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# **Blue Career Centre of Eastern Mediterranean & Black Sea**

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*Mentoring for the Sea*  
**(MENTOR Project)**

**European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)**

## **Progress Report**

**Progress Report Number: 1st**

**Covered period: 1.3.2017-31.8.2017**

**Project duration: from 1.3.2017 to 28.2.2019**

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## 1 Progress of work plan in the covered period

### 1.1 General progress:

The **general objective** of the **MENTOR** project is to set up a regional platform in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea (EM) and Black Sea (BS) – **the Blue Career Centre** – that aims to attract young people and experienced workers and fill existing skills' gaps by supporting activities that will increase employability in 4 key Blue sectors of the region. In this reporting period, 5 of the 11 **specific objectives** (1, 2, 3, 9 and 10 in the GA) and their deliverables are addressed (see Section 1.2 for more info). No significant deviations or important problems have emerged during the 1st reporting period (M1-6).

### 1.2 Progress on the project against initial general and specific objectives:

#### **WP1. Project Management**

All contractual obligations of M1-6 accomplished.

D1.1.1 Project Management [OC-UCY, All, M6]. **Completed.**

D1.2 Quality Assessment Plan [OC-UCY, All, M6]. **Completed.**

D1.1.4 1<sup>st</sup> Progress Report [OC-UCY, All, M6]. **[This Report].**

#### **WP 2. Developing re-training schemes for blue professionals**

Specific objectives: 2) Mapping of the provided maritime education and training in the EM and BS region, including availability of infrastructure; 3) Development of re-training schemes for blue professionals in the maritime sector, fishermen and offshore oil and gas.

All contractual obligations of M1-6 are on track.

D2.1 Career Guidance Framework: Mapping the needs of the selected MEAs and specifications for the construction of the personalized profile for blue professionals [NTUA, All, M6]. A dedicated questionnaire has been developed aiming to identify the gaps and the trends regarding the jobs and skills in the selected MEAs. All the foreseen data have been collected and are now being processed through a two-stage statistical analysis. Results will be combined with a comprehensive literature review concluding to the trends, the most in demand jobs and the related skills and competences for blue professionals. **Due to difficulties in gathering the questionnaires in the summer time, D2.1 will be completed by M8.**

D2.5 Catalogue of the training/educational centres of the MEA of Shipping, Aquaculture, Cruise Tourism, Offshore Oil and Gas [Mar.In.E.M., All, M12]. *Under the guidance of Mar.In.E.M., partners map and record the maritime education and training offer and make a list of relevant stakeholders.*

**Task under implementation.**

#### **WP 3. Promoting mobility and cooperation in East Med and Black Sea**

Specific objective: 9) Promote the mobility of students and staff within the region.

All contractual obligations of M1-6 are on track.

D3.1 Framework for promoting mobility for Blue Sector courses [AUA, All, M6]. *First version to be completed by 30/10/2017. Due to additional time needed to collect information from the ENIC and NARIC points in the four EU countries of the MENTOR project, the final Deliverable will be available by M8. Under implementation.*

#### **WP 4. Establishment of Blue MENTOR Career Centre**

Specific objective: 1) The establishment of the Blue Career Centre Secretariat in Cyprus with representation in Greece, Bulgaria and Romania which may extend to other countries in this area.

D4.1.1 Establishment of the Blue Career Centre (BCC) of East Med-Black Sea in Cyprus [Mar.In.E.M., All, M12]. The name BLUE CAREER CENTRE OF EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA (MENTOR) LTD has been approved by the Cyprus Registrar of Companies. Drafting of the company's Constitution has started. **Task 4.1 under implementation.**

#### **WP 5. Dissemination activities**

Specific objective: 10) Balance the demand and supply of maritime, aquaculture, cruise tourism and offshore oil and gas professionals in the region.

All contractual obligations of M1-6 accomplished.

D5.1.1 Website. [OC-UCY, M6] [www.bluecareers.org](http://www.bluecareers.org). **Completed.**

D5.1.2 Blue Career Centre EastMed-Black Sea project logo. [MCB, M6]. **Completed.**

D5.2.1 Blue Career Centre EastMed-Black Sea events. [MCB, M24]. **Task 5.2 under implementation.**

*Main events:* 18 May, 2017: MENTOR's Coordinator participated in a networking session during the European Maritime Day 2017, Poole; 18 April, 2017: MENTOR's Coordinator participated in BLUEMED – A basin of research and innovation for sustainable growth, Sliema, Malta; 5 April 2007: Career Fair; Venue: Cyprus University of Technology, Limassol (MARINEM); 6-7 April 2017: Presentation of the higher education paths in shipping to teenagers (15-18) (NTUA); 7-9 April 2007: Participation of MENTOR in knowledge Festival (University of Cyprus, MARINEM).

D5.3.1 Blue Career Centre EastMed-Black Sea Dissemination material. [MCB, All]. A subcontractor for the development of dissemination materials was selected and a Press release, Newsletter and project Leaflet were designed (see [www.bluecareers.org](http://www.bluecareers.org) ).

D5.3.2 Audio-visual material. Selection of subcontractor is in progress. The activities will start during the next reporting period. [MCB, All].

D5.3.3 Social media activities. Selection of subcontractor is in progress. [MCB, All]. A Facebook account is already active: (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/236262836837638/?fref=ts>)

A draft of Communication and Dissemination Strategy was developed, which includes dissemination channels and description of various products. **Task 5.3 under implementation.**

### 1.3 Identified deviations, problems and corrective actions taken in the period:

With the exception of deliverables D2.1 and D3.1, no other deviations have been observed in Months 1-6. D2.1 and D3.1 will be ready by M8. For D2.1, extra time is needed for the two-stage statistical analysis. For D3.1, a 2 month extension is needed in order to complete the Table of Inter-Institutional Agreements. The available recognized occupational profiles and skills required for blue professionals having vocational studies, as well as the authorities responsible in each country for their official validation were identified. In the case of higher education, there were registered universities participating in mobility programs that provide studies related to the blue sectors. Searching for bilateral partnerships was delayed, as the websites of several Institutions did not contain the information requested. **For this reason, D3.1 will be finalized by M8.**

## 2 Work plan for the next period

Planned activities in the next reporting period:

The planned activities for the next 6 months include actions for: D1.3 Risk Assessment [M9]; D1.4 Ethical monitoring and Contingency Plans [M9]; D2.2 Introducing a network connecting training centres and schools, to promote blue career paths [M12]; D2.4.1-4 Report and assessment of the effectiveness of the first Blue Career Fair in all participating countries [M12]; D2.5 Catalogue of the training/educational centres of the MEA of Shipping, Aquaculture, Cruise Tourism, Offshore Oil and Gas [M12]; D3.1. Finalisation of Framework for promoting mobility for Blue Sector courses [M8]; D3.2 Description and specifications for the cooperative network of training institutions [M12]; D4.1.1 Establishment of the Blue Career Centre (BCC) of East Med-Black Sea in Cyprus [M12].

## 3 Other issues

No other specific project-related issues emerged during the first 6 months.

## 4 Attachments

1) D1.1.1; 2) D1.2; 3) D.5.1.1; 4) D5.1.2