

MarineTraining.eu – Towards tomorrow's new blue challenges in Europe's Marine and Maritime education landscape

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Currently, a skills gap exists between the marine and maritime industry sector and graduated workforces from higher education and vocational training. In order to bridge that blue growth gap, the Belgian node of the European Marine Biological Resource Centre - a distributed European Research Infrastructure Cluster (EMBRIC-ERIC, of which Belgium is an associate partner through Ghent University, University of Hasselt, Royal Belgian institute of natural sciences and the Flanders Marine Institute) has set up a platform that brings together all available marine trainings at a European scale, and provides a series of services towards training organizers and policy makers.

This comprehensive database focusses on higher education institutes (both universities and university colleges) and collects existing marine training initiatives for each country, ranging from master and doctoral programmes, to expert trainings and specialist courses. The platform is expanding gradually by including also non-accredited training initiatives (for instance, research institutes and industries) and via involvement in other European projects and networks. Services in the Marine Training Platform include advertising possibilities, practical services to trainees and training organizers (application and registration) and the support of marine dedicated e-learning initiatives.

Consequently, the Marine Training Platform will enhance competitiveness and innovation capacity of the maritime and maritime value chain by filling specific skills' gaps between education offer and industry needs, in particular to processes, which are critical for ensuring sustainable growth and to increase employability and the capacity of the blue growth sector to retain qualified workers and attract new talents.

In other words, the Marine Training Platform is the one-stop-shop

- for trainees in search of European Marine and Maritime training initiatives,
- for trainers in search of assistance for organizing European Marine and Maritime training initiatives,
- for stakeholders in search of insights into European Marine and Maritime training initiatives.

For more information: www.marinettraining.eu

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