



Newsletter

Who We Are

The MENTOR Project at a Glance

- ▶ **Duration: 24 months - 1st March 2017 – 28th February 2019**
- ▶ **Total cost: EUR 689 762**
- ▶ **EC financial contribution: EU 551 810 (80%)**
- ▶ **4 countries participating:**



▶ 7 partners:

- University of Cyprus (UCY) - Cyprus
- Maritime Institute of Eastern Mediterranean (Mar.In.E.M.) - Cyprus
- Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) - Cyprus
- National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) - Greece
- Agricultural University of Athens (AUA) - Greece
- Marine Cluster Bulgaria (MCB) - Bulgaria
- Constanta Maritime University (CMU) - Romania

▶ 4 observers:

- Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport - Egypt
- Jordan Academy for Maritime Studies - Jordan
- Al-Manar University of Tripoli - Lebanon
- Istanbul Technical University - Turkey



- ▶ **Kick-off meeting: 22nd March 2017, Athens, Greece**
- ▶ **First consortium annual meeting: 1st - 2nd February 2018, Varna, Bulgaria**
- ▶ **Second consortium meeting: 18th October 2018**

What We Do

The Blue Career Centre of Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea (MENTOR)

is a project, implemented by a consortium of seven partners aimed at setting up a regional platform – the Blue Career Centre. This facility strives to promote the dialogue between business stakeholders, education & training institutions, research organizations, policy makers and the civic society. This would allow them to jointly develop and carry out measures to close the skill gap, tackle unemployment and make “blue careers” more attractive to young people of the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea regions. Along with the younger generation, another target audience of the project is the experienced workers. Both groups are aimed to be involved in key blue sectors described in



Maritime Sectors In The Focus Of The Blue Career Centre

Four marine and maritime economic activities have been selected as of strategic importance in the Eastern-Mediterranean and Black-Sea regions:

- ▶ **Maritime Transport** (shipping, ports, shipbuilding and ship repair)
- ▶ **Marine Aquaculture**
- ▶ **Cruise Tourism**
- ▶ **Offshore Oil and Gas**

Blue Career Centre Headquarters &

Secretariat: Cyprus

**Blue Career Centre Representations:
Bulgaria, Greece, Romania**

Blue Career Fairs

Recognizing the role of the close collaboration among marine training organizations and marine industry representatives in supplying competent work force, which meets the labour market expectations, the main objective of the Blue Career Fair events arranged by the MENTOR team is bringing together all three parties in a way that would be mutually beneficial for everyone. Employers, trainers and future employees participate in Blue Career Fairs promoting the professional networking and enhancing active communication. The professionals benefit from coming in direct contact with potential future employers that expose them to actual professional opportunities. The benefit of the employers is twofold, as firstly, they relay directly their needs to the available workforce, and secondly they assess directly the skill level of a sample of the available workforce.

Forthcoming Blue Career Fairs in 2018

- ▶ 19th October 2018, Constanta, Romania
- ▶ 30th November 2018, Athens, Greece
- ▶ Cyprus – date & location to be confirmed soon*
- ▶ Bulgaria – date & location to be confirmed soon*

* Follow MENTOR through our social media accounts listed at the end of the newsletter to get the latest updates

Blue Career Fairs held so far at a glance

- ▶ 27th October 2017, Constanta, Romania
- ▶ 5th December 2017, Athens, Greece
- ▶ 8th, 11th December 2017, Limassol & Larnaca, Cyprus
- ▶ 31st January – 1st February 2018, Varna, Bulgaria

In addition to the in-house arranged career fairs, the MENTOR project partners attended and participated in various other externally organized career events:



*Career Days
2018 at the
University of
Cyprus, Nicosia,
Cyprus, 24th –
26th April 2018*

MENTOR participated in the Career Fair event on April 26 with its own dedicated kiosk. The Career Fair was organized by the Career Office of the University of Cyprus. Representatives of Cypriot MENTOR Team discussed with interested students, provided guidance and answered questions regarding the aims of the project and the blue career prospects in Cyprus. The MENTOR leaflet was distributed to the students, while the new videos of MENTOR were shown.



*Career Fair at
the Cyprus
University of
Technology,
Limassol,
Cyprus, 19th
April 2018*

The MarInEM team participated in the career fair of the Cyprus University of Technology. The project had a

stand during the entire event and the MarInEM team members provided guidance to the participants, while they delivered a presentation on the aims of the project, the blue professions and the outcomes of the first deliverables of the project focusing on the blue career prospects in Cyprus.

Cyprus International "Education and Career" Fair 2018, 23th - 25th February 2018, Nicosia, Cyprus

Representatives of UCY and CCCI represented MENTOR at the Cyprus International "Education and Career" 2018 Fair, discussed with interested students about the blue careers, and answered to their questions. The exhibition was organized by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus, the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) – a MENTOR partner, the Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation (OEB) and the European Office of Cyprus (EOC), in cooperation with the British Council of Cyprus.



Dissemination Activities

The MENTOR project was represented and promoted by the consortium partners at numerous international and local events:

The MENTOR project & Other Blue Initiatives in Cyprus, University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus, 20th July 2018 – a workshop attended by MENTOR partners and a DG MARE representative, where various informative presentations were held in two separate sessions.



► **Cruise Sector in the EUSAIR Area: Challenges and Future Perspectives, Olympia, Greece, 27th June 2018** - The MENTOR coordinator presented the MENTOR project in this event organized by AI-NURECC, Ilia Chamber, the Region of Western Greece, and the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR).

