



MarTEL Plus Project summary

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The MarTEL Plus project complements and extends the recently concluded Leonardo da Vinci MarTEL project. The MarTEL project has been extremely well received and was invited to present their results at the 2010 IMO STW41 session. The MarTEL project created the first international Maritime English standards for Officers and Port Officials in the Merchant Navy in a response to the need for a set of international standards to be created in the 2006 IMO STW meeting. These standards have now been created and are expected to be implemented in Maritime Education and Training (MET) sectors across Europe shortly. At present there are no Maritime English standards other than those developed recently by MarTEL and MarTEL does not

include standards of Maritime English for maritime workers and seafarers below the rank of Officer i.e. Ratings. In the 2010 IMO STW41 meeting, the training requirements for ratings were revised in line with new competence requirements for officers of watch for inclusion in the revised STCW-95 Convention and Code. Therefore using the standards already created for Officers in the MarTEL project, the MarTEL Plus project will create an additional standard for Maritime English at foundation level for Ratings (Phase R). This additional standard will not only improve safety at sea and in ports but it will also transfer the knowledge developed throughout the MarTEL project to a wider target group thus increasing the usability of the MarTEL standards.



This project is particularly timely for Turkey where there is a shortage of officers but huge surplus of ratings many with no or little knowledge of Maritime English. OECD in 2003 reported that Turkey had some 1024 ships with a demand for officers of 16208 with an officer supply of 13602, a shortage of 2606. With regards to ratings the demand was noted to be 19747 with a supply of 45929, a huge surplus of 26182. Although the situations in other countries are somewhat different nevertheless the BIMCO/ISF 2005 manpower update estimated the worldwide demand for seafarers is 420,000 Officers and 599,000 Ratings concluding that there is a shortage of 16,000 Officers. MarTEL Plus is expected to provide Ratings in Turkey and indeed anywhere in Europe with the opportunity to upgrade their education through standards such as MarTEL Phase R and hence the

