



SHORT PRESENTATION OF THE EU VASCO DA GAMA PROJECT

The project “VASCO DA GAMA: TRAINING FOR GREENER AND SAFER MARITIME TRANSPORT” is led by the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (www.crpm.org). It started its activities on December 2013 after it was approved by DG Move. It is cofinanced by the EU.

The main general objectives of the project are to promote quality of education and training in the maritime transport sector; launch the bases for European mobility for students, trainees, instructors and Increase cooperation between industry and European educational and training actors to improve seafarers’ competences and adapt to the requirements of the shipping industry. As a result, promote the attractiveness of maritime professions.

More precisely, by bringing together Regions, Maritime Training Institutes (METS), Clusters and relevant representatives of the shipping industry, VDG mainly aims to:

Update the skills of people working in the European shipping industry. Aiming to enhance the competitiveness of EU seafarers and engineers, the project covers specific challenges affecting EU shipping such as: how to improve safety on board (barriers related to human factors; links between the hierarchy and the management of risk, etc...) and how to reduce maritime pollution related to shipping activities (need to improve recycling water systems, etc.);

Improve mobility of students across Europe. Although today, at European level, programme initiatives for student mobility already exist, efforts must be still made in order to achieve a “critical mass” in the area of maritime economy. To do that, the Vasco Da Gama project will encourage communication and collaboration among the maritime education and training institutions (METS).

Youth mobility is a unanimously recognised as a mean to tackle the lack of attractiveness of maritime careers.

The VDG project is organised in 4 operational work packages:

Work package 1 “Training for Maritime Safety”: This work package aims to secure the future skills of seafarers through the design and testing of a cross-national sustainable shipping Master Programme within a network of European Maritime Academies.

Work Package 2 “Maritime Simulators”: This work package includes a diversity of activities addressed to the development of training with maritime simulators based on the experience of relevant European training institutes.

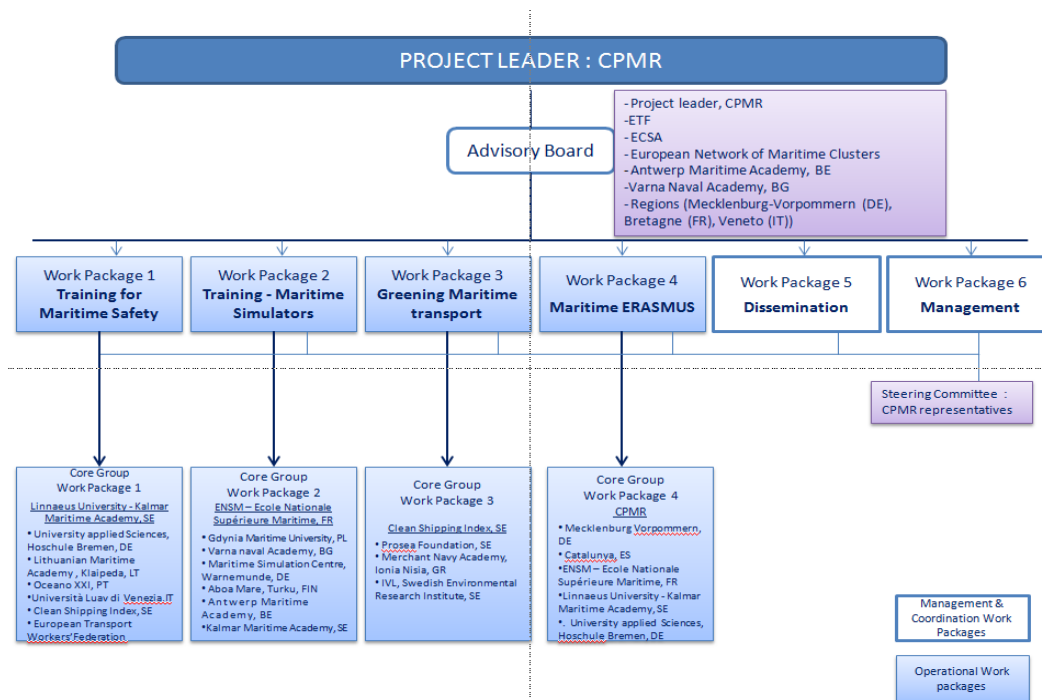
Work Package 3 “Greening Maritime Transport”: This work package aims to increase environmental awareness among seafarers in Europe. It thereby contributes to sustainable use of the seas and oceans and compliance with environmental regulations for maritime transport by professionals working in the maritime industry.



Work Package 4 “Maritime Erasmus”: The objectives of this work package is to design and implement an exchange pilot action within METs. It will shape a common pilot training program “Maritime Erasmus” at EU level for students in the maritime transport sector

The first 3 operational work packages are being implemented under the management of the CPMR and with the support of 3 high level external experts (Kalmar Maritime Academy ; Ecole Nationale Supérieure Maritime ; Clean Shipping Index).

Finally, an Advisory Board (made up of representatives from the shipping industry, Regions, training institutes) and a Steering Committee (bringing together CPMR and the three selected high level experts) are tasked with providing technical support to CPMR throughout the duration of the project.



More information on the website: <http://www.vasco-da-gama.eu/>