



Newsletter

Who We Are

The MENTOR Project at a Glance

- **Duration: 24 months - 1st March 2017 – 28th February 2019**
- **Total cost: EUR 689 762**
- **EC financial contribution: EU 551 810 (80%)**
- **4 countries participating:**



- **7 partners:**

- University of Cyprus (UCY) - Cyprus
- Maritime Institute of Eastern Mediterranean (Mar.In.E.M.) - Cyprus
- Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) - Cyprus
- National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) - Greece
- Agricultural University of Athens (AUA) - Greece
- Marine Cluster Bulgaria (MCB) - Bulgaria
- Constanta Maritime University (CMU) - Romania

- **4 observers:**

- Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport - Egypt
- Jordan Academy for Maritime Studies - Jordan
- Al-Manar University of Tripoli - Lebanon
- Istanbul Technical University - Turkey



MENTOR is a project, implemented by a consortium of seven partners aimed at setting up a regional platform – the Blue Career Centre. This facility strives to promote the dialogue between business stakeholders, education & training institutions, research organizations, policy makers and the civic society. This would allow them to jointly develop and carry out measures to close the skill gap, tackle unemployment and make “blue careers” more attractive to young people of the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea regions. Along with the younger generation, another target audience of the project is the experienced workers. Both groups are aimed to be involved in key blue sectors described here below.

Maritime Sectors In The Focus Of The Blue Career Centre

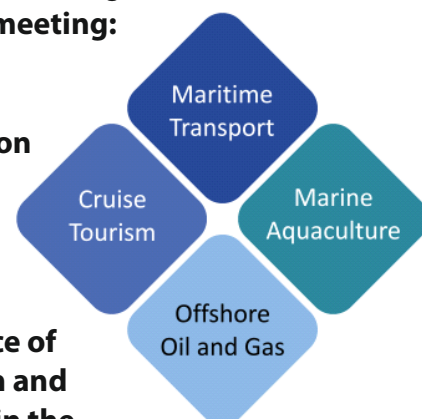
Four marine and maritime economic activities have been selected as of strategic importance in the Eastern-Mediterranean and Black-Sea regions:

- **Project kick-off meeting:**

**22nd March 2017,
Athens, Greece**

- **Project completion**

**meeting: 19th
February 2019,
Nicosia, Cyprus,
following the First
Regional Conference of
Maritime Education and
Training Providers in the
Eastern Mediterranean and Black
Sea regions – 18th February, Nicosia, Cyprus**



ΓΕΩΠΟΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ
AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS



The Blue Career Center Headquarter and Representations

The MENTOR team welcomed 2018 with the exciting news of the establishment of the secretariat of the Blue Career Centre (BCC) of the Eastern Mediterranean & Black Sea in Cyprus registered successfully in January 2018. This action was consequently followed by the foundation of three BCC branches in Bulgaria, Greece and Romania.

Each subsidiary designed and set up their own organizational structure, legal form, operational procedures, communication strategy and tools towards the target groups – school children, higher education graduates or persons with a vocational/technical qualification to maritime professions and the society.

The career centers will provide information and guidance on the “Blue career” path that target groups are interested to follow and the respective educational and professional requirements/skills that they need to fulfill/develop. Representatives of the Centers will visit schools in order to inform directly teachers and students about the BCC initiative and the “Blue careers”. The Blue Career Centers will also organize workshops, seminars, information days and local Blue Career Fairs in cooperation with professional associations, educational and research institutions, companies and government departments whose activities fall within the Blue Economy. Members of the BCC will also offer voluntarily their time and expertise to participate in ongoing committees, special projects, or presentations at workshops and conferences, representing the BCC in those occasions and informing the participants/attendants on the objectives and activities of the BCC network.



BLUE CAREER CENTRE (MENTOR) - BULGARIA

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BLUE CAREER CENTRE OF EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA (MENTOR) LTD

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BLUE CAREER CENTRE - ROMANIA

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(Nautical Base CMU)
Constanta, Romania
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BLUE CAREER CENTRE - GREECE

Innovation, Entrepreneurship and
Technology Transfer Office at
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The Second Edition of the Blue Career Fairs

Following the successful first round of the Blue Career Days in 2017, a second edition of these employer -employee matchmaking events was arranged by the MENTOR project partners from October until December 2018 in the four participating countries. Employers, trainers and future employees participated in the second round of the Blue Career Fairs promoting the professional networking and enhancing active communication.

