



# SKILLS BEYOND THE SEAS

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 2

November 2019

## Skills Beyond the Seas Project progresses well



The Erasmus+ funded project **Skills Beyond the Seas** started in December 2018 and is progressing according to plan.

### How we see the problem

Maritime professionals and scientific circles are focusing their discussions increasingly on the topic of unmanned ships or autonomous ships. Opinions are exchanged on systems of such ships, ways of managing them, necessary changes in legislation for the use of such ships, and many other topics. It is universally agreed that unmanned ships are scheduled to be introduced within this decade.

What does such news mean for current seafarers or those who are just about to become one? Pessimistic, or job loss or inability to find a job after completing formal education? Is that really so? This is difficult to answer because, despite the information that unmanned ships will be introduced within this decade, there are still many problems that need to be addressed. Vessels with traditional crews will remain for a good number of years and will provide jobs for seafarers.

But, is this an optimistic option for seafarers and those who are about to become one? Does the seafarer's occupation still provide an attractive future?

We are sure that the answer to the previous questions is positive. Changes

have taken place in the past and will continue in the future. The changes cannot be stopped, but it is possible to give active seafarers and MET students a new perspective on their future.

And it is precisely the **Skills Beyond the Seas** project, that is working to demonstrate and support that seafarers' occupations are not only "restricted" for work at sea and on ships, but to show in a user-friendly way that the knowledge and skills acquired at sea and onboard a ship are very useful and sought after for many occupations on land.



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### 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)*

Co-funded by the  
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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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### What we have done in the last year on the project

At the very beginning of the project, the partners identified onshore jobs and careers which require formal Knowledge and Skills that seafarers have also acquired through their training for one of the IMO Model course qualifications. In order to cover as many occupations onshore as possible, data and information from the ESCO database and information were used.

With the involvement of experts from particular sectors of the land-based occupations, the identified onshore jobs were analyzed and refined, and 57 occupations were identified which, to a greater or lesser extent, use knowledge and skills also acquired in the maritime professions.

These identified occupations will be entered into the **SkillsPath Tool**, which will be designed so that in the future and after the end of the project, it can be supplemented and upgraded with new occupations and provide even more opportunities for maritime occupations.

In parallel with the aforementioned assignment, the partners identified 19 informal and transferable skills that are, to a greater or lesser extent, held by the maritime professions. By contacting various experts in the partner countries of the project, a total of 10 most important skills have been selected that will be comparable to those required for the relevant occupations onshore.

Contacting experts in particular occupations onshore through a questionnaire identified the required informal and transferable skills that are specific to the particular occupation. These skills will enable a comparison of skills for land and maritime occupations at a later stage of the project.

Currently, partners are developing multiple choice questions and interactive tests to assess those 10 informal and transferable skills in an entertaining and interesting way. When all questions are complete, the person (seafarer) using

the **Informal Skills Scanner**, will be able to undergo an objective assessment and at the end receive the answer which informal and transferable skills he possess and to which level on a scale of 0 to 100.

In conjunction with the **SkillsPath Tool** the individual user will receive a comprehensive 'skills profile' that makes their entire skills-set visible and in addition offers broad but tailored recommendations for future career pathways.



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