform to unify job seekers/trainees and job/placement providers in a medium which will allow both parties easier access to jobs/placements and employees/trainees respectively. The platform will provide a range of support services to aid the skills development of trainees/personnel.

There are several development areas that have become of interest to MariFuture partners. One of these areas is causes of stress on board ships and its management. In a microcosm as a cruise ship or a cargo ship, workers have to face a heavy weight of restrictions related to their concrete state (limitation of space, forced cohabitation, lack of contacts with the mainland, monotony). Further restrictions are more related to behaviour: homesickness, distance from usual social context, forced cohabitation with different languages and cultures. Furthermore, an additional burden for workers may be ascribed to work organization, which is focused on well-defined tasks to be carried out individually and decision-making processes to be managed alone without interchanges with superiors or colleagues.

MariFuture is keen to investigate on patterns of behaviour of staff on board, deck, engine and hotel officers and/or crew members, in order to design, implement and test innovative training/learning kits addressed both to:

- young people: (i) deck-engine cadets from maritime colleges and university and (ii) hotel cadets (trained within an induction course “compass”) willing to enlarge their mostly academic background with practical ‘on board’ information; (iii) deck-engine-hotel crew members who had never been on-board.
- adult people already on-board: (i) deck-engine and hotel officers; (ii) deck-engine-hotel crew members.

Professor Reza Ziarati.

Chairman, Centre for Factories of the Future (C4FF), UK;

Vice Rector, Piri Reis University (PRU), TR; Founder, MariFuture Platform.

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Introduction

The following chapters will report the progress made by the MariFuture projects and its partners in April 2013.

SeaTALK (Creation of a Qualification Framework for Effective Communication at Sea)

Arrangements for the 2nd Partner meeting is being finalised by the project coordinator with support from hosting partner, MMRTC¹. The meeting is set to take place alongside European Maritime Day (EMD) 2013². Preparation for the workshop is progressing. A newsletter was designed and sent to all Marifuture partner institution.

A survey³ investigating the detailed Maritime English Training Courses offered by Maritime Universities/Institutions/Training Centres developed is still active. If you are a maritime education and training institutions and run Maritime English course, you may wish to take part in the survey.

Work on Competence Grid is still in progress by the lead partner, Nicola Vapsarov Naval Academy⁴. Discussion on Learning outcomes, competence, knowledge, skills, performance criteria, assessment taking into account ECVET principles⁵ are taking place.

Project website is designed and will be launched in June 2013.

More progress report will be available in April progress report.

Bridge - BRIDGES OF KNOWLEDGE FOR EU-TR CHAMBERS

Bridge Project is progressing well.

¹ Mediterranean Maritime Research and Training Centre (MMRTC) – See <http://maritimepilots.com.mt/>

² European Maritime Day 2013 Malta – See http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/index_en.htm

³ SeaTALK Survey - See <http://www.c4ff.co.uk/limesurvey/index.php?sid=62717&lang=en>

⁴ NICOLA VAPTSAROV NAVAL ACADEMY – See <http://www.naval-acad.bg/>

⁵ The European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) – See http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/ecvet_en.htm



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The first of the four visits to partner countries was Croatia. Shortly having completed the accession process and becoming the 28th member state of the European Union from July 1st, 2013, Croatia has fresh experience in terms of adjusting to the EU. The reason for project visit to Croatia was to learn about this experience with regards to the changes that took place in Chambers as well as businesses.

Project partner at Zadar County Chamber delivered an in-depth presentation about the services they provide. The presentation also covered details on how their structure was improved due to EU accession. We were informed about the EU Desks and the support provided to businesses.

Meeting with representatives of the maritime industry (shipping agents, marina and transport companies) in Zadar proved that businesses and the Chamber work in cooperation in order to minimise the difficulties of becoming a European Union member country. Businesses are aware of the constraints brought by implementing the Acquis but the overall impression to be obtained from the visit to Croatia was the existence of an optimistic environment with regards to joining the EU.

More information can be found about the project from the following link: <http://www.denizticaretodasi.org.tr/Sayfalar/ProjectBridge.aspx#FA>

UniMET (Unification of Marine Training and Education) – www.unimet.pro

UniMET Project is progressing well at post-funding stage.

UniMET Final report both public and confidential including all results of the project was submitted to EACEA⁶. Partners look convinced believing that this project will be one of the best projects within the funded projects of the same call. The project score by EACEA will be announced in the following months.

A report from external evaluator, Pearson Qualifications International, has reached to TUDEV- Piri Reis on Students portfolio and the overall quality of UniMET programmes. They visited the TUDEV in June and again in September 2012 and were satisfied that UniMET programmes satisfy BTEC requirements and that UniMET quality assurance and control system is in line with our system for quality assessment. They intend to support the intended formal piloting of UniMET Generic Programmes at Piri Reis University, commencing in 2013-14 academic year.

Other good news is that Google analytic results show UniMET website⁷ has received over 4000 view in the last two years. It is quite encouraging that good work done in the project have already stated to make considerable qualitative impact to its target group.

The results of UniMET project are being maintained at post funding stage with new improvements and developments. Especially, changes to STCW are being closely monitored as there are still more to be finalised by IMO⁸.

Two paper abstracts were accepted by IMLA21 Conference paper committee. The conference is set to take place on 9-12th October 2013 in Newfoundland, Canada⁹).

