Seatraining Newsletter

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Editorial Comment

Seatraining to improve services in the marina industry

Training of staff at marinas and other watersports facilities has always been important, but the current growth in nautical tourism has created new challenges for marina and boatyard operators, which have a duty to ensure that their employees are competent to serve the needs of customers in a professional manner.

The aim of **Seatraining** - part of Europe's Leonardo da Vinci vocational training programme - is to provide marina staff with specific training to enhance their professional skills. Following a survey by Euromarina, a group of experts representing individual marinas, associations and federations have identified areas where training must be improved. The job functions in marinas have been defined, together with the minimum levels of proficiency to be achieved by candidates, for the proper performance of functions in Marinas and boatyards. **Seatraining** will formulate education programmes to address the needs of each job function so that all staff are trained to operate at a satisfactory level when judged by a common set of criteria...

Seatraining is based on the conclusions of Gesinports project, co-financed under the Interreg IIIC Community Initiative, which showed important training needs in this sector and a lack of European recognition of professionals working in the marina industry. It has also been inspired by the Maritime Policy Green Paper, which states the need to improve training in this sector. Particular areas have been identified for improvement, including the services offered to users, the establishment of sound environmental policies and the management of harbour operations, security and protection, as well as the modernisation of information technologies.

The need for safe practice in harbour operations, for example, has been emphasized by three recent events. At Cherbourg, France, a vehicle-mounted crane carrying a yacht fell on its side and across the English Channel in Portsmouth Harbour another crane collapsed across a boat at a sailing club whilst further down the coast at Portland in Dorset a 50 ton marine hoist carrying a steel yacht was driven on to a manhole cover, which collapsed under the weight.

Through co-operation between marina associations, training and research centers, and professional staff already working in the nautical sector, it is intended that **Seatraining** prescribes minimum mandatory requirements for training, assessment and certification in order to obtain the **EUROMARINA** certificates of competency to improve the effective delivery of high quality services in the marina industry.

(article published in Euromarina magazine)

Francesc Xavier Mangrané

Chairman of Euromarina

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Steering Committee Meeting in Catania

On 9th of June 2009 the partners of Seatraining held the 4th Steering Committee meeting in Catania (Sicily, Italy).

During this meeting, the partners presented the last results of the project: the edition, in Spanish and English, of the Catalogue of Job Posts in European Marinas and Sport Ports, the advances in the development of the curricular system or module training programmes for each job position of the Organisation Chart, as well as the Certification Plan for this training material.

Dissemination of the Project

The Seatraining Project has been disseminated extensively in the European Union since its beginning in November 2007

The dissemination activities have been carried out through press releases, articles, information sheets, seminars, trade fairs and other events related to the field of training and marinas.

Among the events in which the project has been disseminated in the last months, it is worth mentioning the Study Visit from Rumanian and Bulgarian Public Administration experts, in the framework of the community Programme TAIEX. During the visit, which took place the first week of June 2009, the FCVRE presented the European Projects developed in the Valencian Region in the social affairs and training sector.

Seatraining was present in the Tourism Trade Fair of the Valencian Region 2009, where more than 50,000 people attended to inform themselves about the touristic offer of the region.

Seatrainig was also disseminated at the Open Day of the Committee of the Regions. This is the main event where all the European institutions are opened to citizens. This year the meeting coincided with the Day of Europe (9th May). The President of the CoR, Luc Van den Brande, visited the official stand of the FCVRE.

Seatraining was also present in the European Institute of Public Administration's conference, held in Barcelona in May 2009.

On the other hand, the project has been disseminated through European networks and Internet social tools. The Assembly of European Regions (AER) as well as the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) have published information about Seatraining in their websites, as well as the most famous e-encyclopaedia Wikipedia.

Articles on Seatraining Project have been published in different media such as "The Nautical Magazine Skipper", "Valencia Maritima" and "Diario del Puerto", among others.

From the top to the bottom: Tourism Trade Fair, TAIEX visit, Openday in the Committe of the Regions, with the visit of the president of CoR, Luc van den Brande to the stand.

