



What is UniMET

UniMET intends to unify the core of Maritime Education and Training (MET) of seafarers based on the STCW and incorporate the good practices in the partner institutions with an aim to disseminate and exploit these programmes across Europe and Worldwide. The UniMET programmes are being cross- referenced with the existing IMO Model courses to ensure the UniMET programmes comply with IMO standards. Recent changes introduced by IMO (in 2010) affecting the STCW have been included in the UniMET programmes. Any new relevant local, national, European and international requirements or updates have been incorporated, or are either being studies for inclusion, into UniMET Programmes. UniMET aims to go beyond the STCW (the minimum standards set by the IMO) and promote higher standards and good practices. A quality assurance and control system based on good practices in the partner institutions will be used for the delivery and sustainability of the UniMET programmes. This newsletter reports on the developments which took place after the publications of the first newsletter. The project partners worked hard after the kick-off meeting and completed their tasks successfully. The project has a very demanding programme of work and extensive efforts have been exerted to the dedicated work plan of the project in order to make sure all aims of project the project are realised in full.

Updates

First Partner meeting (Kick-off meeting) was held by the host of C4FF, Project Coordinator, in Coventry, UK in February, 2012. All UniMET partners joined the conference discussing the project proposal, contractual arrangements and future progress of the project. Partners thoroughly discussed the rationale and

background of Maritime Education and Training (MET) in Europe including the existing VET standards at partner institutions, good practices in existing MET programmes, latest changes to STCW 2010 (known as Manila changes) and related developments. Second Partner meeting was held in Klaipeda, Lithuania at Lithuanian Maritime Academy. All UniMET partners joined the conference discussing the progress made and future plans of the project. UniMET Steering Committee was established having composed of members from partner countries, chamber of shipping, employer associations, and awarding, accrediting and licensing bodies. The role of the Steering Committee is to support the UniMET partners in ensuring that the deliverables meet the European, national and local requirements of maritime industry. If you anyone, with extensive knowledge and experience of MET, wishing to become a member of the Steering Committee, please let us know by sending an e-mail thro' info@unimet.pro. Five short questionnaires were developed to gather the view of the existing users of the UniMET programmes and on its constituent elements. The questionnaires are accessible through UniMET website. If you are involved with the UniMET programmes or are using any of its constituent elements, please follow the link to provide your feedback at: http://www.unimet.pro/Questionnaire.aspx. A full report was produced outlining the local and national requirements in each partner country. This is achieved by cross-referencing method used to find the 'pluses' and 'minuses' in partners programme. The report is available to partners, associated partners as well as relevant agencies such as awarding, accrediting, and licensing and to the partner countries' government officials.

This project has been funded with the support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the view of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

















Continuous feedbacks are being received from the partner MET institutions regarding how they deliver the UniMET programmes in their institutions. This is achieved through 6 monthly reports on:

- Programme management and delivery ¤
- ¤ teaching and assessment issues
- student progression and achievement Ø
- reviewing the learning resources ¤
- student support and guidance ¤
- reviewing of any areas of concern or good practice ¤
- quality improvements and enhancements ¤
- sampling of students assessed work ¤

Due to a demand noted by partner countries when EMSA inspectors were visiting two of the partner MET institutions a new requirement had to be considered for inclusion in the above list. This requirement relates to the need for design of the programme and its organisation providing an opportunity for any new changes to be incorporated in the programme if need be.

In their recent meeting of the partners it was decided to raise a series of key questions relating to the programme design process or develop a set of criteria for it.

A unique Quality assurance and control system is being developed for the delivery of vocational programmes based on existing quality systems in place in partner MET institutions and the Quality system developed by TUDEV which in turn is based on the BTEC/Edexcel. Project website was produced and is available at www. unimet.pro. The website was translated into all partner languages. The project website has attracted a through interest from the target audience. The project also was disseminated in several local and international conferences such as IMLA19, IMEC23 and was received well, for instance, almost all IMLA 19 participants took part in the UniMET workshop. A number of project articles, conference papers as well as a project leaflet were produced to support dissemination activities; all these publications are available at project website.

Several conferences, seminars and workshops are being planned to exploit the UniMET programmes. The first UniMET conference took place as planned in December 2011 in London, UK. The information on registration and more information are available at http://www.unimet.pro/ Conference.aspx.

More information on the progress of the project

More information about UniMET: Centre for Factories of The Future, Coventry University Technology Park, Coventry CV1 2TT, UK Tel: +44 (0) 24 76 236734 Email: info@unimet.pro; Website: www.unimet.pro

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