⁶ The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) – See www.eacea.ec.europa.eu

⁷ UniMET (Unification of Marine Training and Education) – See www.unimet.pro

⁸ IMO (International Maritime Organisation) – See <http://www.imo.org/>

⁹ IMLA21 (International Maritime Lecturers Association) Conference – see <http://www.imla2013.com/>



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UniMET consortium invites new associate partners to join UNIMET. A number of new associate partners were joined to UNIMET. For instance, University of LJUBLJANA, Faculty of Maritime Studies¹⁰ in Slovenia and Istituto Nautico “N. Bixio” – Piano di Sorrento and Transport in Italy have joined the UniMET in March 2013. Any maritime education and training institutions, industrial stakeholders, and decision makers from across Europe may join UniMET Partnership as an Associate partner. To become an associate member of UniMET, please contact the project manager www.unimet.pro/Contact-Us.aspx

UniMET has an active LinkedIn page where a number of discussions etc. are taking place. If anyone interested to join, here is the link:

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=4630231&trk=anet_ug_hm

IMPACT (Integrated Maritime Promotion ACTION) - www.maritimetraining.pro

IMPACT Platform led to Maritime Training Platform.

The platform is being maintained at post funding stage with news and updates. New products are being added to the platform once they are available.

If you are a project consortium, a MET or an individual and have worked or working on an innovative maritime product based on Information, Communication Technology (ICT) and you want to promote it, you can submit it to IMPACT consortium for evaluation. Visit www.maritimetraining.pro for more information.

MarTEL Plus (Maritime Tests of English Language) – www.plus.martel.pro

Outcome of MarTEL Plus project is being maintained and valorised at post funding staged.

Encouraging news has reached to MarTEL team. A centre in China has shown interest becoming a test centre in China. Negotiations are taking place and an update will be available in the forthcoming months.

A number of piloting is taking place across the partnership to give fine tuning to MarTEL tests. This includes enhancements in the platform and marking with the lead of IT partner, SPIN¹¹.

The MarTEL partnership welcomes contact from all interested parties, including seafarers of all ranks, maritime industry experts, professionals and organisations, and those institutions or companies expressing an interest in becoming a test centre. For more information, please visit project website.

TRECVET (Transnational Recognition of European Certification in Vocational Education and Training) – www.trecvet.eu

TRECVET project is progressing well.

Arrangements of 5th Partner meeting is finalised by the UK Partner. The meeting will take place at Centre for Factories of the Future¹² premises on 24/25th May 2013.

¹⁰ University of LJUBLJANA, Faculty of Maritime Studies - See <http://www.fpp.uni-lj.si/eng/>

¹¹ Spinaker d.o.o – See <http://www.spinaker.si/>

¹² Centre for Factories of the Future (C4FF) – See www.c4ff.co.uk



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An ECVET expert was invited to 5th partner meeting in Coventry. The expert will make a presentation to partners on general assessment, validation and recognition. There will be “questions and answers” session from partners to get more familiar with ECVET principles.

A paper abstract was also accepted by IMLA21 Conference. The paper titled “Removing Barriers to Mobility of Seafarers” reports the problem in Small Commercial Vessels (SCV) sector as well as introducing the response of TRECNET project with its innovative software tool. Full paper will be written in May and be submitted to IMLA21 Paper committee. Copy of the same paper will be available in Marifuture papers section.

GETAFIX (Gaining Educational Training Analysis For Identifying Cross Border Systems) – www.getafix.eu

GETAFIX project is progressing well.

Partners are working hard to finalise the comparison of qualifications of Seafarers in small commercial vessels. They are being made available as when they are available. The countries that are final can be viewed through the link here: <http://www.getafix.eu/compare.html>

4th Partner meeting took place in Poland on April 2013. All partners presented their work to date and presented new ideas and explained them to the partnership. These ideas will be followed up nearer the time, when we know more about the funding streams. All partners agreed that the project was interesting and that they wish to continue with follow-up projects.

More progress reports will be available in May progress report.

METPROM (Modular Enhanced Training Programme for European Maritime Security Personnel) – www.metprom.eu

METPROM project is progressing well.

During the week of 17 April, the first progress review meeting for the EU funded LEONARDO project METPROM was held in Malmö and hosted by WMU.

The partners from The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Turkey and Sweden reported about their activities as well as the outcome and preliminary results of their work during the first project period. The three-day meeting included a visit to the port of Malmö to view security related objects and discuss existing challenges as well as potential ways to improve the security level.

More information will be available on METPROM project in May progress report.

SEAPASS Proposal

A new proposal was submitted to European commission where C4FF and Prir Reis University are both partners. The project mainly aims:

- To support internationally recognised seafaring qualifications as a response to current identified shortages and help companies to recruit personnel who are qualified to undertake various maritime employment and placements opportunities at sea or ashore, including ship operating, ship building, maritime service sector, etc.



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- To create opportunities for young trainees and maritime personnel to find jobs commensurate with their qualifications.
- To create a web based platform to unify job seekers/trainees and job/placement providers in a medium which will allow both parties easier access to jobs/placements and employees/trainees respectively. The platform will provide a range of support services to aid the skills development of trainees/personnel.

Several new proposals are being prepared.

More information on the outcome of the proposal will be available in Marifuture platform.

Report by Officer Ugurcan Acar – C4FF

Edited by Professor Dr Reza Ziarati - PRU