

LATEST NEWS FOR THE BLUEPRINT PROJECTS

PROJECT DRIVES - DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH ON INNOVATIVE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SKILLS

OFFICIAL LAUNCH WITH A RECORDED SPEECH FROM COMMISSIONER ELŻBIETA BIENKOWSKA



Ostrava, Czech Republic - On 1st of March 2018 the Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, Tomáš Hüner, and the Rector of the Technical University of Ostrava, Václav Snášel, opened the kick-off Conference ceremony of the project DRIVES, that brings together 24 European partners, from 11 EU countries. The speeches highlighted the need to address the challenges linked to digitalisation of the economy and the adaptation of the education of the workforce.

In a recorded message, the European Commissioner for internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Elżbieta Bieńkowska, highlighted that DRIVES “results can inform policies not only at the EU but also regional and national level” and that the “initiative will only work if all relevant stakeholders along the automotive value chain take part, including at national and regional level across the EU”. Ms. Bieńkowska underlined that “connected and automated driving will change mobility as we know” leading to a fast path on industry transformations.

The Commissioner recalled that DRIVES, building on the recommendations from the GEAR2030 group, is one of the first six projects that were launched within Blueprint on Sector Skills – an initiative to overcome skills’ shortages in specific sectors. Moreover, “industry should take the driving seat”.

The Automotive and Mobility Industries’ Unit, at DG GROW, underlined the challenges faced by DRIVES in regard to the shortage of skills, due to the ageing workforce and the lack of attractiveness of the existing job roles to younger generations.

The European Commission estimates that by 2025 it will be necessary to fill more than 900.000 jobs in the automotive sector, about half of which will require high-level qualifications. Targeting this market need, DRIVES will implement the Blueprint objectives for the automotive sector, namely the delivery of human capital solutions to supply chain SMEs, through the establishment of an Automotive Sector Skills Alliance, covering all levels of the value chain (vehicle production, automotive suppliers and automotive sales and aftermarket services).

The project will run from 2018 to 2021, with a budget of 4 million euros, funded by the Erasmus + Sector Skills Alliance action.

Social media information:

Follow the Blueprint Skills Alliance on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) ([Project Drives](#)) and [Twitter](#) #DRIVESProject)

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Project Details: Co-funded by: Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union under the agreement 591988-EPP-1-2017-1-CZ-EPPKA2-SSA-B.

Start Date: January 2018 to December 2021, Project Duration: 48 months

Partners: 24 project partners + 10 associated partners, from 11 EU partner countries

MATES IS A BLUEPRINT SKILLS ALLIANCE FOR MARITIME TEC–NOLOGIES THAT RECEIVES EU FUNDING UNDER ERASMUS+



PRESS RELEASE- © 2018 mates Project

The MATES partnership is capitalising on past efforts describing the needs of the sector and its strategic context, and will foresee trends and paradigm shifters in the maritime arena, especially those related to digitalisation, green technologies and innovation management. More than 100 relevant references of projects and publications have been identified, summarised and classified as a first step to build a set of inception reports.

The MATES project is building a Europe-wide network of relevant projects, initiatives, interested organisations and experts and involving them into cooperative development and strategy building. They will share experiences on addressing vital needs for skills and professional recognition in the maritime technologies sector, and the corresponding education and training. More than 80 experts have been already identified by the project. First contacts have been made and interaction will intensify during the coming months with the launch of an expert directory and the accomplishment of a series of regional workshops to present the project and its main expected results, promote debate and engagement, and involve all stakeholders in the different thematic groups. More detailed information on the MATES workshops and events will soon be released and disseminated.

MATES is creating a portfolio of communication resources and tools to achieve a high visibility and in support of a successful accomplishment of the dissemination and exploitation plan. A brand logo represents the value chains of shipbuilding and off-shore energy addressed by the project.

The project website will soon be live at www.projectmates.eu. Since February 2018, the project activity and related news can be followed up through twitter at @ErasmusMATES, and by using the hashtag #BlueprintMATES.

In MATES the maritime dimension of *Ocean Literacy* will be further explored and developed to boost the sector's competitiveness, its attractiveness for talent and high-skilled workers and, in general, the sectors' image. An outreach and ocean literacy directory will facilitate the dissemination of best practices, and a close contact and interaction with relevant groups and flagship initiatives focused on ocean literacy, such as AORA-CSA, SeaChange and ResponSeable, will be promoted and maintained permanently during the project lifetime.