First Edition of the Blue Career Fairs in 2017-2018

- > 27th October 2017, Constanta, Romania
- > 5th December 2017, Athens, Greece
- > 8th, 11th December 2017, Limassol & Larnaca, Cyprus
- > 31st January – 1st February 2018, Varna, Bulgaria

Second Edition of the Blue Career Fairs in 2018

- > 19th October 2018, Constanta, Romania
- > 15th November 2018, Varna, Bulgaria
- > 30th November 2018, Athens, Greece
- > 11th December 2018, Nicosia, Cyprus
- > 13th December 2018, Larnaca, Cyprus
- > 14th December 2018, Limassol, Cyprus



The 2nd Blue Career Fair in Romania took place on the 19th October 2018 in Constanta, Romania, at the premises of Constanta Maritime University. The Blue Career Fair brought together representatives of port authorities, port operators, maritime training centres, employers, marine professionals, professors, students and high school learners. The event provided the opportunity for students and high-school students to discuss with Blue Economy specialists. More than 330 participants attended the fair.

Marine Cluster Bulgaria hosted the second Blue Career Fair in Bulgaria, which took place in Varna on 15th November 2018. The event gathered more than 250 participants, filling the capacity of the “Yunashki salon” Hall in the city centre. Participants from high schools and universities received useful information on career opportunities in the Blue Economy. Further they met business representatives and were consulted how to apply for a job in various maritime sectors. MENTOR partners from Constanta Maritime University participated in the event. A networking session for students and staff was organized, as well as a visit to the Naval Academy to get acquainted with the infrastructure and simulators.



The 2nd Blue Career Fair in Cyprus started in Nicosia at the University of Cyprus and continued in Larnaca and Limassol on December 13th and 14th, respectively. The fairs were organized by the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry and MARINEM.

Blue professionals talked to an audience of high school students from the Nicosia district. Five university students from Greece also had the opportunity to attend. Professor Nikolaos Ventikos (NTUA) talked about maritime professions and Dr. Niki Chartosia (UCY) about the prospects of marine aquaculture. Other speakers kindly presented the fields of shipping-cruise tourism and offshore oil and gas.



The 2nd Career Fair for Blue Professions took place in the Auditorium of the Conference Centre of the Agricultural University of Athens, on November 30th between 10:00-13:00. This was organized by the Laboratory of Applied Hydrobiology of Agricultural University of Athens (AUA) and the Laboratory for Maritime Transport of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA). Key representatives dealing in the field of aquaculture and maritime transport were invited to participate and attend the event aiming at showcasing the major contribution of EU funding to regional development and achieving sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors by overcoming the shortage of skilled personnel.

Dissemination Activities

The MENTOR project was represented and promoted by the consortium partners at numerous international and local events:

- **HydroMediT 2018, Volos, Greece, November 8-11, 2018**

Professor Eleanna Miliou and Dr. Evanthia Chatzoglou presented a poster of MENTOR PROJECT at the 3rd International Congress on Applied Ichthyology and Aquatic Environment (HydroMediT 2018)



- **Seminar 'The 4th Industrial Revolution: The Future of Work and Career Orientation', European University, Nicosia 5th October 2018**

Mrs. Monica Andreou (CCCI) participated in this seminar which was co-organized by the EUROGUIDANCE CYPRUS NETWORK and the European Lifelong Guidance and Policy Network. She presented the outcomes of the MENTOR project and future blue career jobs.



- **Postgraduate Studies Fair 2018, University of Cyprus, Nicosia, October 11th, 2018**

The MENTOR project participated in this event organized by the Careers Office of the University of Cyprus. The students also had the chance to visit the Oceanography Center where an Open Session was held from 11:30 to 12:00. The event offered students and graduates the opportunity to learn about the options they have to proceed their postgraduate studies at Universities in Cyprus and abroad.

Dr. Anastasios Matsikaris and Constantina Mageirou, (UCY) talked to interested students and graduates about Blue Careers, distributed MENTOR flyers, and answered questions regarding the aims of the project.



- **The "Tourism and Innovations" International Conference, 14th September 2018, College of Tourism - Varna, Bulgaria**

The event was devoted to the 55th anniversary of College foundation. The Conference was attended by approximately sixty participants and guests - professors, PhD researchers and students from all universities and colleges in Bulgaria with study programs in tourism, as well as from universities in Slovakia, Poland, Romania. Ms. Genka Rafailova delivered a short presentation about MENTOR project's aims and activities. She pointed on the cruise tourism sector and the Blue Career Centres as a tool to involve young people to choose blue professions for their career development. She discussed further with the audience about the links between the innovations, education and careers in cruise tourism.



- **XIV International Conference on Marine Sciences and Technologies "Black Sea 2018", 10th - 12th October 2018, Festival and Congress Centre - Varna, Bulgaria.**

The conference was dedicated to the 110th anniversary of the Varna Scientific and Technical Unions and the 45th anniversary of the Institute of Oceanology - Varna. The event gathered scientists mainly from the Black sea basin countries. The event included 6 main topics: shipbuilding and ship repair, ship hydrodynamics, machinery and propulsion system, maritime transportation and port operations, oceanology and marine education.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Petar Georgiev presented to the audience the aims of the MENTOR project and its specific objectives, to overcome the challenges related to the education and skills in the project area regarding marine and maritime "Blue Growth" sectors.

