

SkillSea state-of-play

By *Diedrick Jansen, project manager SkillSea*

As we are approaching 2022, the final year of SkillSea, it is a good moment to inform you about the current status of the project and about the activities to come.

During 2021, we have laid a solid foundation under our SkillSea project. We have completed the research concerning current and future trends and developments in the maritime transport sector, the development of educational packages is well under way and despite all restrictions due to the Covid pandemic, we have been able to showcase SkillSea results in several seminars and workshops in different European countries.

Furthermore, we have worked on reports regarding Measuring Evaluation Strategies in Maritime Education and Training institutes (MET's), Internationalized Strategies in Maritime Education Training, the Toolbox for developing educational packages, etc. All these rapport are accessible on the SkillSea website.

Using all these achievements, we now are focusing on the ultimate goal of the SkillSea project:



The Implementation and presentation of a Structured Cooperation between MET's, the maritime transport industry and relevant authorities, with specified core activities such as like mapping challenges on student mobility and suggestions to overcome such, revision of the Guide on Design and Implementation of Educational Packages, etc.

This platform of cooperation (the SkillSea Knowledge Hub) between all relevant stakeholders on a European level, is considered as one

of the solutions to improve educational supply and demand on a European level.

Already before Christmas, we will take the first steps in achieving our ambition. During 2022, we will keep you updated on the developments.

I am wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.



Diedrick Jansen

3 questions to **Renee Boelaars**, Project Board member SkillSea, STC Group



Renee Boelaars

- 1 What is the role of STC Group in the SkillSea consortium?
- 2 What are your thoughts on the first outcomes of the SkillSea project?
- 3 When we finish the SkillSea project by the end of 2022, what would be the greatest achievement for SkillSea in your opinion?

1 After a swift and intensive project development process with close European partners, STC Group submitted the SkillSea project proposal to the Commission in 2018. As consortium leader we have taken up the challenging responsibility to coordinate 27 partners from 16 countries towards structured cooperation and strategizing for a future-proof maritime sector in terms of skills and skills development. In addition to leading the project and quality management work package and chairing the SkillSea Board, STC Group also coordinates the work package

dealing with informing the public, and mobilizing stakeholders.

2 I would consider that a relevant collective awareness has brought this maritime consortium closer together. Innovations and technological developments are truly coming at a faster rate than ever before, and sustainability in the maritime sector has become top priority in many ways. Despite the variety of different interests, we are finding a working mechanism for sector collaboration, while at the same time launching a number of very concrete educational packages

for skilling current and future workforce, for the wider maritime public to use.

3 I am particularly proud of the developed SkillSea strategy model. When SkillSea as a sustained platform for future maritime skills can proceed, post-project, with Assessing, Formulating, Developing, Scaling, Sustaining futureproof skills development, with relevant stakeholders involved, I would say mission accomplished!

A lot of interest in first online SkillSea seminar

By **Esther Ouwens Nagell**, STC Group

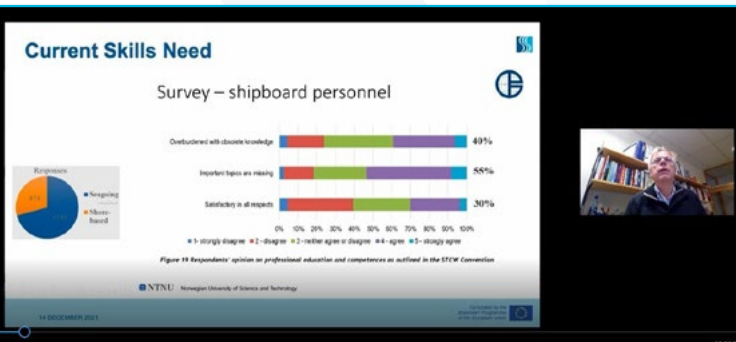
On 14 December SkillSea organised the first edition of the online SkillSea seminar series on the subject 'Future-proof skills for maritime professionals'. This first edition was well received and gained a lot of interest from maritime education and training institutes, national authorities and students. We received more than 100 registrations and welcomed about 60 attendees. A video registration of the seminar and the hand-outs of

the presentations can be found at the SkillSea [website](#).

In 2022 we plan to organise several other online gatherings. Please save the following dates in your agenda:

- 13 January 2022** - Second option to join the first edition - Future-proof skills for maritime professionals
- 16 February 2022** - Online seminar dedicated to Green skills
- 23 February 2022** - Second option to join the second edition - Online seminar dedicated to Green skills

In the course of 2022 we aim to organise online seminars on the subjects of Digital skills, Intrapreneurship and Innovation, Leadership and STEM. We will communicate these dates once scheduled.



Educational Package Green Skills – further explained

By Alex Barlow, Blackpool and The Fylde College

The piloting phase of the Skillsea project commenced with Green Skills. This educational package was focused on decarbonisation and involved taking the Green Skills educational package that had been developed by educational partners across Europe and transforming that into a specific course delivery for students at Fleetwood Nautical Campus in the United Kingdom. It was really exciting to see all the work and thought that had gone into the development of the module and to adapt it for delivery.

