



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

Working together - Policy makers and European Commission facing the grass-root

The EU Maritime Day, or should we now refer to it as Maritime Days as the event is held over two days, one day primarily led by EU/EC on topical issues and the second day primarily led by the stakeholder/grass-root organisations presenting their interest and concerns.

The review of proceedings over two-days clearly showed that it was a harmonious set of events providing insight into what MARE is, and to some extent other DGs are, doing, in and for the maritime sectors.

C4FF with support from Piri Reis University, its partner in TR, raised several key questions to various panels during the two day event, and with the assistance from its European partners organised a workshop in conjunction with Gdynia Maritime University in Poland.

C4FF, with support from Piri Reis University, took the opportunity of organising the EU funded SeaTALK partner meetings during the EU Maritime day events. This was a novel notion viz., promoting EU efforts in specific areas of direct interest to the theme of EU Maritime Day event. Many accidents and incidents at sea are due to linguistic problems and many inhibitions for freedom of movement at seas are due to the countries in the region, do not recognise each other's seafaring qualifications. Mutual recognition of each others' sea certificates by EU member countries should be a matter for urgent consideration by the EC/EU. Lack of recognition in this respect has and will dampen the effectiveness of the EC/EU drive for Blue Growth initiative. C4FF and its partners have already recognised this problem and have become involved or initiated several projects see www.trecvet.eu and www.unimet.pro.

The C4FF Chairman, and Vice Rector of Piri Reis University, commented on the EC's efforts regarding Blue Growth initiative and posed several interesting questions to the panel chaired by the head of DG MARE with regard to TRECNET. He argued that "to increase the impact of the Blue Growth initiative more targeted actions are necessary. He asked, is the panel aware that there is a specific problem in the SCV sector regarding the mutual recognition of comparable qualifications in different EU Member States within this sector? In the TRECNET project C4FF and other partners involved in the project are trying to find a solution to this problem. Professor Ziarati, stated that if all European countries recognise each other qualifications in the SCV sector including certificates needed for yachting this could help mobility of trade and help tourism. He believes that the EC should target solving these problems if it intends to promote Blue Growth initiative in the EU more effectively".

One very important problems identified by Professor Ziarati was youth unemployment in Europe, citing over 55% youth unemployment in Spain and over 50% in Greece. He stated that generations are being lost in the continent by citing youth unemployment in Spain and Greece, two member states with promising opportunities for tourism in the context of the Blue Growth initiative. On this basis, he advised the Commission to target youth unemployment throughout the continent with more



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emphasis in countries with high youth unemployment. He argued that this is what the EC is there to do and should do. He also asked if the EC has considered that by encouraging tourism at times of economic downturns this could adversely impact other sectors, giving the example of a family encouraged do spent on tourism, and the possibility of the family deciding to postpone their plan to replace the family car or leave the intended purchase of a new TV to a later date, a decision which would reduce the fragile recovery in the manufacturing sector.



Picture 1: Professor Reza Ziarati (Chairman at C4FF) in the middle talking to the EU Commissioner Ms. Maria Damanaki



Picture 2: Professor Dr Reza Ziarati (C4FF) giving his view to panel members

C4FF Workshop



C4FF organised a workshop as the stakeholder in the second day of the EU Maritime event.

After a short introduction from Professor Ziarati referring to deficiencies of current maritime education and training standards and inconsistencies in the IMO conventions, Dr Martin Ziarati, gave a summary of how MariFuture has responded to these deficiencies. His speech included a summary of MariFuture's efforts in targeting several solutions to the identified problems and referred to a number of recently concluded projects such as Maider (www.maider.pro), an online and stand alone project led by C4FF's Dutch partner (MIWB) initiated to reduce accidents at sea by developing scenarios based on previous accidents; and SAILAHEAD (www.sailahead.eu), an online initiative to create opportunities for seafarers to find jobs ashore after serving time at sea.

Capt. Heikki Koivisto, presented a short summary of SURPASS project and EGMDSS. SURPASS is an interesting online and stand alone project in that it was developed based on an IMO report stating that the accidents due to automation failures are a cause for concern. EGMDSS project led by C4FF's Slovenian partner (Spinaker) concerns a novel online platform helping users to gain qualification in maritime communications, a timely development and one that would increase the impact of the Blue Growth initiative by enabling ordinary people to learn to sail and gain Short or Long Range Certificates (SRC and/or LRC). C4FF and Piri Reis University have already gained recognition from major awarding and licensing bodies for EGMDSS. The platform currently has over 35000 registered users. This is amazing achievement.

Capt, Professor Dr Janusz Urias, presented a short summary of MarTEL and UniMET, both initiated jointly by C4FF and Piri Reis University. MarTEL project was initiated based on the concerns raised at the IMO MSC sub-committee (2006, Istanbul) that there are many accidents related to English language competence of seafarers. The project led to development of a set of standards for maritime English for all types and ranks of officers and later was complemented by MarTEL Plus project developed to create a similar standard for Ratings (non-commissioned officers) and develop a set of new features for MarTEL standards including mobile applications. The UniMET project was developed to harmonise the existing maritime education and training programmes worldwide and to go beyond the minimum standards set by IMO. As well as current standards, UniMET established two new standards viz., Degree Class and Captains of Industry; Degree Class to give the officers credit if they go beyond the current minimum standards set by IMO and also to encourage progression to higher learning levels and hence help to make the seas safe at source.



