



Newsletter

What We Do

Blue Career Fairs "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 the following paragraph. Neighboring non-EU countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey are involved as observers.

Maritime Sectors In The Focus Of Blue Career Centre

An analysis of the needs of the local and regional labour market and

of the industry, including cross-border level needs has been performed and 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

Project Duration & Funding

The project was initiated in March 2017 and its activities will be implemented for a period of two years until February 2019. MENTOR is co-funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. The kick-off meeting of the partners took place in Athens, Greece on 22nd March 2017. The first Consortium Annual Meeting was held in Varna, Bulgaria on 1st – 2nd February 2018 as the project progress was discussed by updating the status of the ongoing actions and deliverables as well as the forthcoming activities.

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 is bringing together all three parties in a way that would be mutually beneficial for everyone.

Employers, trainers and future employees participate in a Blue Career Fair 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.

MENTOR 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

A Blue Career Fair in Constanta, Romania, hosted by Constanta Maritime University (CMU), 27th October 2017

The Blue Career Fair took place on 27th October 2017 at Constanta Maritime University headquarters in Constanta, Romania and accommodated marine professionals from various

marine economic sectors.

The event was divided into two sections as the first part of the day was dedicated to the presentation of the MENTOR project purpose and informational speeches followed by extended debates between employers, future employees (school learners, students and graduates) and local authorities, on the



Blue Career Fair in the Auditorium of Constanta Maritime University, Constanta, Romania

stakeholders' expectations on the marine field. The second part provided opportunities for networking and discussions with employers, being organized as exhibitors fair. A number of six institutions from Constanta presented their activities and expressed their interest in young employees. The job offers were communicated within the exhibitors' fair section. On this occasion, the future employees got in direct contact with employers benefiting from this great opportunity for networking and for having a conversation on a professional level. The event gathered together representatives of various marine economic sectors: crewing agents, port operators/logistic, cruise tourism/ travel agencies, marine aquaculture institutions, offshore oil & gas, representatives of public finances administration, territorial labor inspectorate Constanta and mass media. About 170 future employees from universities and high schools participated in the event. A number of 86 young people (15-18 years old) participated from different high-schools.

The Blue Career Fair organized by CMU brought together more than 200 participants. Their distribution showed equal interest of the high-school learners and students which might be a measure of awareness of career guidance needs. CMU considered that the promotion of the event was effective in time and visibility, providing stakeholders appropriate time for preparation and maximizing participation.

A Blue Career Fair in Athens, Greece, hosted by the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), 5th December 2017



1st Career Fair for Blue Professionals held in the Multimedia Centre of the National Technical University of Athens, Athens, Greece

The National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and in specific the Laboratory for Maritime Transport organized and hosted the 1st Career Fair for Blue Professionals for Greece in the Multimedia center of NTUA at the ground floor of the Central Library Building in the Zografou Campus. This event took place on Tuesday December 5th, 2017.

More than 130 people attended the career fair including 16 and 17 year old students from the "Theomitor" High School, undergraduate and postgraduate students from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), the Agricultural University of Athens (AUA) and the Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB), students from the Merchant Marine Academy of Aspropyrgos, along with young professionals from the blue sector.

Fifteen invited speakers discussed the required qualifications, relevant skills and the existing and future opportunities for taking up a career in the Blue economy and in particular in shipping, the offshore oil and gas industry, aquaculture or the cruise industry. The career fair also included a voluntary "career boosting" scheme which will be the start of a mentoring process for selected students and young professionals of the aforementioned domains.

The 1st Career Fair for Blue Professionals for Greece was concluded with an interesting discussion between the participants and a small reception as a thank you by the MENTOR Consortium.

Blue Career Fairs in Limassol & Larnaca, Cyprus, hosted by the Maritime Institute of the Eastern Mediterranean (MarInEM), the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), the Cyprus University of Technology and the Cyprus Maritime Academy, 8th December 2017 & 11th December 2017

The Blue Career Fairs were successfully held for the fifth consecutive year on 8th December 2017 at the Tasos Papadopoulos Building of the Cyprus University of Technology in



Limassol and on 11th December 2017 at the Cyprus Maritime Academy in Larnaca. More than 300 people attended both fairs, namely students, teachers and counselors from 14 public high schools of the Limassol and Paphos districts along with students of the Cyprus University of Technology, as well as from 11 public and private high schools of the Larnaca and Famagusta districts along with students of the Cyprus Maritime Academy.

