

## **SEA MENTOR Project Commenced!**

SEA MENTORS project officially started with **the first transnational project meeting** in Constanta, Romania. The kick-off meeting was held between 29 and 30 March 2022 being hosted by "Mircea cel Batrân" Naval Academy.

The project focusses on improving mentoring practices at sea. It has been further challenging in the recent years to catch an on-the-job experience for new starters and those who are on the profession to progress their ranks, due to pandemic, changes in technology, faster promotions and reduced seetime requirements. There are also many barriers to the easy transfer of experiential knowledge, including language and culture, and yet there is the ever-lasting problem of pressure of work and lack of time (Acar, 2017). Moreover, the recent EU statistics indicates that average working time of a seafarer at sea is 4.8 years therefore it is essential that the seafarers need to be linked with shore based responsibilities that they can contribute and develop in maritime sector with the valuable experience they attain during the course of their time at sea (SAILAHED, 2011- 2013).

Marine accidents and incidents do continue to occur due to a lack of experiential knowledge transferred. Experiential knowledge is not something tangible, nor is it a subject that can be taught in college, although the concept should be addressed and the candidates encouraged to participate in experiential knowledge transfer. There are variety of reasons why transfer of experiential knowledge is difficult to be transferred from one to another is one is the lack of time for informal training which is due to ships and long working hours prevents mentors to take time off their busy schedule and take personal interest in training of juniors.

SEA MENTORS will promote competencies specified to these standards, and some lead to internationally recognised qualifications. On the other hand, maritime industry has a tradition of learning from others onboard; however, on-board community is small and sometimes highly variable in timing and composition

## **AIMS OF THE PROJECT**

SEA MENTORS project aims to:

- Identify the level of “experiential knowledge” each ranks have in a questionnaire based needs analysis and information based on the investigation of undiscovered areas,
- Develop an online Training programme for each ranks therefore they can access to this experiential knowledge which incorporates latest developments in the maritime sector
- Design a guidance Tool that provides the user with a certificate for the newly acquired skills based on experiential knowledge.

The content offered by the SEA MENTOR Education platform will have a direct impact on seafarers of experiential knowledge including the latest developments in the Maritime industry.