



Introduction

MENTOR is a two-year project co-funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (Agr. no.: EASME/EMFF/2016/ 1.2.1.2/06/S12.749365-MENTOR) in the framework of the EASME call for Blue Careers in Europe.

Duration: 24 months (1/3/2017-28/2/2019)

Total cost: 689,762€ EC financial contribution: 551,810€(80%)

General objective: to set up a regional platform – the Blue Career Centre - for dialogue between business stakeholders, education & training institutions, research organizations, policy makers and the civic society, allowing them to jointly develop measures to close the skill gap, tackle unemployment and make blue careers more attractive to the young people of the area.



7 partners

1. University of Cyprus (UCY), Cyprus
2. Maritime Institute of Eastern Mediterranean (Mar.In.E.M), Cyprus
3. Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), Cyprus
4. National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Greece
5. Agricultural University of Athens (AUA), Greece
6. Marine Cluster Bulgaria (MCB), Bulgaria
7. Constanta Maritime University (CMU), Romania

4 observers from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Targeted education and training initiatives

- Attract higher education graduates or persons with qualifications for maritime professions through targeted and innovative education and training initiatives.
- Offer mentoring and career guidance to students (age 15-18) for Key Blue sectors of the region.
- Re-train and up-skill workers employed in other sectors or people currently unemployed for a job in the blue economy;
- Expand the skills of people currently employed in the blue economy to progress in their careers and to facilitate their mobility to other maritime jobs.



MEAs



Four Marine and Maritime Economic Activities (MEAs) are identified as of strategic importance in the EM & BS region:

- Maritime Transport (i.e. shipping, ports, shipbuilding and ship-repairs)
- Cruise Tourism
- Marine Aquaculture (mainly in the EM)
- Offshore Oil and Gas

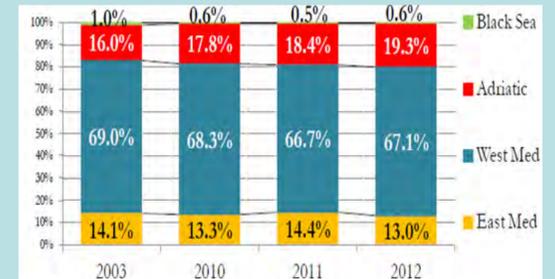
Maritime transport



- People need to get maritime education training, go to sea, stay there for a while or longer, gain those skills that are required and then become the officers that will operate and manage the ships for the companies.
- Governments need these qualified people to staff their departments, military, coast guard, fisheries departments etc.
- Global need for officers at the sea. Especially on the technical side a lack is felt for university educated marine and maritime engineers and naval architects.

Cruise tourism

- Highly diversified cruise product (new itineraries, concepts and vessels)
- Increasing demand for cruises in the Mediterranean basin
- The Med market holds 75% of Europe's itineraries and is the most emerging cruise destination in Europe.



Marine aquaculture

- Marine aquaculture is quite developed in EM with Cyprus, Greece and Turkey producing 15% of the European aquaculture production and 80% of the seabass and seabream production.
- The EM has competitive advantages compared to WM for developing aquaculture. Not only it has a higher temperature of 18,3 °C as an average, but also has numerous bays, gulfs and islands that offer a competitive geophysical advantage for this activity.



Offshore oil and gas



- Tremendous potential due to the discoveries of hydrocarbons in the EM region and in the BS.
- The exploration of hydrocarbons and the development of offshore installations provide both the economy and its shipping industry with emerging opportunities.
- The sector is only now emerging in the region and needs to attract qualified personnel to ensure smooth development of this Blue Industry.

Work Packages

- WP1:** Project management [UCY]
- WP2:** Developing re-training skills for blue professionals [NTUA]
- WP3:** Promoting mobility and cooperation in East Med and Black Sea [AUA]
- WP4:** Establishment of Blue Career Centre (BCC) of East Med-Black Sea [Mar.In.E.M.]
- WP5:** Dissemination activities [MCB]



Specific Actions

1. Establishment of the Blue Career Centre Secretariat in Cyprus with representations in Greece, Bulgaria and Romania, which may later extend to other countries in the area.
2. Mapping of the provided maritime education and training.
3. Development of re-training schemes for blue professionals.
4. Mentoring and career guidance to students.
5. Establish introductory e-learning courses.
6. Sharing and pooling of resources.
7. Organise Blue Career Fairs.
8. Promote the mobility of students and staff within the region.
9. Balance the demand and supply of maritime, aquaculture, cruise tourism and offshore oil and gas professionals in the region.
10. Promote the harmonisation of Maritime Education and Training
11. Set an example and model for other sub-basins.