



# SKILLS BEYOND THE SEAS

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1

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## Skills Beyond the Seas Project started



Career paths for seafarers

The Erasmus+ funded project **Skills Beyond the Seas** started in December 2018.

### The problem:

Whilst currently there is still an urgent need for young people to enter into the professions of seafarers and overall numbers are

significant, their future employment and career perspectives are very uncertain and unclear. This uncertainty especially affects young seamen and maritime trainees and makes it a difficult decision for youth to enter this sector. It thereby hinders them to enter into highly valuable VET training which offers them learning outcomes that can be used far beyond sea-going professions.

### Aims of the project:

For active seafarers and students in Maritime Education and Training (MET) across the EU, who all need a perspective for their

personal future, the project **Skills Beyond the Seas** offers information and guidance for mid- to long-term career planning. For disadvantaged youths it provides support to enter into a diverse sector and thereby gain social inclusion.

### Tools to be developed:

The project will develop the **SkillsPath Tool** and the **Informal Skills Scanner**. These Tools will provide the users with a detailed list of their formal and informal skills, highlight the transferable skills sets and suggest career pathways to other occupations where these skills are needed.

## Support Tools for Seafarers and MET students

The expected results of the **Skills Beyond the Seas** project and especially of the SkillsPath Tool and the Informal Skills Scanner are:

- to offer a pathway of job mobility for existing seafarers and MET students to

transition to on-shore careers by harnessing and validating their specific, transversal and informal skills and providing career guidance,

- to provide a methodology of how to identify transferable hard skills between

different qualifications and sectors,

- to develop the tools that offer pathways and mobility from “dying” professions to new professions by recognising the existing transferable formal and informal skills.

### What are Transversal Skills?

“TRANSVERSAL KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCES ARE RELEVANT TO A BROAD RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS AND SECTORS. THEY ARE OFTEN REFERRED TO AS CORE SKILLS, BASIC SKILLS OR SOFT SKILLS, THE CORNERSTONE FOR THE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF A PERSON.”

DEFINITION BY ESCO (EUROPEAN SKILLS/COMPETENCES, QUALIFICATIONS AND OCCUPATIONS)

### What are Informal Skills?

“LEARNING RESULTING FROM DAILY ACTIVITIES RELATED TO WORK, FAMILY OR LEISURE. IT IS NOT ORGANISED OR STRUCTURED IN TERMS OF OBJECTIVES, TIME OR LEARNING SUPPORT. INFORMAL LEARNING IS IN MOST CASES UNINTENTIONAL FROM THE LEARNER’S PERSPECTIVE.”

DEFINITION BY CEDEFOP (EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING)

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The Skills Beyond the Seas Project is developed by five partners from four EU countries:

- Sea Teach, the coordinator, is a Sea School and educational expert SME from Mallorca/ Spain
- UPC, the Catalanian university, is represented by its Nautical Faculty in Barcelona/ Spain
- PFRI is the Maritime Faculty of the University of Rijeka/ Croatia
- Turk Loydu is a Classification and Conformity Assessment Body from Istanbul/ Turkey
- Danmar Computers is an educational IT specialist from Rzeszow/ Poland

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### The SkillsPath Tool



The SkillsPath tool will deliver comprehensive career pathway guidance and skills matches for seafarers and MET students.

- ⇒ It will provide the user with an overview of his/ her achieved formal and informal skills. In a next step it will match these formal and informal skills and competences of seafarers with onshore professions where these skills and competences are required.
- ⇒ It will use the ESCO analysis and the ECVET framework of knowledge, skill and competence to provide a standardized cross-sector compatibility framework.

### The Informal Skills Scanner

The Informal Skills Scanner is a tool that assess seafarers for their personal informal transversal skills and provides them with an objective result.

- ⇒ It will use a mix of multiple choice and interactive tests with an algorithm that avoids repetition, thereby ensuring that the user is being genuinely tested even if he repeats the test.
- ⇒ It will integrate for language skills the “Common European Framework of Reference for Languages” (CEFR) and for digital skills the “European Digital Competence” Framework.