► **Med Blue Growth Transnational Capitalization & Community Building Event, Athens, Greece, 21st June 2018** – a member of NTUA delivered a talk entitled “The contribution of education and training to the maritime cluster of Southern Europe” in which he also presented MENTOR, emphasizing the need of training personnel for blue growth.

► **Blue Growth Workshop, Sea days, Piraeus, Greece, 6th June 2018** – a representative of NTUA presented MENTOR at the workshop about Blue Growth during the “Sea days” of 2018, emphasizing on the future skills and qualifications in the context of upcoming technological challenges and the industry.

► **Training Career Counsellors for the NEET project, University of Nicosia, Nicosia, Cyprus, 29th May - 4th June 2018** – a member of CCCI team presented MENTOR and discussed with interested counselors about blue careers and answered their questions.

► **European Maritime Day (EMD), Burgas, Bulgaria, 31st May – 1st June, 2018** - a representative of MCB presented the MENTOR project during the pitch stage of Blue Growth projects.

► **The Association of Business Clusters in Bulgaria Meeting, Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 11th May 2018** – a representative of MCB delivered a short presentation about MENTOR project aims and activities. She emphasized on the biggest maritime event in the end of May 2018 – the European Maritime Day in Burgas, Bulgaria and invited clusters and their members to participate in. She discussed the possibility to organize visits to schools to present MENTOR project and Blue careers to students.

► **MATES Project Meeting, Athens, Greece, 9th May 2018** – a member of the NTUA presented MENTOR in the experts



group of MATES project and discussed the evolution of the required skills and competencies for blue professionals and how the MENTOR project will bridge the gap for high-skilled personnel in the selected Marine and Maritime Economic Activities (MEAs).

► **YoungShip Cyprus - LAW social event, Limassol, Cyprus, 4th May 2018** – a member of MARINEM team was invited to deliver a speech and share and impart his knowledge in relation to the shipping industry. The aims of the event is to raise awareness among the younger generation with regard to the maritime industry, opportunities of a sea or ashore based career.

► **MATES Project Workshop, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 26th April 2018** – a representative of NTUA presented MENTOR at the workshop and talked about future skills needs and gaps in Green Technologies for the Shipbuilding and Offshore Renewable energy sectors.

► **Workshop at the Technical Chamber of Greece, Athens, Greece, 8th March 2018** – a member of NTUA presented the MENTOR project and future trends with respect to engineer's



technical skills and behavioral competencies required for a successful career path in the Blue Economy.

► **ICS CYPRUS BRANCH - Annual General Meeting, Limassol, Cyprus, 27th February 2018** – The Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS, Cyprus Branch) was followed by a presentation of a MARINEM representative about the MENTOR project entitled “Mentoring for the sea”.



Forthcoming Events



Aqua Conference 2018, Montpellier, France, 25th - 29th August 2018 - a representative of AUA will present a new MENTOR poster at this global aquaculture event where participation is expected from more than sixty countries.

Consortium Meeting of the MENTOR project in Constanta, Romania, 18th October 2018 - A MENTOR consortium meeting will be held in Constanta, Romania where partners shall discuss the project progress, update the status of the ongoing actions, deliverables and forthcoming activities.

14th Black Sea International Conference on Marine Sciences and Technologies, Varna, Bulgaria, 10th - 12th October 2018 - The MENTOR project will be presented at the prestigious international conference that is open to scientists, businesses, industry representatives and maritime stakeholders.

MENTORing of Youngsters



MENTOR project partners arranged about 50 visits at high schools across Romania, Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria during the first half of 2018. The main objective of the events was to offer guidance to high school pupils regarding the Blue sectors. The invited speakers tried mentoring the high school students on becoming part of an international network of professionals, working in the Blue sectors. Another objective was to increase their awareness and properly inform them on job opportunities and relevant prospects. Presentations were held and leaflets were distributed among the attending students, as the provided career guidance was informatively relayed through a discussion with the

pupils. After the events, the interested students were prompted to provide their contact details so that they could be invited for future happenings and to be further advised on the forthcoming MENTOR e-learning courses to be developed within the project.



A visit at "Dimitrie Leonida" High School, Constanta, Romania, 14th March 2018, organized by Constanta Maritime University (CMU)



A visit at Fifth Language School "Joan Ekzarch", Varna, Bulgaria, 20th March 2018, organized by Marine Cluster Bulgaria (MCB)



A visit at "Costeas - Geitonias" School, 15th March 2018, organized by The National Technical University of Athens, Greece (NTUA)

Other interesting and innovative approaches to reach young audiences were employed by MARINEM & AUA. On 4th May 2018 a member of MARINEM was invited to deliver a speech and share and impart his knowledge in relation to the shipping industry at the YoungShip LAW social event at Diamante Blu, a high end café lounge bar and a subsidiary operation of the Demetriades Group in Cyprus. In the ambience of the old port of Limassol, next to the marina, this event aimed at raising awareness among the younger generation with regard to the maritime industry, the opportunities of a sea or ashore based career. A member of AUA attended an exhibition of student projects, entitled "The EPAL creates" in a form of a Multipurpose Room in the "Constitution" Metro Station, Athens, Greece, 7th - 10th February 2018. AUA presented a poster for the MENTOR project in the Agriculture section, distributed flyers and leaflets, and ran a short video in Greek for a video wall.



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