

**MariFuture: European Platform for Maritime Education, Research, and Innovation****Foreword**

The MariFuture partners have been warning the worldwide shipping community for many years about ship officer shortages. In a proposal to the EU, MariFuture, gave a detailed account of the situation – see for instance the ATTRACT-ME proposal. Although ATTRACT-ME scored a high grade and Marifuture was given assurances that the project would be funded, the EU changed its stance and decided not to fund the project. This decision by the EU was regrettable!

The BIMCO/ISF reports of 2005 and 2010 also clearly predict officer shortages around the world giving similar reasons to the ATTRACT-ME proposal.

In recent years, MarEdu ([www.maredu.co.uk](http://www.maredu.co.uk)), and MariFuture, have been working on several projects trying to reduce the impact of ship officer shortages and improve the quality of seafarers already working in the industry – See MarEdu and MariFuture projects in the **Project** section of their specific websites.

In a recent announcement ECSA have also expressed concerns about shortage of qualified labour on board EU-flag ships. In its report ECSA argues that the relative attractiveness of the seafaring profession has steadily declined over the years, partly due to the fundamentals of the profession (such as long periods of time away from home) and partly due to misperceptions and a general lack of information. The IMO and to some degree the EU have failed to make current qualified seafarers more mobile by not acknowledging and working to fix the difficulties seafarers have in getting their qualification accepted by any other state other than their own. **After all, if IMO's STCW requirements are met by all member states, why do these member states not respect each others' qualifications?**

MariFuture through several projects such as Safety On Sea (SOS) and UniMET has sought accreditation from major and internationally respected awarding bodies for its qualifications. Marifuture has also helped create opportunities for cadets and seafarers from its member states to seek higher education or employment in other countries. Examples of these actions are given in articles on the MariFuture website's Articles Section:

[http://www.marifuture.org/Publications/Articles/A\\_lifetime\\_opportunity\\_for\\_graduates\\_of\\_maritime\\_II.pdf](http://www.marifuture.org/Publications/Articles/A_lifetime_opportunity_for_graduates_of_maritime_II.pdf)

[http://www.marifuture.org/Publications/Articles/A\\_lifetime\\_opportunity\\_for\\_graduates\\_of\\_maritime.pdf](http://www.marifuture.org/Publications/Articles/A_lifetime_opportunity_for_graduates_of_maritime.pdf)

We must also try to make life on board more fun and create opportunities for seafarers at to learn and improve their skills and qualifications while at sea.

Professor Reza Ziarati

Founder - MariFuture Platform

Chairman - Centre for Factories of the Future (C4FF)

Vice Rector - Piri Reis University (PRU)



## Progress Report

### Contents

Introduction.....	2
SeaTALK (Creation of a Qualification Framework for Effective Communication at Sea)...	2
ACTs (Avoiding Collisions At Sea) .....	3
MarTEL (Maritime Tests of English Language).....	3

### Introduction

The following paragraphs report on the progress being made by MariFuture partners in January 2014 concerning the SeaTALK, ACTs and MarTEL projects.

#### **SeaTALK (Creation of a Qualification Framework for Effective Communication at Sea)**

The SeaTALK project is progressing well.

The 4<sup>th</sup> SeaTALK partner meeting will take place on 6 - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in Istanbul Turkey at Piri Reis University. During this meeting, the development of modules and learning materials for each rank of seafarer will be discussed. The possibility of including a separate module and learning materials for Electro-Technical officers will also be discussed. Furthermore a training session for SeaTALK assessors regarding the MarTEL Tests will take place.

A number of learning materials to support the SeaTALK training modules for each rank of seafarer are being developed with input from all partners. These learning materials will be evaluated during this partner meeting and a standard format will be decided to go further.

Several dissemination and exploitation activities are being conducted by the partnership across Europe. Recently an opportunity has arisen to promote the SeaTALK project in Italy. C4FF and PRU were invited to Genoa between 9-12 February to meet with multiple key stakeholders in the Maritime Shipping and Education Industry. This visit will involve giving a lecture about SeaTalk and Maritime English Teaching and Testing at the prestigious Propeller Club in Genoa, the project representatives will have face to face meeting with members of Costa Crociere and a Genoese IMO (International Maritime Organisation) Maritime Academy.

