Bridging the gap between skills demand and supply in the maritime and marine sectors: MATES Project

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Are the marine and maritime sectors ready to fill the skills needs of their workforce?

MATES[*] is a Maritime Alliance for fostering the European Blue Economy through a Marine Technology Skilling Strategy (https://www.projectmates.eu). This project is part of the New Skills Agenda of the European Commission aimed at reducing the mismatch between the skills people are taught and the skills required to meet the needs of fast-changing labour markets. MATES' objective is to develop a skills strategy that addresses the main drivers of change to the maritime industry with particular interest in shipbuilding and offshore renewable energy. The workforce at both sectors requires new capacities to succeed in an increasingly digital, green and knowledge driven economy. Increasing the attractiveness of the sectors through a robust dissemination and outreach plan besides ensuring future adoption of the strategy is also foreseen. The skills strategy will be enriched and validated by experts and priorities will be identified in order to setup and test 11 pilot case studies on digital skills, green skills, mobility, innovation management, curricula development and ocean literacy. Additionally, Ocean Literacy initiatives will be carried out with an appropriate industrial perspective in order to refresh the image of the maritime industry addressing the youngsters and current workforce. The MATES consortium brings together a multidisciplinary partnership with the experience and expertise of 17 partners from eight European countries, coordinated by the Centro Tecnológico del Mar (CETMAR) Foundation of Spain. Ghent University, through the Marine Training Platform (www.marinetraining.eu) actively participates with expertise in the analysis of education and training needs as well as in the dissemination of events and training offers gathered by the project.

Keywords: Skills-needs; Shipbuilding; Offshore renewable energy; Blue-economy