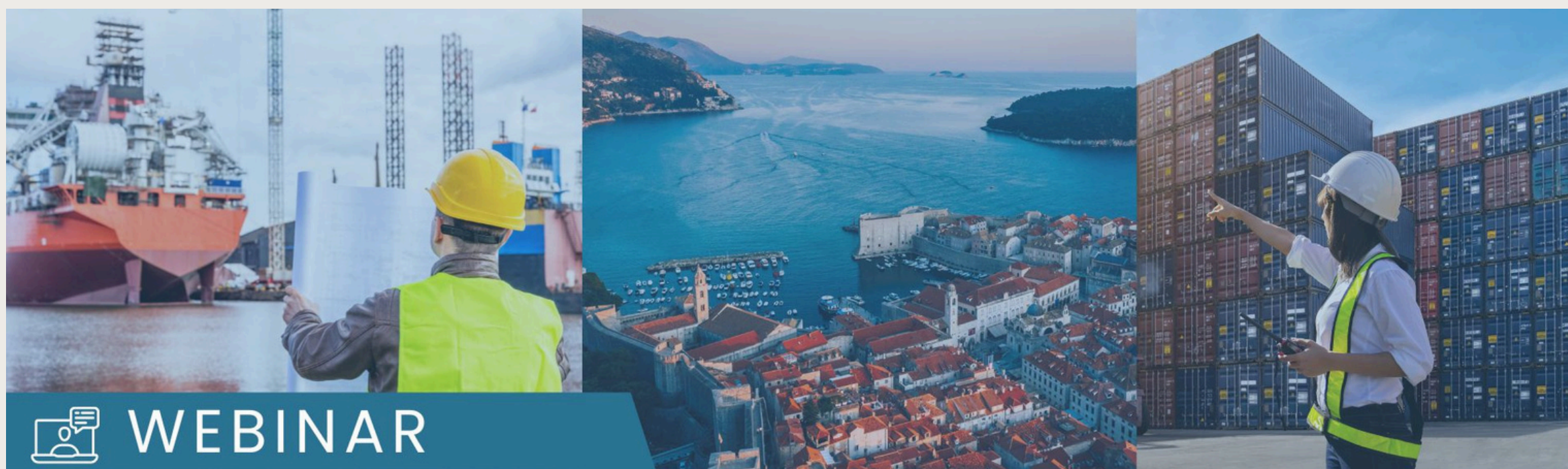


## FACT SHEET - Blue Economy Sector skills challenges and opportunities

Webinar | Understanding skills challenges and opportunities in the Blue Economy Sectors across European regions



WEBINAR

### BLUE ECONOMY SECTORS SKILLS ANALYSIS

Understanding skills challenges and opportunities in  
Blue Economy Sectors across European regions

11 June 2024

10h-11h30



earlall  
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Webinar promoted by EARLALL's Working Group on Skills and Labour Market



| [www.earlall.com](http://www.earlall.com)

The information and data included in this fact sheet was shared during **EARLALL's webinar on "Understanding skills challenges and opportunities in the Blue Economy Sectors across European regions"** which took place on 11 June 2024. This initiative was promoted by EARLALL'S Working Group on Skills and Labour Market.

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- **Alain Pomes**, Director of the Centre Européen Formation Continue Maritime (Brittany) and **Philippe Thieffry**, Energies Marines Renouvelables / Coordination Bretagne Ocean Power (Brittany Innovation Development)

The webinar presentations and the recording are available on **EARLALL's website**





## FACT SHEET - Blue Economy Sector skills challenges and opportunities

The **European Commission** defines the **Blue Economy sectors** as "all economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts. It covers a wide range of interlinked established and emerging sectors."