Costa Crociere is the company which owns the 'Costa' line of cruise ships, including the Costa Concordia which was wrecked off the coast of Isola del Giglio in Italy on 13 January 2012 with 30 lives lost. In subsequent accident reports poor communication between the crew and passengers has been highlighted. As a result of this SeaTalk representatives have been invited to meet with the Head of education and training, and the Senior Vice President (Maritime Development and Compliance) at Costa Crociere to discuss the SeaTALK project and improvements to Costa Crociere's professional tests and training courses for Maritime English in their sea-going employees.

The SeaTalk representatives will also be meeting with an IMO Academy in Genoa to discuss how SeaTalk could be incorporated into their Maritime English Curriculum. They have also



## Progress Report

indicated a willingness to support the SeaTalk project through piloting certain aspects of the SeaTalk outcomes.

More information on the progress of this project is available in the February 2014 Progress Report.

### **ACTs (Avoiding Collisions At Sea)**

The ACTs project is progressing well and the partners are working hard to carry out the tasks as assigned in the first partner meeting.

A questionnaire aiming to identify knowledge gaps and deficiencies in the application of Colregs is now online. If you are a seafarer, teacher, student or expert in the area, we invite you to contribute to the ACTs questionnaire at [www.ecolregs.com](http://www.ecolregs.com). The questionnaire is divided into 2 parts: one for professionals with the other for non-professionals. The questionnaire is also available in several languages.

A number of ACTS workshops will be held in each partner country to validate the results/findings of the questionnaire. The list of the partners that will be hosting workshops is below:

1. **University of Rijeka (UoR)**, Croatia (Contact: Djani Mahovic: [dmohovic@pfri.hr](mailto:dmohovic@pfri.hr))
2. **Piri Reis University (PRU)**, Turkey (Contact: Prof. Dr. Reza Ziarati-[rziarati@pirireis.edu.tr](mailto:rziarati@pirireis.edu.tr))
3. **Centre for Factories of the Future (C4FF)**, United Kingdom (Contact: Mr. Ugurcan Acar [ugurcan.acar@c4ff.co.uk](mailto:ugurcan.acar@c4ff.co.uk))
4. **Nicola Vaptsarov Naval Academy (NVNA)**, Bulgaria, (Nikolai Velikov - [velikovn@yahoo.com](mailto:velikovn@yahoo.com))
5. **Seateach, Spain**, (Contact: Mrs. Silja Teege- [email@sea-teach.com](mailto:email@sea-teach.com))
6. **Spinaker d.o.o. (SPIN)**, Slovenia, (Contact M.sc. Tomaž Gregorič - [tomaz.gregoric@spinaker.si](mailto:tomaz.gregoric@spinaker.si))

If you are an expert in the subject, a master mariner, a seafarer, student, or have experience in teaching Colregs please contact the ACTs partners to join our workshops.

The findings of the questionnaire, accident reviews and workshop results will be presented in a report identifying the training needs regarding Colregs within the overall MET programmes of the partner countries.

More information on the ACTs project will be available in the February 2014 Progress report.

### **MarTEL (Maritime Tests of English Language) – [www.martel.pro](http://www.martel.pro)**

The MarTEL tests will be launched by mid-April 2014. The MarTEL Team is currently in contact with several interested institutions, companies and individuals who are looking to launch MarTEL around the world in 2014. The Director of MarTEL will be visiting Genoa in Italy between the 9th and 12<sup>th</sup> February for MarTEL related meetings and presentations with several key stakeholders in the Italian Shipping Industry and Maritime Education Sector.



## Progress Report

The MarTEL team is working to update the supporting materials for the MarTEL Centres who will be running the MarTEL Tests and/or Training Courses. They are also working on updating the MarTEL website for their customers' ease of use.

The MarTEL partnership welcomes contact from all interested parties, including seafarers of all types and ranks, maritime industry experts, professionals and organisations, and those institutions or companies who have an interest in becoming an Approved MarTEL Centre.

For more information, please visit the project website - [www.plus.martel.pro](http://www.plus.martel.pro).

More updates about MarTEL will be included in the February 2014 progress report.

**Report by Officer Ugurcan Acar – C4FF**

**Reviewed by Faye Mundy – C4FF**

**Edited by Professor Dr Reza Ziarati - PRU**