

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 institutes. In order to bridge that 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 both on higher education institutes and vocational education institutes and collects existing marine training initiatives for each country, ranging from vocational education programs, master and doctoral programmes to expert trainings and specialist courses. The platform is expanding by including non-accredited training initiatives via involvement in other European projects and networks (MATES, RIGHT, ...). Services of 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.

The Marine Training Platform also promotes the use of innovative technologies. Since 2017 we have been organizing workshops about using Arduino in marine sciences. Arduino is an easy-to-use hardware and software platform with endless possibilities on reading data captured with sensors and controlling connected instruments. Via this hands-on training workshops students learn to implement this technology and get an understanding of the possibilities of the platform and the potential use in research. A next edition of this workshop is planned in spring 2019 (to be announced on marinettraining.eu).

Ultimately, the Marine Training Platform wants to enhance competitiveness and innovation capacity of the marine and maritime value chain by closing the skills gap between training offers and industry needs.

Marine Training Platform is Europe's leading website for:

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

For more information: www.marinetraining.eu

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