Picture 3: Dr Martin Ziarati (Director at C4FF) presenting MariFuture to audience



Picture 4: Professor Reza Ziarati opening the session

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 May 2013.



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

2nd Partner meeting was held on 20/21/22 May at Mediterranean Maritime Research and Training Centre (MMRTC¹) premises in Malta. The meeting was held alongside European Maritime Day (EMD) 2013². All partners presented their work to date and future tasks were allocated. The partnership also held a workshop at European Maritime Day. Over 50 delegates attended the workshop. Several negotiations took place with the attendees of European Maritime Day as well as the workshop.

A survey³ investigating the detailed Maritime English Training Courses offered by Maritime Universities/Institutions/Training Centres developed is still active and the report on the analysis of the survey will be published in SeaTALK website by September. If you are a maritime education and training institutions and run Maritime English course, you may still wish to take part in the survey.

Work on Competence Grid is still in progress by the lead partner, Nicola Vapsarov Naval Academy⁴. A draft version for Officer of Watch level is agreed and final touches are being made. Once it is finalised, competence grid for other ranks such as senior officers/captains/engineers/senior engineers/ratings will be developed.

Several dissemination activities are taking place by the close cooperation of the partners at several major events across Europe.

More progress report will be available in June progress report.

Bridge - BRIDGES OF KNOWLEDGE FOR EU-TR CHAMBERS

Bridge Project is progressing well.

Project BRIDGE is bringing businesses together in Istanbul in order to build sustainable bridges of knowledge between Chambers. Turkish Chamber of Shipping is hosting a Conference and Networking Event in 24th September 2013 at Turkish Chamber of Shipping, Istanbul.

2nd Project newsletter is now available and can be accessed following the links here: <http://www.denizticaretodasi.org.tr/Shared%20Documents/ProjectBridge/News2.pdf>

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)

UniMET Project is progressing well at post-funding stage.

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/>



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Two full papers were submitted to IMLA21 Conference paper committee. The conference is set to take place on 9-12th October 2013 in Newfoundland, Canada⁵. Copy of full papers will be available in MariFuture papers section after they are published in Conference proceedings.

A letter on UniMET was prepared and distributed at European Maritime Day 2013 in Malta to gather the feedback of delegates on UniMET programmes where UniMET was presented in the workshop.

UniMET consortium invites new associate partners to join UNIMET. A number of new associate partners were joined to UNIMET. 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

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.

MarTEL was chosen as one of the best LLP project in UK and allocated an exhibition stand at Telford language conference in UK in June. Preparations are being made by the MarTEL team. Outcome of the exhibition will be available in June progress report.

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.

5th Partner meeting took place in Coventry, UK Partner at Centre for Factories of the Future⁶ premises on 24/25th May 2013.

An ECVET expert was present at the meeting and made a presentation to partners on general assessment, validation and recognition. Partners directed “questions and answers” to ECVET expert become more familiar with ECVET principles.

A full paper was submitted to 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 TRECVET project with its innovative software tool. Copy of the same paper will be available in MariFuture papers section after it is published in conference proceedings.

An article was sent to Turkish Shipping Magazine and is due to be published by June. The article titled “Creating Employment and Encouraging Mobility: Great Employment Opportunity across

⁵ IMLA21 (International Maritime Lecturers Association) Conference – see <http://www.imla2013.com/>

⁶ Centre for Factories of the Future (C4FF) – See www.c4ff.co.uk



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Europe for commercial skippers in the SCV Sector!” reporting the progress of the project to wider audience. A copy of it will be available in MariFuture articles section.

TRECVET tool makes good progress. Developers now put more emphasis on the rules for the structure and presentation FE (Fundamental Elements) descriptions in the first place, for both experts and translators where the method would be to use the semantic search structure of Subject - predicate - object. You can access the prototype TRECVET tool following the link:

<http://www.trecvet.eu/demo-fextool.html>

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>

More progress reports will be available in June progress report.

Surpass (Training on Ship Automation) - www.surpass.pro

The SURPASS team have been working with UniMET project team for some time to incorporate the SURPASS online course as one of the key element of the UniMET platform.

BTEC/Edexcel has now approved the UniMET platform’s core ship officer programmes (Higher National Diplomas - HNDs) and SURPASS as part of UniMET is intended to be piloted in Piri Reis University in the next academic year, 2013-14.

At the meeting in Malta, in parallel with EU Maritime Day event, a decision was made to review the SURPASS course and improve the choreographic videos of the course as planned. Furthermore, arrangements are made for piloting SURPASS course in several MariFuture maritime institutions.

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.

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