



Arab Academy
for Science Technology & Maritime Transport

The International Maritime
Transport and Logistics Conference
“Marlog 11”

Fostering Sustainable Blue Economy through regional cooperation and networking between educational and training infrastructure relevant to the marine and maritime professions and aligned with business needs

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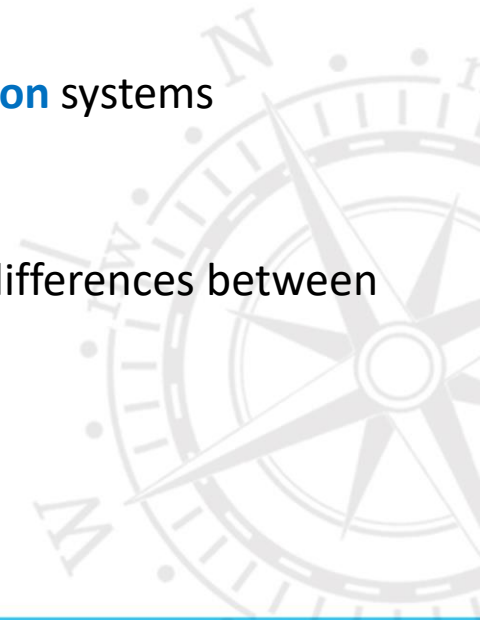
Towards a SUSTAINABLE **BLUE**
ECONOMY

20 - 22 March, 2022
Hilton Green Plaza Hotel



Maritime education and training in the Mediterranean: a very complex and fragmented landscape (1 of 3)

- **Variety of maritime economic sectors** involved:
- **Geographic diversity** and **big distances** across this large-scale sea basin
- **Differences** between **EU and non-EU countries**
- The coverage of both **higher education** and **vocational education** systems
- The **number and diversity of institutions** involved
- The **national specificity** of educational systems, including the differences between **public and private** sector involvement.



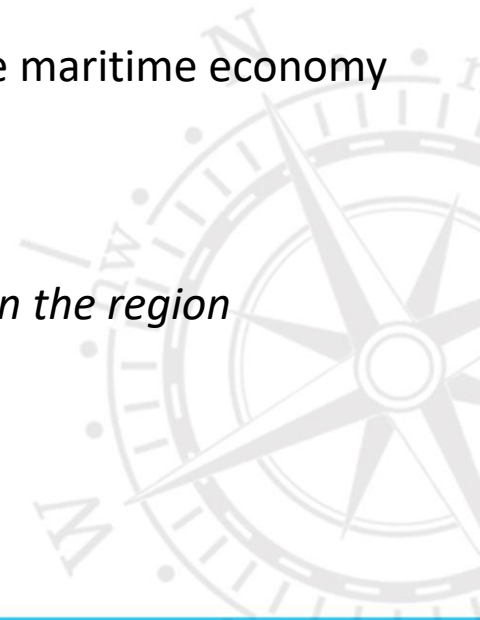
Maritime education and training in the Mediterranean: a very complex and fragmented landscape (2 of 3)

- Existing **curricula** offered in the Mediterranean sea basin are rather **traditional and conventional**.
- **Commercial initiatives** to close existing gaps.

Such opportunities are helping to respond to the needs of the maritime economy (e.g. shipping).

However, they do not help with:

- *building a modern maritime education and training offer in the region*
- *developing skills in smaller but upcoming blue sectors.*

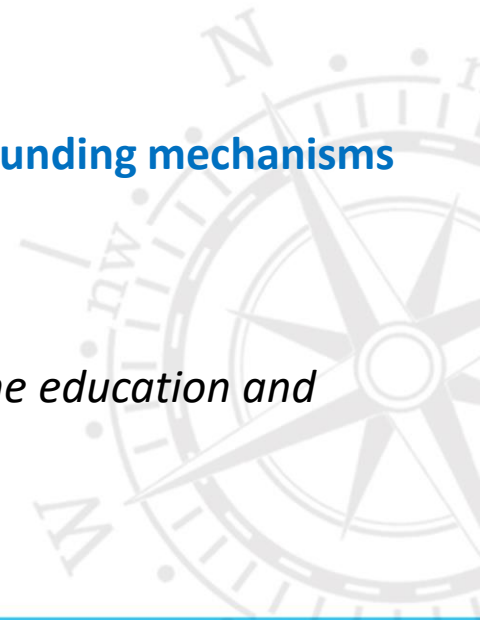


Maritime education and training in the Mediterranean: a very complex and fragmented landscape (3 of 3)

A landscape consisting of both project-based as well as structural initiatives

- In 2016, **fourteen networks** operating in the Mediterranean in the field of maritime education and training were identified.
- Several were **project-based**.
- Many of the project-based initiatives depended largely on **EU funding mechanisms** (challenges with regard to **sustainability**).
- Some more **structural bodies**

However, not specifically geared towards the broader maritime education and training offer in the Mediterranean.



Challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation and networking between educational and training infrastructure (1 of 4)

- Existing **international networks** are mainly active at the **higher** end of **education**, with **VET hardly being present** despite **most of the training offer concerns VET**.

Their prime focus for cooperation of higher education institutes (universities) lies more in research than on education: offering training courses is not their key focus.

This inhibits transfer of knowledge and innovation to enterprises.