He pointed on the alarming statistics referring to the number of early leavers from education and training and the aim of the Blue career centre to play a connecting role between young people and business, by involving students to start a career in the maritime economy and by offering career guidance and mentoring.

• **Pilot Seminar: Required soft skills and behavioral competencies for blue professionals based on practice, NTUA, Athens, 17th January 2019**

The seminar was organized by NTUA and took place at the teleteaching room of the central library of NTUA at 15:00. After an introduction by Professor Nikolaos Ventikos (NTUA), Mr. Georgios Lykos, a Navy officer (also a PhD candidate in NTUA), talked to graduate and undergraduate students about soft skills and behavioral competencies required so to achieve successful maritime career development for maritime professionals. Special attention was given to effective communication, teamwork between multidisciplinary groups and leadership.



— Consortium Meeting, 18 October 2018, Constanta, Romania —

The meeting took place in the premises of Constanta Maritime University (CMU). Thanks again to professors Costal Stanca and Nicoleta Acomi for organizing the meeting and their hospitality.

The hosts also offered a tour to the labs and simulator rooms of CMU. The MENTOR partners discussed the project progress, updated the status of the ongoing actions, deliverables and forthcoming project completion activities.



First Regional Conference of Maritime Education and Training Providers, 18 February 2019, Cyprus

On 18th February 2019 the University of Cyprus hosted the First Regional Conference of Educational and Training Providers in the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea regions. This event also marked the completion of the two-year MENTOR project that address various issues of harmonization of training programs within the Blue economy on a regional level.

The one-day event gathered representatives of all participating project countries – Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece and Romania, as well as from the observer states - Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Distinguished professionals in the field of the maritime education and policy makers discussed the challenges in the maritime training and the modern requirements of the skills for Blue employees.

The conference covered a vast array of topics ranging from challenges in defining new competencies in blue careers, industry needs and education opportunities in the shipbuilding and ship-repair sectors, knowledge and skills for aquaculture jobs, exploiting the human big data, marine

renewable energy and its potential in the Mediterranean Sea. Representatives of the project observing countries from Lebanon and Jordan discussed the maritime education and training opportunities within their local contexts, while the Turkish project observer elaborated on maritime education and existing projects in Turkey.

The conference took place at the main campus of the University of Cyprus, hosting more than 20 speakers from 7 different countries, supporting conscience-building among their population for pursuing a career in the sectors of the Blue Economy.



— Final consortium meeting, 19 February 2019, Nicosia, Cyprus —

The meeting took place in the premises of the University of Cyprus. Twenty representatives of the project members attended the meeting, devoted to the final review and assessment of the Mentor project, and the last pending deliverables of the project. Professor Georgios Georgiou, project coordinator, welcomed the participants.

Regarding the future activities of the established Blue Career Centre, an Advisory Group, consisting of two representatives per participating country has been agreed.

All partners discussed on the Reports and assessment of the effectiveness of the second Blue Career Fairs. They agreed that the presentations should be more attractive for the students.

The partners intend through the BCC centre to continue in the next years hosting the career fairs, with the help of sponsors.

Further the participants reviewed the First Regional Conference of Maritime Education and Training providers and discussed ideas for the future events.

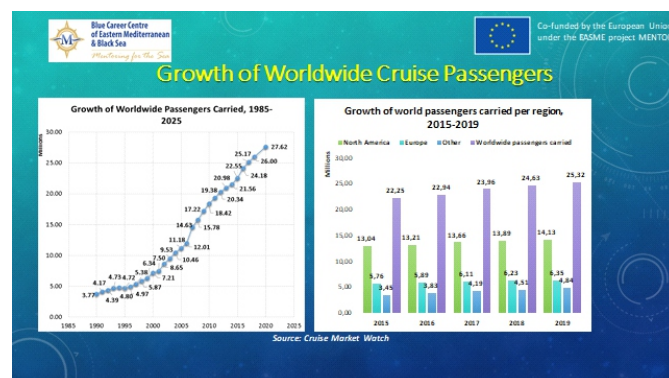


e - Learning Courses

e-Learning courses were developed as the best tool for addressing the educational and training needs of tech-savvy professionals by incorporating a wide array of digital technologies. The e-learning courses aim at the familiarization of students with the selected maritime sectors. During the e-learning courses significant information

for the concept of Blue Growth, the economic overview, the required academic qualifications, the necessary technical skills and behavioral competences and the potential job opportunities for a successful professional career in the mentioned sectors is presented.

The e-learning courses are available on the project website.



www.bluecareers.org



bit.ly/2CwhbjU



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company/blue-career](https://www.linkedin.com/company/blue-career)



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