Education and Culture
Lifelong learning programme
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Results of Seatraining

Pilot experiences

The Project pilot experiences have already begun. The Spanish Federation of Yachting and Tourist Harbours Associations has been the first partner in developing these courses. The training seminar was held in the Nautical Club of Port d'Aro (Spain) from 11th to 14th of May.

The contents of the course consisted on a theoretical-practical training (18,5 hours during 4 days). It included subjects as mooring and boats control, port boats management, installations maintenance or equipments against fire and contamination, addressed to auxiliary sailors. The rest of the partners will develop the course during the next months.

Pilot course, May 2009

Curricular system

From the creation of the basic organization chart for the management of a Marina or yachting port, the project is developing a curricular system.

This system will consist on the creation of a training programme of modules for each job. In this way, the pupil could obtain the needed competences to work in every port and every position in which he has specialized.

Job Posts catalogue

The final version of the "Catalogue of Job Posts in European Marinas and Sport Ports" has already been published, in both English and Spanish. The catalogue develops a standard organization chart for the management of the nautical and yachting installations in Europe. Moreover, the catalogue explains the different foreseen job positions of the sector. The publication of the catalogue is an important step towards the appreciation of the different existing jobs in the sector.

The catalogue has been presented at the XI Conference of the Autonomous Regions Port Administrations, in June 2009.

Job Post catalogues

International Training Port Conference

Costanta, June 2009

The International Port Training Conference (IPTC) is a biannual meeting of experts in the field of Human Resources Development and Training in the Port environment.

The objective of the conference is to promote dialogue about the consequences of actual developments in the port industry for port-training, port-training programmes and port-training institutes.

The Conference 2009 was hosted by the STC Group of Rotterdam, and CERONAV-Romanian Maritime Training Centre, members of the IPTC and participants in the conference held in Constanta (Romania).

The DG for Energy and Transport of the European Commission and other international experts in transport have also participated in the conference.

FEPORTS disseminated the European project Seatraining during the conference. Moreover, FEPORTS also explained the European Project Optimus, which tries to develop a common approach for training using simulators in European ports

In any case, the participants were interested in both European Projects.

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European Maritime Day

In 2009 the European Commission, in partnership with the Italian Government, organised a European Maritime Day Stakeholder Conference in Rome (Italy) from 18th to 20th May 2009.

The European Maritime Day is an occasion to highlight the crucial role played by the Oceans and Seas and will contribute to a better visibility of the maritime sectors and more recognition of the importance they play in everyday life.

In Rome, institutions and stakeholders debated new approaches to managing our oceans, seas and coastal regions sustainably under the umbrella of one all-embracing integrated policy strategy.

The conclusions of the conference had shown once more, that the circulation of goods and people by maritime transport is becoming more and more an essential feature of the way forward for all countries.

Through a far-sighted approach, the European Union has always acknowledged that the sea transport sector plays a primary role. Through the identification and development of the "Motorways of the Sea" and through the initiative for a common European Maritime Transport Space without Barriers, the European Union has launched new effective and efficient ways of overcoming the challenges in this sector.

During the workshops, the subject of maritime security was also debated. This critical issue must be dealt with common and effective action by the Member States. This is an indispensible common action in order to reach concrete and tangible results.

The Integrated Maritime Policy, together with these various activities, is a real driving force for growth and sustainable development in coastal regions and of maritime sectors throughout Europe.

The sea-related sectors of the economy are very much affected by the global economic crisis. In order to overcome this crisis, we must invest in maintaining and further developing the maritime transport sector, ports and shipbuilding. The sustainable development of these sectors can be further enhanced by focusing more on green ships and green shipping.

To conclude, the sea represents a great opportunity and a challenge for research on issues such as the impact of climate change, environmental protection and sustainable fisheries, as well as maritime technologies and shipbuilding.

Final Conference of Seatraining

On 22th October 2009, the Seatraining Project will hold the Final Conference in Valencia, the city of the project's leader, FEPORTS.

During the Final Conference, the results of the project will be explained and different international and European experts will participate to it.

During the next months, the venue and the agenda will be defined and published in the web site of the Project www.seatraining.info