

SeaTALK

June 2013 Newsletter



Creation of a Qualification Framework for Effective Communication at Sea

Summary

Shipping is a major industry; in fact it is believed that as much as 90% of world trade is carried out by the sea. The recognised language of the sea is Maritime English, yet a review of International Maritime Organisation (IMO) requirements shows that there is no requirement for seafarers to have a qualification in Maritime English.

The SeaTALK project has two main objectives:

- To establish a harmonised comprehensive framework of Maritime English Education and Training, where a standards approach to teaching, learning and assessment of qualifications through Europe is established for each type and rank of seafarers.
- To establish Maritime English ECVET model for mutual recognition and transparency of learning outcomes and competences. The framework will take the IMO and EU requirements into consideration as well as incorporating the achieved outcomes of recent EU funded Maritime English research and development projects.

The Maritime English Framework will be developed in conjunction with major awarding, accrediting and professional bodies as well as licencing authorities. Hence, it is expected to receive international recognition.

1st Partner Meeting

The 1st partner meeting was held and hosted by two SeaTALK partners: the University of Antwerp and Antwerp Maritime Academy, at the University of Antwerp on 21st and 22nd February 2013.

The project partners came together with an aim to establish a harmonised comprehensive framework for Maritime English, where a standard approach to teaching, learning, assessment and transparency of qualifications in Europe will be established for each type and rank of seafarers.

Discussions took place about the SeaTALK framework, taking the IMO (IMO Model Course 3.17) and EU requirements (ECVET) into consideration as well as the outcomes of recently completed EU funded Maritime English projects such as MarENG, MarENG Plus, MarTEL, MarTEL Plus and CAPTAINS.

The project coordinator and work package leaders presented their work packages explaining



SeaTALK partners upon completion of first day of the partner meeting

recent project activities allocating activities to be carried out prior to the next partner meeting in Malta, alongside European Maritime Day in 2013.

An ECVET expert attended and presented at the meeting elucidating ECVET principles to the partners to support the partners' work in developing the SeaTALK framework, using ECVET principles. The presentation was well received by partners.

A survey which is being conducted in all partner countries, and possibly other countries, was discussed. The survey investigates the detailed Maritime English Training Courses offered by Maritime Universities/Institutions/Training Centres. Since the learning outcomes and the number of credits assigned to Maritime English differs from country to country, and even among Maritime Education and Training (MET) institutions of the same country, the consortium intends to gather information on some basic common ingredients in the Maritime English learning outcomes that play a significant role in assigning credits to the course. For instance: attendance and continuous assessment and activities during the classes.

If you are a maritime education and training institution and run Maritime English courses and would like to take part in our survey, here is the link to participate:

<http://www.c4ff.co.uk/limesurvey/index.php?sid=62717&lang=en>

A Maritime English Language Competence Grid linked to CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is being developed for each type and rank of seafarers such as Ratings/Officers/Senior Officers in both Deck and Engineering disciplines. This will be linked to the descriptors of CEFR in terms of the linguistic competences required. Ultimately, it will form the basis of the Maritime English Training Modules and contribute to the proposed ECVET model.

2nd Partner Meeting

The 2nd Partner meeting took place in Malta at the Mediterranean Maritime Research and Training Centre (MMRTC) alongside the European Maritime Day (EMD) 2013. All project partners were present at the partner meeting.

The meeting discussions centred around the following topics:

- Project aims and objectives
- SeaTALK Survey
- Competency Grid
- SeaTALK Workshop at IMEC25 Conference
- IMO and EU requirements
- Quality Manual and Management

- Website and Partner Shared Area



SeaTALK Partners during first day of SeaTALK partner meeting



Visit to MMRTC simulator rooms

An article entitled “Project SeaTALK: Developing an Online English Language Course for Seafarers” was submitted to the Turkish Shipping Magazine by the Turkish Partner - Piri Reis University.

A number of other dissemination activities are also taking place by partners. Updates will be added to News section of the SeaTALK website in due course.

The next partner meeting is planned to take place on 27th and 28th September in Istanbul, alongside the International Maritime English Conference (IMEC25).

Dissemination and Workshop at European Maritime Day

The SeaTALK partners attended the European Maritime Day conference, organised by DG MARE to disseminate the SeaTALK project to the delegates, including policymakers and decision makers. The project coordinator, Centre for Factories of the Future (C4FF), organised a workshop entitled “Maritime Tourism – Education – Innovation” in the stakeholders’ day of the EU Maritime event. The Europe Maritime Day event as a whole was well attended, and over 50 delegates attended the SeaTALK workshop itself.



Dr Martin Ziarati (Director at C4FF) presenting MariFuture platform including SeaTALK to audience

Professor Ziarati referred to deficiencies of current maritime education and training standards and inconsistencies in the IMO conventions, including English Language problems and communication failures, supporting the work of SeaTALK. Dr Martin Ziarati provided a summary presentation on SeaTALK as well as the recently completed projects supporting SeaTALK's development.

Captain Professor Janusz Uriasz and Captain Heikki Koivisto presented a number of activities and projects that will be used to aid the development work of the SeaTALK project.



Professor Reza Ziarati opening the session

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For more information please visit:
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SeaTALK partners:



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