The Green Skills package started by looking at the context for seafarers need to worry about 'going green' – what are the legal and commercial drivers for this initiative? The course went on to look at what some of the

technical measures that are being developed for enhanced energy efficiency and emissions reduction – examining the both the status-quo and the innovations. Data collection and analysis was also covered with students looking at the sort of data they might expect to have available and thinking about what sort of sense they could make of that data. All this was drawn together to get students to consolidate their learning and think about how they could combine it to drive more environmentally friendly shipping.

Students participating in the pilot ranged from new entrants to the industry with no seagoing experience to an experienced master looking to gain some additional knowledge and a variety in between



including those with experience in the luxury yacht sector, cargo ships and naval auxiliaries. Across the board the students were thoroughly engaged with the experience and they comment on how they enjoyed the variety of tasks ranging from lectures, discussing podcasts and webinars and analysing bunker delivery notes and tank levels to evaluate vessel performance.

The SkillSea Toolbox design guide

By Elin Dorthea Kragesund, SIMAC

Any experienced teacher knows how to design a course or educational programme to meet skills needs.

The SkillSea Toolbox design guide was developed as a common structure to aid partners who are developing educational packages in transnational collaboration. The design guide addresses and explains the many necessary elements of the course to make the educational packages transparent and recognisable for the project partners and across the European Union.

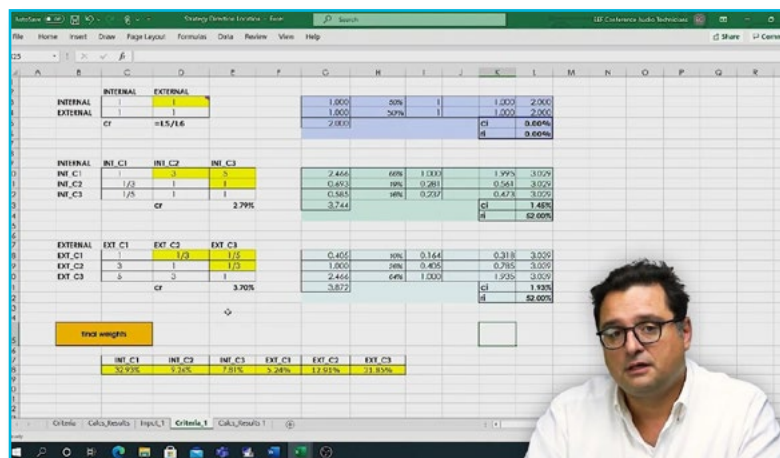
The guide aims to further a common understanding using the European standard terminology to clarify the elements of the educational packages for teachers who may want to implement one or more of the SkillSea educational packages. The guide covers 3 steps, namely the curriculum, the course description and evaluation of the course and the SkillSea educational packages are all developed using the same structure which should make them easy to use. The toolbox design guide may also

be used as a short cut or check list when designing new courses when needs arise and making them accessible for others. The toolbox design guide explains the function of the content elements and provides a range of suggestions for e.g., teaching methods, assessment methods and course evaluation. These suggestions encompass facilitating evaluation of the course or educational programme as well as quality assurance processes.

SkillSea – Access to innovative tools

By Christina Troumpetari, Eugenides Foundation

Contemporary challenges faced by Maritime Education & Training (MET) institutions and Maritime Training Centers (MTC) require effective strategic planning. Yet not all related establishments in Europe encounter the same problems or possess the same resource mix and flexibility of decision-making. In order to assist decision-makers, the SkillSea team developed three innovative tools. These tools enable decision-makers to make choices against pre-determined criteria. The designed tools are transparent, expandable, and adjustable to the evolving needs of maritime education and training providers.



Tool 1

Strategy Direction Location (STRA.D.L.):

A tool to facilitate choosing among strategic cooperation options open to MET in view of internationalisation. It allows the mapping by MET/MTCs themselves given internal and external attributes and allows the selection of internationalisation partners.

Tool 2

Transcript International Transfer (Trans.I.T.):

This Module Similarity Tool supports the transferability and recognition of modules. It is useful for assessing the similarity of modules using foundations of the European Quality Framework.

Tool 3

Strategic Evaluation MET Tool (ST.E.MET):

A tool designed primarily for the (high level) administration of METs useful for both internal and external evaluation of MET Institutions operable at MET/module level.

These strategic tools have been created in the context of the SkillSea reports D3.4 “Internationalised strategies in Maritime Education and Training” (Tools 1 and 2) and D3.2 “Measuring evaluation strategies in MET” (Tool 3). All tools are based on Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) with open access and descriptions for the online user while they are accompanied by instructional videos.

On 5 November SkillSea gave a presentation during the international Europort exhibition in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Alco Weeke, project manager of SkillSea and Alex Barlow, partner in Work Package 2 gave interesting presentations about the main goals and challenges of SkillSea and an introduction into the Educational Package ‘Green Skills I’.

