Technology and digitalisation are transforming the shipping industry. ‘Smart’ ships are coming into service, creating demand for a new generation of competent, highly-skilled maritime professionals. Europe is a traditional global source of maritime expertise and the four-year SKILLSEA project is launched with the aim of ensuring that the region’s maritime professionals possess key digital, green and soft management skills for the rapidly-changing maritime labour market. It seeks to not only produce a sustainable skills strategy for European maritime professionals, but also to increase the number of these professionals - enhancing the safety and efficiency of this vital sector.

The future-proofing project is developed by the industry’s social partners, the European Community Shipowners’ Associations (ECSA) and the European Transport Workers’ Federation (ETF) and is comprised of a consortium from national maritime authorities, shipping companies, shipowners’ associations, maritime trade unions and maritime education providers from 16 countries in Europe.

**Key aims and objectives include:**

- Analysing the effect of technological developments on the industry’s skills requirements
- An even better match between the industry’s skills needs and the education and training of maritime professionals
- Overcoming barriers to the mobility of maritime professionals
- Improving cooperation and synergy between education providers, maritime authorities and the industry
- Ensuring that Europe retains a world-leading access to maritime skills and experience for improved competitiveness
Outline of the SKILLSEA project

**Develop: a pan-Europæan strategy on future skills for the maritime transport sector**

- Set up a framework for the sectoral skills strategy
- Deploy a tool for sharing knowledge
- Development and validation of the sectoral skills strategy

**Provide: future-proof education and training**

- Design, pilot and deliver a tool box with educational packages on VET
- Set-up a structural cooperation between Maritime Education and Training Institutes
- Present a guide for business/education partnerships

**Figure out: what skills does the (future) maritime transport sector need?**

- Analyse existing research regarding skills mismatches in the maritime transport sector
- Identify gaps and mismatches
- Measure the effect of clustering education and training
- Offer recommendations for education and training

**Spread the word: inform public, raise awareness and mobilise stakeholders**

- Set up a framework for the sectoral skills strategy
- Spread the word: inform public, raise awareness and mobilise stakeholders
- Work Package 4

**Implemen-**

- Ensure a sustainable implementation of the sectoral skills strategy
- Deliver a roadmap (long-term action plan) towards a sustainable skills strategy
- Work Package 5

**Give structure: project and quality management**

- Give structure: project and quality management
- Work Package 6