



Blue Skills in Malta

Bridging the Skills Gap
through Education and Ocean Literacy

12 May
2022



WestMED National Event
Organised by the WestMED National Hub Malta and the Malta Maritime Forum
Venue: Sa Maison House, Sa Maison Hill, Floriana, Malta and Online

AGENDA

- 08:30 | Registration**
- 09:00 | Welcome and Introduction**
Hon. Aaron Farrugia, Malta's Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects
- 09:10 | Opening Remarks on Blue Skills**
Judge Emeritus Joseph Zammit McKeon, Chairperson, Malta Maritime Forum
- 09:20 | Opening Remarks on Ocean Literacy**
Perit Karmenu Vella, Former Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
- 09:30 | WestMED Initiative**
Ms Lucienne Meilak, National Coordinator for Malta, WestMED Initiative
Ms Annabel Vella, National Hub for Malta, WestMED Initiative
- 09:45 | Current State of Play of the Industry's Demands and Skills Gaps**
Mr Joseph Bugeja, Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer, Transport Malta
- 10:00 | Identification of Skills Gaps in the Maltese Maritime Industries**
What are the current and future skills needs and what are the missing skills?
Moderation by Dr Ann Fenech, President of the Malta Maritime Law Association & Vice President of the Comite Maritime International (CMI)
- Presentations by Industry Operators:**
- **Ship repair industry**
Ms Angelique Abela, Executive Chairperson, MMH Malta Limited
 - **Cruise industry**
Mr Mark Cauchi Garzia, Head of Operations and Projects, Valletta Cruise Port plc



- **Terminal Operations**
Mr Alex Montebello, Chief Executive Officer, Malta Freeport Terminals
- **Auxiliary Services**
Captain Jesmond Mifsud, Chief Pilot, Malta Maritime Pilots Cooperative Limited
- **Aquaculture sector**
Mr George D. Mantas, Business Development Director, AquaBioTech Group

Open Discussion

11:15 **Addressing the Skills Gaps through Training, Education and Research** *What are the skills envisaged from a supply-side and what is the experience of educational and training on the design of curricula to match the industry's skills needs?*

Moderation by Mr Kevin J. Borg, Chief Executive Officer, Malta Maritime Forum

Presentations by educational and training institutes :

- **SEA-EU Blue Economy Observatory**
Dr Lisa Pace, Senior Lecturer, The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation, University of Malta
- **MaritimeMT**
Captain Edwin Vella, Principal, MaritimeMT
- **Malta Mooring Masters Cooperative Ltd**
Captain John M. Dalli, Malta Mooring Masters Cooperative Ltd
- **MCAST**
Mr Eugenio Busuttill, Deputy Director, Centre for Maritime Studies, MCAST
Ms Kimberly Terribile, Senior Lecturer, Centre for Agriculture, Aquatics and Animal Sciences, MCAST
- **Malta's Smart Specialisation Strategy and the Platform for Mediterranean Research and Innovation (Plumtri)**
Mr Omar Cutajar, Director, Policy, Strategy and Internationalisation, MCST
Ms Sandrine Borg, Executive, Internationalisation, MCST

Open Discussion

- ▶ *How can the educational sector address the skills gap?*
- ▶ *What measures can the industry take for the reskilling/upskilling of its workers?*

12:15 **Lunch Break**

13:15 **Blue Skills, Careers and Jobs Initiatives by the Union for the Mediterranean**

Ms Adriana Salazar, Blue Economy Expert; Water, Environment and Blue Economy Division, Union for the Mediterranean



13:30 | Increasing the Attractiveness of Blue Careers through Ocean Literacy

Moderation by Dr Stephanie Vella, WestMED National Hub for Malta

- **Pillar II: Blue Skills of the Future and Ocean Literacy | Atlantic Action Plan**
Dr Marta Pascual, WestMED National Hub for Spain
Dr Ana Noronha, Coordinator of Pillar II of the Atlantic Action Plan
- **Ocean Literacy Initiatives in Malta**
Prof. Alan Deidun, Member of Horizon Europe Mission Board for Healthy Oceans & Malta's Ambassador for Ocean Governance
- **The Role of Youth in Ocean Literacy**
Mr Yacopo Baldacchino, Public Relations Officer, National Youth Council
- **The role of NGOs in Ocean Literacy**
Mr Andrew Schembri, Co-founder and Chairperson, NGO Żibel

14:15 | Final Remarks and Closing

WestMED National Hub for Malta and Malta Maritime Forum