A Blue Career Fair in Varna, Bulgaria, hosted by Marine Cluster Bulgaria (MCB), 31st January – 1st February 2018



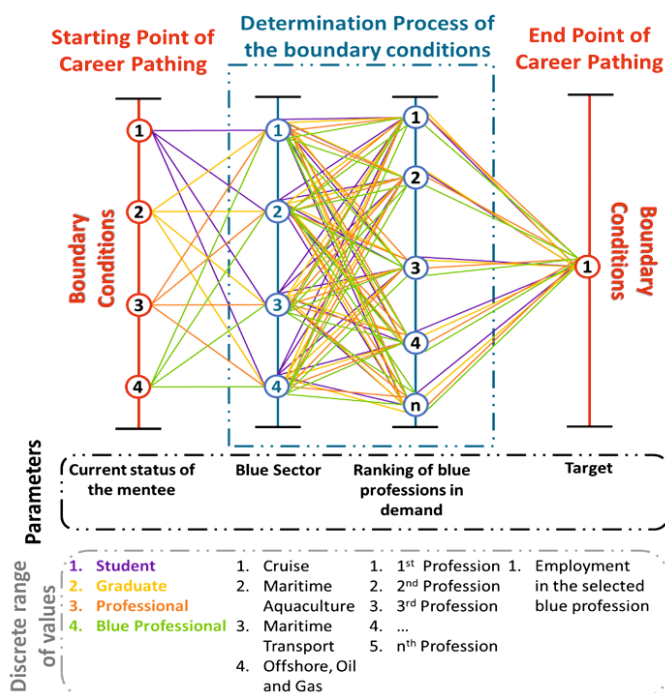
Marine Cluster Bulgaria organized the First Blue Career Days at the premises of the recently renovated building of Younashki Salon in Varna, Bulgaria, where local and international representatives of the academia and business circles discussed perspectives and opportunities of employment within the Blue economy professions.

The event was held on two consecutive days, 31st January and 1st February 2018, and encompassed four panels for discussion corresponding with the four key sectors of strategic importance for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea regions: maritime transport, cruise tourism, marine aquacultures and offshore oil and gas extraction. Blue Career Fair at Younashki Salon in Varna, Bulgaria, hosted by Marine Cluster Bulgaria, 31st January – 1st February 2018

During the two days of the fair about 330 participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the perspectives of three universities for training in blue sector programs, to meet and hold conversations with representatives of crew manning companies and local employers. The event was targeted at high school pupils, students and graduates working in the Blue economy, as well as people employed in sectors different of the Blue ones or temporary unemployed persons. The event hosted exhibition stands of Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy, the Technical University of Varna and the College of Tourism - Varna, as well as various marine and maritime companies were represented with booths at the specialized exhibitors' area.

Other MENTOR Activities & Participations

Mentoring Framework – 1st Step



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

- Conference Of European Maritime Research, Innovation And Competitive Growth Of Small And Medium Sized Enterprises, Varna, Bulgaria, 17th May 2017
- The European Maritime Day 2017, Poole, United Kingdom, 18th - 19th May 2017
- Challenges and Benefits of Offshore Aquaculture in the Eastern Mediterranean: a Workshop, Larnaca, Cyprus, 30th June 2017
- New trends for the Yachting sector in the Mediterranean area Conference, Marseilles, France, 11th - 12th October 2017
- Aquaculture Europe 2017, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 17th – 20th October 2017
- EUROPORT 2017, The International Exhibition For Maritime Technology And Complex Shipbuilding, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 7th – 10th November 2017
- Current Blue Growth Initiatives in Cyprus, onboard Thomson Spirit Cruise Ship, 22nd November 2017
- The UfM Regional Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy, Naples, Italy, 29th – 30th November 2017
- Numerous visits to lyceums in Cyprus and Greece in November & December 2017, where discussion on Blue Professions and the Blue Economy were held
- NTUA, AUA & Mar.In.E.M. visited and participated in the Blue Career Fair hosted by MCB in Varna, Bulgaria, 31st January – 1st February 2018



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Establishment of the Blue Career Centre (BCC) of the Eastern Mediterranean & Black Sea in Cyprus

The secretariat of the Blue Career Centre of the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea (MENTOR) Ltd. was registered in January 2018 by MarInEM in Cyprus. The successful operation of the first Blue Career Centre is expected to set an example and a model for all other sub-basins. A European network of Blue Career Centers may eventually be established, bringing together stakeholders of various European marine and maritime clusters in a common effort to close the skills gap, tackle unemployment and make Blue careers more attractive to young people of Europe.

The Career Guidance Framework

The Consortium partners developed the Career Guidance Framework aimed at mapping of the needs of the selected maritime economic activities (MEAs) and at the identification of the specifications for the construction of the personalised profile based on the occupational status of the mentoree.

A Framework for Promoting Mobility for Blue Sector Courses

The Framework for Promoting Mobility for Blue Sector Courses has been developed by MENTOR partners within Work Package No.3 in an effort to identify the necessary critical career skills for professionals in the Blue economy and to provide accessible pathways for facilitating career advancement and job mobility in shipping, cruise tourism, offshore oil & gas and aquaculture.

Consortium Meeting of the MENTOR project in Varna, Bulgaria, 1st - 2nd February 2018

MENTOR's annual meeting was held in Varna, Bulgaria as the project progress was discussed by the partners through updating the status of the ongoing actions, deliverables and forthcoming activities.



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