### FACTS & FIGURES

- According to UNESCO, the ocean is key to our economy with an estimated **40 million people being employed by ocean-based industries by 2030**.
- According to the Blue Growth Initiative there are 5 Blue Growth Sectors: **Biotechnology, Renewable energy, Coastal and Maritime Tourism, Aquaculture, and Mineral resources**
- We need **blue skills and ocean literacy** for (sustainable) blue growth:
  - **Blue skills** are needed to support the development of the blue economy
  - **Blue economy** demonstrates the dynamism of the blue economy and the importance of the ocean for the economy and society
  - **Ocean literacy** is essential to demonstrate the importance of the ocean and make careers in the blue economy more attractive



### MAIN CHALLENGES

- Raising awareness about the ocean, its role and protection
- Reskilling workers from other sectors to improve the image of blue careers
- Developing ocean literacy and blue skills training across the EU
- Addressing the generational handover
- Training in the use of new technologies
- Improving sectoral education and training offer
- Improving safety training for all future fishermen/onboard ships
- Bridging the gender gap in the Blue Economy
- Working towards more sustainable fishing, fish farms and coastal tourism
- Anticipating the needs of the professional sector
- Improving the cooperation between education, government, science and business



[Euronews OCEAN Season 5, Episode 4 - Blue careers](#)





## FACT SHEET - Blue Economy Sector skills challenges and opportunities

### FACTS AND FIGURES FROM EARLALL MEMBER REGIONS

M Maritiem Instituut Mercator

**GO!** onderwijs van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap

#### Flanders Region boasts 70 km of coastline

##### GO! Maritime Institute Mercator Ostend:

- School for merchant navy and fishery
- The only school in Belgium educating in the art of fishery
- Education of youngsters between 12-25 years

##### Investing in the future:

- Incentive programs with regards to health and safety are in place to promote safety on board ships.
- Newer ships lead to environmentally more friendly ways of fishing.

##### School actions:

- Qualitative education in accordance by STCW F 95
- Practical training on board with vetted companies
- Simulator training to enhance navigational skills
- More than basic safety training for all future fisherman
- Training in the use of new technologies

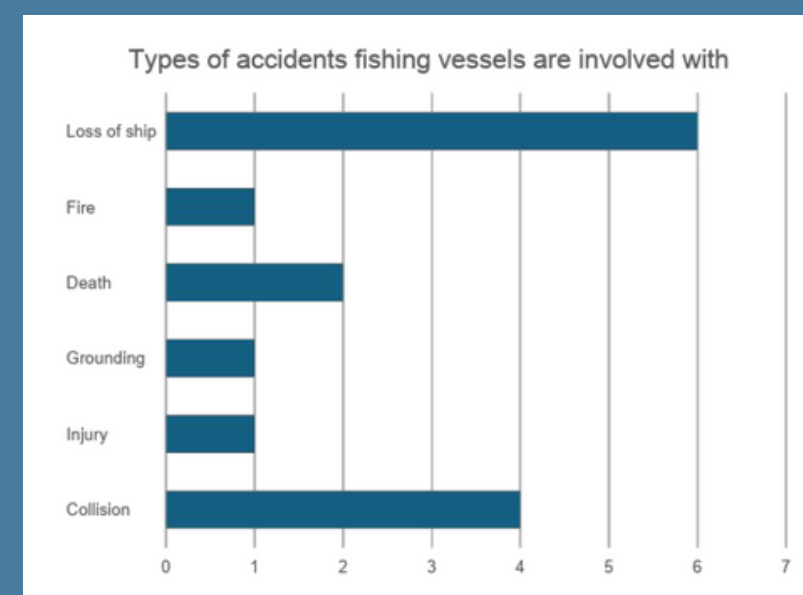
#### Addressing the gender gap:

- The school aims to increase gender diversity in the predominantly male student body

#### Close relations with the industry

##### Research:

- The school has been involved in a research study with the Belgian Federal Bureau for the Investigation of Maritime Accidents to understand better the type of accidents and causes within the fishing vessels



GOBIERNO DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS  
CONSEJERÍA DE EDUCACIÓN