Possible reasons for this are:

***Skills and qualification recognition** is more advanced in the higher education.*

- In the Mediterranean sea basin there are a number of training institutions providing training as part of **global training initiatives (international standards)**.
- Private institutions** are often better capable to cooperate with enterprises.

Challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation and networking between educational and training infrastructure (2 of 4)

- Maritime education and training involves **high capital costs** (teaching materials, training simulators, laboratories, vessels, etc.)
- The **financing structure** for the sector is **vulnerable**.
- **Longer term investments** needed
- **Cooperation** offers **economies of scale, sharing and pooling of resources**.



Challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation and networking between educational and training infrastructure (3 of 4)

...a range of barriers of a structural and/or practical nature:

- Variation in the **national characteristics** of maritime education and training, including its **public or private** nature
- **Mutual recognition of qualifications**
- **Insufficient capitalisation** on past experiences
- **Financial barriers**



Challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation and networking between educational and training infrastructure (4 of 4)

... and weak cooperation between North and South parts of the basin

- **Linkages** between educational institutions with the countries on the opposite side of the Mediterranean sea basin are **still weak** and, in many cases, non-existent.
- Obstacles in terms of **admission of students** and **visa requirements**.
- **Need for specific programmes** that foster mobility with third countries in education and research, as well as **common methods for the recognition of qualifications** in the maritime sector.
- This requires full confidence in the capacities, employability and performance of workers from across the sea basin.



3. Promising existing and emerging bottom-up initiatives (1 of 2)

Some examples of structural initiatives:

- Arab Academy of Science, Technology and Maritime Transport
- Escola Europea – Intermodal Transport
- Malta Marittima
- The Blue Career Centre for the Eastern Mediterranean
- A number of Mediterranean universities
- Etc.

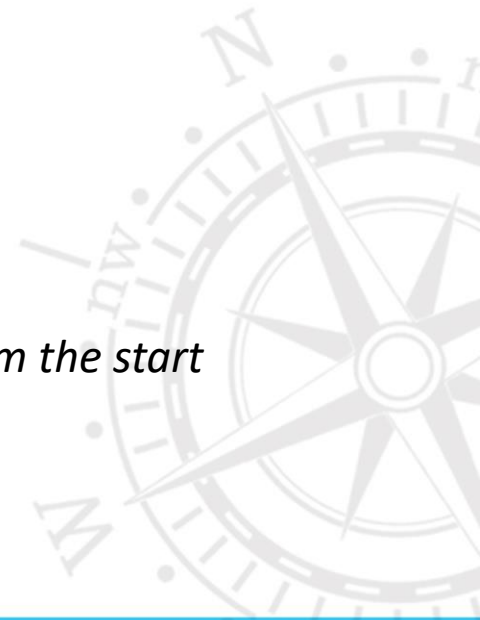
Some examples of project-based initiatives:

- ENI CBC Med projects: “YEP MED” , “TECH LOG”.
- UfM-labelled projects : “LOGISMED-TA”, “TransLogMED”.
- Other: “Cloud of Sea Careers in the Mediterranean (C3M)”.



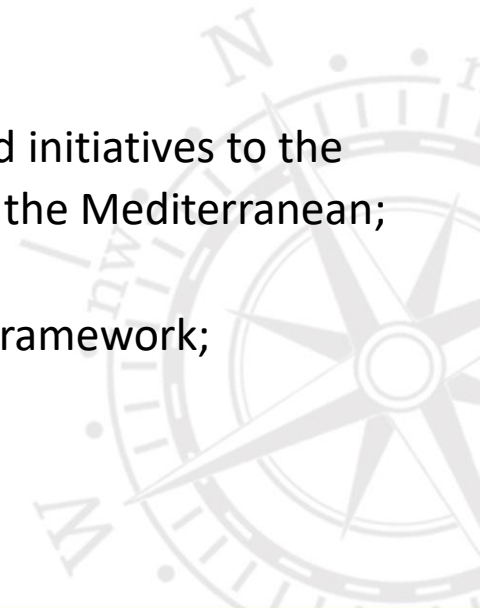
4. A possible way forward to strengthen cooperation and networking – principles for action

- **Principle 1:** *A need to increase attractiveness, modernisation and innovation*
- **Principle 2:** *Cooperation according to the triple helix is needed*
- **Principle 3:** *Think ‘global’ and act ‘local’*
- **Principle 4:** *Capitalise on existing or past*
- **Principle 5:** *Establish sustainable forms of cooperation right from the start*



5. Recommendations for international and national policy makers

- **Recommendation 1:** Build on existing cooperation – from the Mediterranean and beyond;
- **Recommendation 2:** Promote the visibility and take-up of existing programmes, initiatives and funds;
- **Recommendation 3:** Tailor mainstream programmes, funds and initiatives to the maritime education and training needs in the Mediterranean;
- **Recommendation 4:** Utilise the Union for the Mediterranean Framework;



6. Recommendations for maritime education and training professionals

- **Recommendation 1:** *Align quality standards across the Mediterranean*
- **Recommendation 2:** *Target real needs*
- **Recommendation 3:** *Carefully establish the right framework conditions*
- **Recommendation 4:** *Pool resources*
- **Recommendation 5:** *Build on experiences gained*
- **Recommendation 6:** *Engage with the private sector*
- **Recommendation 7:** *Develop Blue Career initiatives*
- **Recommendation 8:** *Create joint programmes*
- **Recommendation 9:** *Explore E-learning opportunities*



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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