



# NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE #1: KICK OFF

November 2019 - April 2020

This is the first issue of the Sea of Experience newsletter. We are starting this newsletter as a way of keeping in touch with our community.

In this issue, we brief the idea of Sea of Experience, as well as the actions, that took place during the first six months of the project.

## SEA OF EXPERIENCE AT A GLANCE

Sea of Experience is a regionally-oriented project that aims at **establishing a training/mentoring network**; the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Network (EMReN), for professionals and youngsters related to **maritime transport, shipbuilding and ship repair, ports, and the cruise industry**. It also targets to bridge the skills gap between education offer and labour market needs, especially with regards to technological developments and innovation, strengthen cooperation between industry, academia and public authorities, encourage mobility of students, teachers and professionals, raise societal awareness and provide guidance and advance knowledge about blue professions. The activities of the Sea of Experience project exploit the results of the MENTOR project.

## SEA OF EXPERIENCE AS A COVID-19 RELATED PROJECT

The global Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has a significant impact not only on our health, but also on the worldwide economy, the labour market(s), the education and training sector and maybe the overall way of communication; hence, it challenges our ability to adapt and be resilient to these new unprecedented conditions.

The Sea of Experience project aims at addressing the lack of a comprehensive “skills ecosystem” for professionals in selected Blue Economy sectors by developing the Sharing-Pooling e-Platform that fuses traditional (i.e. curricula, courses, workshops etc.), with innovative learning and career development tools including the digital repository or the demonstration of virtual experiments in which beneficiaries for example, can virtually follow the daily routine of a blue professional, or efficiently use digital (communication) tools between mentors and mentees (e.g. one to one or group text, voice, or video chats, share class materials etc.). In effect, the Sea of Experience gives a significant range of COVID-19 proof solutions in the domains of training, teaching, and mentoring – secure and efficient means which cope with the so called “new normal.”

## OUR NETWORK, EMReN PROJECT

The EMReN; a dynamic ground-breaking network of academics, maritime industrial representatives, and public authorities, will focus on improving relationships between education and the sectors of interest.

## CONSORTIUM MEETINGS

The Kick-off Meeting of Sea of Experience project was organized as a 2 days face-to-face meeting on 17th and 18th of December, in Piraeus at the premises of APOPSI SA. The meeting was focused on: (i) Presenting the partners of the consortium, overall project information and objectives, project and quality management, financial administration in accordance to the EMMF kick-off meeting (ii) WP presentations and workshop sessions for technical work packages. Representatives from all consortium partners attended it.



## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### 2018 EMFF Blue Economy Projects Kick-off Meeting

The kick-off meeting took place on 5th December in Brussels. The coordinator of the Sea of Experience project, Associate Professor Nikolaos P. Ventikos (NTUA), represented the consortium in this EMFF kick-off meeting.



### Blue Growth Community 1st Annual Assembly

Professor Georgios Georgiou (UCY, partner) presented the Sea of Experience project, as well as the MENTOR project, at the 1st Annual Assembly of the Blue Growth Community project, in Montpellier, on February 4th-5th, 2020.



## ANNUAL REPORT FOR BLUE ECONOMY 2020

In the "Education and Skills in the Blue Economy" chapter of the **Annual Report for Blue Economy 2020**, a case study based on the results of MENTOR Project was presented, summarising some of the results about skills, educational offer and relevant information in the region. Sea of Experience builds on the results presented here, as a successor of the MENTOR project.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Dissemination & Technical workshops are currently being scheduled for Autumn 2020. A digital format is considered to avoid possible delays due to the COVID-19 crisis. The technical workshop is expected to feature a live demonstration of the sharing-pooling e-platform. More information regarding this topic will be announced.

## Project Coordinator

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