



## «Maritime Health Trainings for Seafarers and Doctors »



### ERASMUS+ KA2 - Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices KA202 - Strategic Partnerships for Vocational Education and Training

The project titled as “**Maritime Health Trainings for Seafarers and Doctors – MariHEALTH**” approved by Turkish National Agency ([www.ua.gov.tr](http://www.ua.gov.tr)) and funded by European Commission under the framework of Erasmus+ Programme KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Vocational Education and Training (VET) as a Development of Innovation is coordinated by Maritime Faculty of **Istanbul Technical University**.

The members of consortium of this project are **University of Strathclyde** situated in Glasgow-United Kingdom, **Constanta Maritime University** located Constanta – Romania, **General Directorate of Health for Border and Coastal Areas of Turkey**, headquarter in Ankara, Turkey, **UCTEA Chamber of Marine Engineers** centered in Istanbul, Turkey, **Orka Informatics** established in Istanbul, Turkey and expanded to London, United Kingdom, and **A.P.&A. Limited** centered in Glyfada, Greece.



This project has been funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. However, European Commission and Turkish National Agency cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Maritime profession, due to the diversity of risks involved and harshness of working conditions at sea, is acknowledged to be among the one of the most dangerous professions in the world. Seafarers are mandated to spend their work hours and their leisure time saved for relaxing at the end of work day on shipboard. This reality shows that in their work and leisure times, the seafarers are exposed to various hazards and risks. To name a few; threats originating from chemical and biological materials, harsh weather conditions, physical challenges, a range of different critical operations, machine operations combined with dangers and risks stemming from harsh working environment and unsatisfactory health conditions. In relation to the above-listed risks and hazards, the limited medical means in particular, insufficient medical intervention and saving service may lead to a more critical nature for any potential accidents occurring at sea. Maintaining optimal medical conditions for seafarers can be directly effective in preventing risks related to safer navigation at sea. MariHEALTH project; by elevating scope and quality of the health services offered to seafarers, aims to be the leader in forming maritime health domain and to play vital role in the identification of criteria to increase medical status of seafarers on an international scale. Targets of this project, based on the interest and business scopes of relevant associates, have been attentively selected as summed up hereinafter:

- The main objective is to design web-based e-learning/training platform for seafarers and maritime doctors that focuses on advanced medical intervention practices on-board ship. Thanks to the distance education program this objective will remedy current knowledge gaps, update existing knowledge and develop practical skills of seafarers to perform better even in the toughest cases requiring medical intervention. In this context, medical training modules for seafarers is developed to improve their first aid skills and knowledge as well as keeping them up to date.
- One of the other targets will be, updated basic-level first aid training program will be provided to keep first-aid skills and knowledge of seafarers. This Program will assist seafarers in putting basic life saving techniques into practice and knowing how to tackle with emergency cases
- Devising a medical training program in progress to remedy the maritime–related knowledge gap of doctors issuing seafarers’ medical reports and certificate doctors familiar with unique conditions to sea life has also been listed as one of the project goals.

In order to fulfill aforementioned aims and targets, a robust consortium was established including three maritime specific-university, one national public body dealing with maritime health affairs, certifications, medical trainings, etc., one research and development company handling IT works, one international seafarers manning agency and one civil society organization (camber of marine engineers). The profile of the participants were established by considering strong relationship

with the scope of MariHEALTH project. The participants are qualified marine lecturers, maritime doctors, research and development software specialist, maritime health regulatory bodies and seafarers (crew) manning professionals. The project activities are including management, implementation and dissemination of the output. Regular meetings, press releases, managing social media are one of the fundamental activities undertaken in MariHEALTH project. The expected results of the project are to enhance medical knowledge level of seafarers as much as possible to perform medical intervene easily to the patients on-board ship, to develop e-training courses (web-based e-learning/training platform), to design mobile phone application, to improve medical consciousness of seafarers and maritime doctors, transform theoretical medical knowledge into high- quality practice training and to increase knowledge level of maritime doctors about shipboard working environment as well as marine-specific injuries, diseases and illnesses.

The envisaged impacts of the projects are that a unique online training course modules under web based e-learning/training platform is created and the medical knowledge performance of seafarers and maritime doctors can be evaluated via MariHEALTH project. The potential longer benefits of the projects are recognition of training program by European sea transportation operators will not only raise health consciousness of seafarers to the end of making them more knowledgeable, but it will also immensely contribute to train maritime doctors. Since the project offers an improvement on training modules for maritime doctors and seafarers, it can be the first unique internationalized web based e-learning platform and mobile smartphone application. The project will be completed in 24 months (2020-2022).

You can get more information about the project from the project website:

[www.marihealthproject.eu](http://www.marihealthproject.eu)

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