#### Blue Economy activities in Asturias:

- Port activities
- Shipbuilding and repair
- Maritime transport and related activities
- Fishing
- Coastal tourism
- Education and training
- **13% OF GDP and 14% of employment** (port activities, aquaculture and fisheries and coastal tourism)

#### Education and Training options

- VET Center: "CIFP del Mar"
- University of Oviedo: Marine merchant degrees
- Jovellanos Center: focused on reskilling and upskilling (lifelong training)

#### The CIFP del Mar covers:

- Initial Vocational Education and Training
- Lifelong education and training for adults
- Validation of non-formal and informal learning

#### Challenges:

- Generational handover
- Implementation of the new Spanish VET Law: Dual training
- Become a member of the European network of Centres of Vocational Excellence

#### Opportunities:

- Centre of Vocational Excellence
- A sector with high labour demand
- Digitalization and new technologies

**Highlight project:** Improving the efficiency of the maritime fisheries and port system.



## FACT SHEET - Blue Economy Sector skills challenges and opportunities



**In Vestland 2,630 people were employed in aquaculture in 2022**

**Education in the Blue Sector provided by Vestland County Council:**

- 6 Vocational schools
- 1 Higher VET in Vestland (biggest within maritime education in Norway): Maritime subjects and Aquaculture

**Cooperation:**

- Secondary School and the Institute of Marine Research
- Schools cooperate with commercial actors in salmon and trout production.

**Talent attraction:**

- Fish Farm feeding central, controlling several fish farms through cameras and sensors.
- Skills needed: technology, operational skills, biology, data information

**Challenges:**

- Challenges in aquaculture: Salmon lice, feeds on the skin

**Opportunities:**

- Succeeding and sustainable fishing industries in Norway
- Blue schools: quotas for commercial fishing species and offer practical training to students



**Brittany is a maritime region**

- 5.000 km of coastline
- 70,348 jobs in 2019, representing 5.4% of the jobs in the region
- There are **5 traditional streams**: transport, fishing and other sea products, shipbuilding, energy resources and communications
- There are **8 emerging sectors**: mineral resources, tourism and cruises, biotechnologies, renewable energies and aquaculture

**Education and Training options**

- 4 maritime and 3 aquaculture high schools, the European University Institute of the Sea and 3 Universities
- Nautical Centre in Brest, trains officers and sailors for the French navy
- 2 marine biology research stations
- Supporting education and employment in marine sciences and resource management is essential to boost local economies in coastal areas

**Bretagne Ocean Power**

- Gathering economic players and ports to promote industrial activities
- Skills management for St Brieuc project (First commercial offshore wind project in Brittany)
  - Identification of the required competences locally
  - Focus on welders and technicians in offshore wind (new activity in France)
  - Creation of dedicated training courses



**MARINE ENERGY IN BRITTANY:**  
AN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR INVOLVED  
AT ALL PROJECT STAGES  
AND IN ALL MRE TECHNOLOGIES



## FACT SHEET - Blue Economy Sector skills challenges and opportunities

### EU INITIATIVES

- **Maritime Forum:** Platform for Maritime Policy Stakeholders
- **Trans sectorial skills initiatives: Pact for Skills** (large-scale partnerships in shipbuilding & offshore renewable energy)
- **Calls for proposals:** Blue careers (EMFAF), Mission Ocean (HE) and Blueprint (Erasmus+)
- **Blue Economy Observatory**
- **EU4Ocean coalition for ocean literacy**



### MAIN OPPORTUNITIES

- A sector with high labour demand
- Digitalization and new technologies
- Innovation projects and research applied to training
- Cooperation with local commercial businesses and research centres
- Emerging new Blue Careers
- Make the fish farms more sustainable
- EU calls for proposals to fund projects on blue skills, blue careers and Centres of Vocational Excellence
- Becoming members of the EU4Ocean coalition

