

## **PRESS RELEASE**

No. 2 / 26 May 2020

### **EUROPEAN RESEARCH CONFIRMS THE NEED FOR INNOVATION IN MARITIME EDUCATION**

Rotterdam - Digitisation and modern technologies have been rapidly changing the maritime sector in recent years. That is why European maritime professionals, both at sea and ashore, need more digital and soft skills to stay ahead of the industry. This is the result of a European research, carried out by SkillSea, into making and keeping the maritime sector future-proof.

The research report, written by experts from the Norwegian University of Science & Technology (NTNU) and Liverpool John Moores University in the UK, and with the assistance of other SkillSea partners, examined the main trends in the shipping sector: education, technological developments such as autonomous vessels and clean energy, collaboration between clusters and digitisation.

The report shows that more training should be given in sustainability, greening and digitisation. Future seafarers also need to develop soft skills in leadership and management. In addition, there is a need for transition programs that make the shift from working at sea to working on shore easier. Finally, the researchers recommend that the STCW training (the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers) be extended to include maritime law, corporate finance, autonomous shipping and other new technology-based skills. The research report is input for other Work Packages of the SkillSea project

You will find a summary of the report in the appendix. The [full report](#) can be found on the SkillSea website.

This research was conducted before the Covid-19 crisis and its lockdowns hit Europe. The crisis however, does not affect the conclusions of this report, yet the Covid-19 situation make the conclusions of the report even more relevant

#### **Note for the editor**

For more information you can contact Esther Ouwens Nagell, project member of SkillSea, [e.g.t.ouwens.nagell@stc-r.nl](mailto:e.g.t.ouwens.nagell@stc-r.nl), 0031 622 47 48 06. There is a picture available to use for publication. You can find it attached to this e-mail and it is also available by request.

#### **About SkillSea**

Social partners and educational institutions in Europe work closely together in the SkillSea project to ensure that maritime education better and permanently matches the needs of the maritime sector.

The SkillSea results help maritime educational institutions to continue to innovate their curricula and to tailor them to the needs of the sector. In addition to developing a sustainable skills strategy, SkillSea has the ambition to increase the number of these professionals and improve the safety and efficiency of this vital sector.

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, ship owners' associations, maritime trade unions and maritime education providers from 16 countries in Europe.

SkillSea is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

Visit [www.skillsea.eu](http://www.skillsea.eu) for more information about the project.