

# generation BALT

## Practical marine education for the changing maritime sector

### 1. Project background

Besides the traditional maritime industry sectors (shipbuilding, navigation and fishery), the so-called **New Maritime Sector** is emerging globally as a powerful future labour market. Most frequently mentioned are in this context the marine energetics, offshore construction and exploration, aquaculture, bioenergy, maritime safety and law, production of hydrocarbons, desalination, blue biotechnology, mariculture or maritime spatial planning, modern harbour management and development, environmental engineering and protection.

UK, Norway and some regions of Germany (Schleswig Holstein with their Sea-Our-Future initiative) are aware of this trends and are dynamically developing into leaders in NMS. This sector has however large potential also in the South Baltic Region, provided they find here sufficient number of **highly skilled professionals** and **innovative entrepreneurs**.

Our region has a relatively large offer on **higher education possibilities**. Almost every Baltic university offers some sort of **marine-related courses**, such as marine ecology, marine physics, shipping, navy, fishery or recently increasingly also the maritime policy and spatial planning. Unfortunately, present education style and contents frequently do not prepare for the challenges of the future.

Gdansk region alone produces around 150 oceanography graduates every year, majority of who find no employment in this area. In consequence, there are many older **unemployed** or unrelated employed persons with a maritime background, whose potential is not sufficiently used. At the same time, especially in the regions affected by the highest unemployment it is becoming more and more difficult to find highly skilled professionals. Whereas most marine-related educational offers focus on science and humanities, a growing deficit can be observed in the supply of engineers. Those in turn are frequently trained on a **too narrow technical specialisation**, and are not sufficiently aware of the interrelations between technology, ecology, economy and policy. These interdisciplinary skills together with language knowledge and/or management skills are a prerequisite for a successful competition on maritime labour markets.

Development of an effective system for **supplementary education** and re-qualification is therefore a common challenge. It should better reflect the world-wide observable **shift from industry- to knowledge-based economy**.

Project idea is based on the following assumptions:

1. The South Baltic Region maritime educational offer is large, but not always reflecting the job market conditions
2. After identifying the problems and potentials (SWOT), an optimisation could be achieved by a synergy of existing potentials

**The project aims at creation of a South Baltic cooperation of higher-education institutions with each other and with labour market agencies in order to enable their graduates' career in the New Maritime Sector (NMS).**

The **cross-border aspect** is a important one: the labour market will be treated in the region as a whole. Problems can be solved jointly by producing synergies and exchange programmes. Experience should be drawn also from other regions, such as North Sea (UK, Schleswig-Holstein), Finland or Spain. The project should not fight against the inevitable phenomena such a job migration and 'brain drain', but support graduates in realising their personal goals and adapting to the changing global market conditions.

While regional disparities, risk of unemployment and social exclusion will probably increase in future, the solution can be only in creativity, innovation and internationality.

## 2. Activities

First of all, the project has to **define, what is NMS**, and what jobs does it include.

Then, a comprehensive **labour market assessment** (supply and demand) for certain old and new maritime sectors. The supply analysis will consider the region as a whole, but also the individual countries / sub regions. The demand analysis will moreover take into account the most significant job markets for NMS outside of the South Baltic Region. It would be probably also interesting to include some jobs of 'old' maritime sector as comparison.

After concluding on the gaps in higher education, a **complementary offer will be planned and realised**, tailored to meet individual, local and regional needs.

This will include organisation match-making activities:

- o **internet job portal** (similar to Maritime Skills Alliance in the UK) for the new maritime sector employees and graduates
- o organisation of **internships**
- o organisation of **job fairs**, exhibitions and other events where students and industry could meet

Promotional activities: creation of **information material** for students and high-school pupils advertising the NMS opportunities

Planning of a **post-graduate / master course**: curriculum, degree accreditation, target students, academic staff, duration, location, financing schemes

In the third year of the project: conducting of a **pilot course**. Evaluation

## 3. South Baltic Programme

The **South Baltic Programme** is a multilateral cross-border cooperation donor programme offering co-finance for transnational projects involving the following regions: Poland (powiaty Szczecinski, Koszalinski, Slupski, Gdanski), Sweden (Kalmar, Blekinge, Skane Counties and Kronoberg County), Germany (Greifswald, Rostock, Stralsund, Wismar, Bad Doberan, Nordvorpommern, Nordwestmecklenburg, Ostvorpommern, Rügen and Uecker-Randow), Denmark (Bornholm and Zealand) and Lithuania (Klaipeda, Taurage and Telsiai Counties).

The South Baltic Programme is co-financed by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Total budget of programme is 75 m EUR, which is divided in several calls between 2008 and 2013.

Our project is planned to be submitted within the **6th call of proposals** which deadline is the **16<sup>th</sup> of December 2010**. Project duration will be probably **June 2011-December 2013**.

The project fits exactly into Priority **1.2 Integration of higher education and labour markets**, and here the activity which calls for *„Joint actions of labour offices, business organisations, unions and educational institutions for the preparation of practical solutions in the field of education and lifelong learning, adaptable to changing requirements of the labour market and its advancing integration in the South Baltic area“*.

**The project idea has an outstanding affinity with the programme requirements, and fills the gap not used in the former calls of the SBP, nor any other programme in the region! It also received extremely good feed-back at the preliminary consultations with the programme secretariat.**

#### 4. Funding

Project budget can reach **1 Mio EUR on total**, which gives **up to 200.000 EUR** average budget per Partner assuming it will have around **5 partners**.

The co-financing rate for the Polish, Lithuanian and German partners is 85%, for Swedish and Danish partners 75%. All activities have to be **pre-financed** by partners, and money is refunded by the EU in 6-month intervals. **Own contribution** can be also understood as personal costs and, to some extent, overhead office-running costs.

Upon project application, all partners have to **declare the availability of their own contribution** (e.g. in case of a total individual budget of a German partner of 100.000 EUR, own contribution will be 15.000 EUR). This is the **only formal document** required for the application phase.

**WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR PARTNERS!!!! Preparatory meeting in Rostock on 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2010.**

For more details, please contact:

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We are consultants contracted by the Lead Partner to develop the project application. We speak Polish, German, Swedish, Russian and English.

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