The MATES partnership endeavours, with strong resolve, to ensuring high-quality performance and an adequate management of risks. The partnership is committed to observe throughout the project activity and deliverables, the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET). MATES identified already at proposal stage a preliminary list of risks and quality indicators, and this baseline work has now been upgraded through a comprehensive *Risk Management and Quality Assurance Plan*.

MATES was launched in January 2018 and the kick-off meeting took place on the 7th and 8th of February. Participants from the 17 organisations of the partnership and the project officers from the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency and the European Commission's Directorate-General Maritime Affairs contributed actively to a fruitful meeting organised by the coordinator, CETMAR Foundation, at the premises of Galicia-Europa Foundation in Brussels. Contact: mates@cetmar.org



Copernicus, Europe's ambitious Earth Observation programme, is a huge leap forward in terms of technological progress. Its entry in the stage of operability is enabling the production of a huge wealth of data: With six Copernicus Sentinel satellites in orbit, the Contributing missions and in situ sensors, over 12 TB of Earth Observation (EO) data is available every day. With more Sentinels to come and the launch of 5 DIAS platforms to allow an easier access to Copernicus data, we can expect impacts in terms of innovation, growth and jobs.



Technological progress and globalisation offer tremendous opportunities for innovation, growth and jobs. However, these developments require specific skills for people who are able to drive and support change. EO4GEO will offer a series of tangible results that are usable for the broader education/training community, as well as for fields related to the space/geospatial sector. The Blueprint Skills Alliance EO4GEO will deal with a multi-platform environment: 1) the ontology-based *Body of Knowledge* currently managed as a wiki in the cloud with a *Curriculum Design Tool* (CDTool) on top of it; 2) a collaborative learning platform to be deployed for hosting training materials and for supporting training actions and 3) a series of Copernicus platforms (services) that provide access to EO data and tools to be used in the training actions.

As a first step to help matching the offer and request of EO/GI skills, two survey have just been launched on **supply on Training and Education** and **demand of skills** in the EO/GI sector, and are open to all stakeholders at:

<http://www.eo4geo.eu/surveys/>

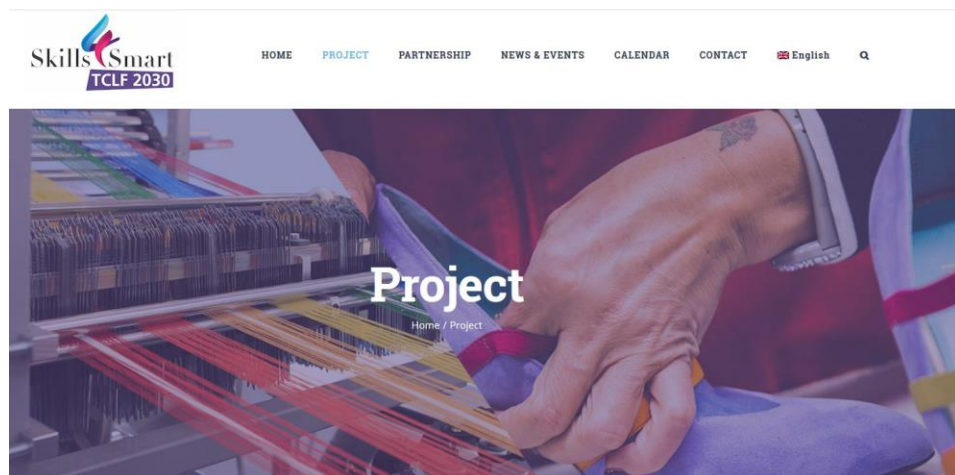
EO4GEO invites all organisations operating in the space/geospatial sector to participate in the surveys on supply and demand of education and training in EO/GI and to contribute to the delivery of a detailed skills intelligence in the space/geospatial sector.



After the successful kick-off of this Blueprint Skills Alliance on 1-2 February, hosted by the project coordinator EURATEX in Brussels (see picture), the first project activities related to the establishment of robust project management and communication structures and procedures.



Also, first dissemination activities towards external stakeholders such as project logo, press releases, a project fact sheet and the public project website at www.s4tclfbblueprint.eu (see screenshot below) were launched.



The consortium has started working on the first technical work packages dealing with Mapping of Education and Maximisation of Best Practices; Future Needed Skills and Trends for the TCLF Sectors and Monitoring Methodology.

Mission

The project "Skills4Smart TCLF Industries 2030" constitutes the first step into a new dynamic sustainable community

Project Start Date: 1/1/2018