

THE ENVIRONAUT PROJECT KICKS OFF!

THE PROJECT WILL ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR NAUTICAL TOURISM COMPANIES

*Brussels 6th of May 2022 – A multidisciplinary consortium formed by the [European Boating Industry](#), the [German Ocean Foundation](#), [Sea Teach](#), National Technical University of Athens ([NTUA](#)), German Marine Federation ([BVWW](#)) and [Frederick University](#) will develop the **first-ever environmental qualification for nautical tourism** companies. The curricula will respond to targets set by the European Green Deal and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to **sustainably manage recreational boating** and nautical tourism to become a means to **protect marine and coastal ecosystems**. The project will also feature at an EBI-organised workshop at the European Maritime Day, showcasing blue skills and the boating industry to the key decision-makers at EU level.*

The EU-funded Erasmus+ project called ENVIRonmental Officer in the NAUTical Tourism Industry (EnviroNaut), aims to **bridge the gap between the training and skills needed in the boating industry**, while enhancing the **positive environmental impact** that the recreational boating sector can have. **Frank Schweikert**, Founder & Director of the **German Ocean Foundation**, said “Our seas and oceans are home to invaluable ecosystems as well as being one of the most important sources of food, materials and energy. They are also home to various recreational activities. The EnviroNaut project will support growth of the recreational boating sector while protecting the marine environment through responsible and sustainable tourism over time”

During the next two years EnviroNaut partners will work to develop the first ever **Environmental Officer curricula**. The resulting course will be online, free and accessible to all. It will give employees, current and prospective, the foundation to implement environmental practices in their businesses and key career skills. Giving the industry a state-of-the art tool to **close the knowledge gap** between employees, practitioners, and the legislation in place, will enable them to move towards sustainability. Employees in the following companies will have access to the qualification: marinas, water sports companies, Diving centers and canoeing schoolsskipper services, nautical schools and other training institutions, and charter companies , to move towards more sustainable practices.

The consortium will analyze the current legal frameworks and skills gaps in Germany, Spain, Belgium, Greece and Cyprus. Furthermore, EBI, as the main representative of the recreational boating sector in Europe, will provide a comprehensive insight into the challenges and objectives of the sector and how to meet them, and will ensure that EnviroNaut is developed in such a way that there is a standardisation of



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environmental skills at European level. **Philip Easthill, Secretary-General** commented *“The EnviroNaut Project will be a game-changer for the industry. The Environmental Officer qualification will take sustainability to a whole new level for nautical tourism companies. EBI will support the project with our consolidated European network as well as our technical knowledge, providing a unified vision of the challenges and opportunities for the sector at European level. This directly follows our new strategy through which we aim to advance a sustainable boating and nautical tourism industry Made in Europe”*

European Maritime Day

In the context of this project, EBI is co-organising a workshop at the upcoming [European Maritime Day \(EMD\)](#) in Ravenna (19 & 20 May) on: **“Knowledge and Skills gaps in the blue sector: Towards sustainable blue growth”**. The European Maritime Day (EMD) is the annual event where ‘Oceans Leaders meet’ to discuss the **most pressing issues affecting the European maritime community**, and move the blue economy forward. The workshop will present the sector, its challenges and the development of environmental skills, as well as the EnviroNaut project to the key decision-makers at EU level. Speaking at the workshop, moderated by Silja Teege from Sea Teach, will be Eirini-Asimina Stamatopoulou (National Technical University of Athens); Frank Schweikert (German Ocean Foundation) and Stefano Pagani Isnardi (Confindustria Nautica).

This workshop has already attracted the attention of more than 100 participants. The session provides a space for debate in which marine stakeholders will **discuss the challenges facing the next generation of marine professionals** as well as the **skills and capabilities needed to meet the goals of the blue economy** and deliver sustainable ocean businesses. The workshop will identify the blue skills needed and implementation actions to support sustainable nautical tourism, shipping & ship-building and other marine professionals to address key challenges faced by the blue economy in the next decade.

EMD 2022 is a hybrid event, and participants will have the opportunity to join either in-person or virtually. Registrations are **open** until **12 May**, click [here](#) to register. The EBI-organised workshop takes place on **19 May** from **15:45 – 16:45**.



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About EnviroNaut

The EU-funded Erasmus+ project ENVIRONmental Officer in the NAUTical Tourism Industry (EnviroNaut) aims to bridge the gap between the training and skills needed in the boating industry, while enhancing the positive environmental impact that the recreational boating sector can have. The curricula developed within the scope of this program will respond to targets set by the European Green Deal and the UN Sustainable Development Goals and aims to sustainably manage recreational boating and nautical tourism to become a means to protect marine and coastal ecosystems. The final output will be delivered in the form of a modular online course, which will be for free for everyone and will serve as continuous training for employees in the nautical tourism sector. It can also be used by water sport users and the general public to raise their awareness in good environmental practices in the recreational boating and water sports industry. The project consortium consists of European Boating Industry (Belgium), Sea Teach (Spain), German Ocean Foundation (Germany), National Technical University of Athens (Greece), German Marine Federation (BVWW) and Frederick University (Cyprus).

For more details about the project, please visit: <http://environaut.eu>
or get in touch with us via our social media channels below:

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/EnviroNaut-Project-100458382645497/>

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