EMD
European Maritime Day
IN MY COUNTRY

#EMDinMyCountry

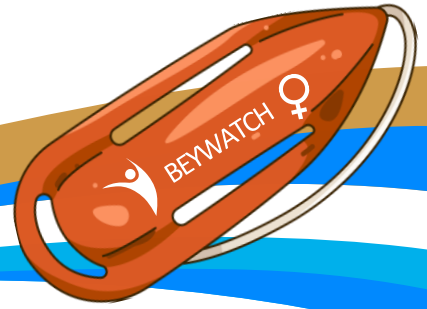
BLACK SEA BEYWATCH

Black Sea Blue Economy Youth and Women Watch

Tuesday, 20 October 2026

BLUE PORTS Certification Scheme

Theocharis Tsoutsos, Prof. Dr.
Renewable & Sustainable Energy Lab
Technical University of Crete



UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
DEPARTMENT OF SHIPPING TRADE AND TRANSPORT
ICBSS

BLACK SEA BEYWATCH

Black Sea Blue Economy
Youth and Women Watch



BLUE PORTS:
Empowering Qualified Workforce for Greener Ports

Theocharis Tsoutsos, Prof. Dr.
Director, ReSEL@Technical University of Crete

BLUE PORTS Coordinator

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CRETE
SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
RENEWABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
SYSTEMS LABORATORY

Co-funded by
the European Union

Transitions shaping the future of ports

1. GREEN TRANSITION

Towards climate neutral and resilient ports



- Decarbonisation & net-zero targets
- Alternative fuels (H_2, NH_3, Methanol)
- Renewable energy & energy efficiency
- Climate change adaptation

2. DIGITAL TRANSITION

Smart, connected and data-driven ports



- Automation & digitalisation
- AI, IoT and smart energy management
- Digital twins & advanced analytics
- Real-time monitoring & data for decision making

3. REGULATORY TRANSITION

Stricter rules and frameworks are accelerating change



- European Green Deal & Fit for 55
- FuelEU Maritime
- AFIR – Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation
- EU ETS
- IMO Net-Zero ambitions

4. WORKFORCE TRANSITION

New skills, new roles, new competencies

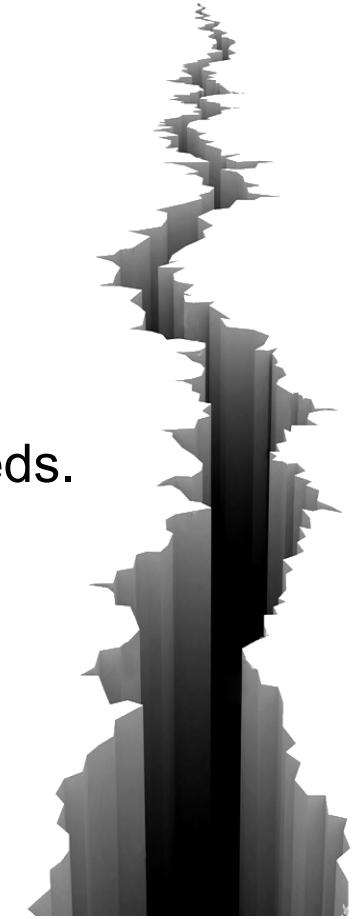


- New sustainability, technical and digital skills
- Emerging green jobs & roles
- Reskilling and upskilling existing workforce
- Attracting and retaining talent in the sector

Co-funded by the European Union

People Powering the Green Port Transition

- Port human capital needs **upskilling and reskilling** to meet the European Green Deal.
- Significant **gap** between academic education/training and real industry needs.
- Existing training programs usually do not provide **skills certification**.



- **Certification** is key for new qualifications in maritime and future green jobs.

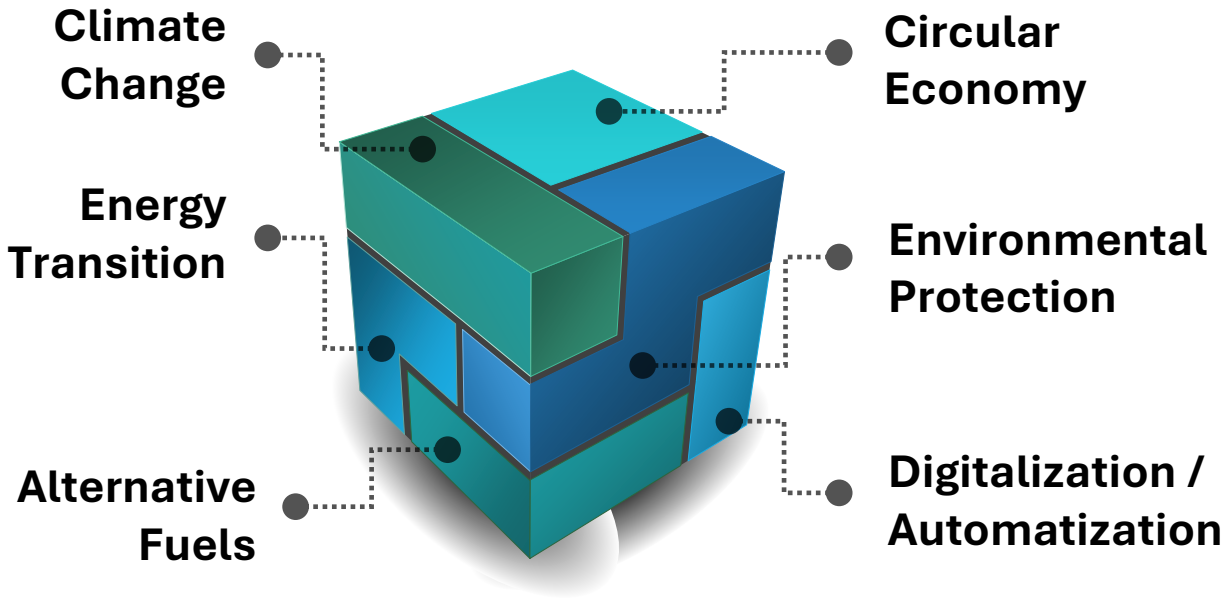
Co-funded by the European Union

The BLUE PORTS mission

enhance skills and capacity of the ports human capital, on green transition

by delivering a mutually acknowledged certification scheme at the European level

- **offers a competitive advantage to people**
- **helps ports to minimize their environmental footprint**



BLUE PORTS addresses **EU policy priorities**

- European Green Deal
- Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy
- EU Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy
- Circular Economy Action Plan
- European Skills Agenda
- The European Ocean Pact

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CRETE
SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
RENEWABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS LABORATORY

Co-funded by the European Union

BLUE PORTS delivers

A new **Certification Scheme** in compliance with **ISO/IEC 17024**

Tailored training - digital tools on green technology solutions

A pool of **200+ certified persons**, of ports and port operators

Career-oriented events motivating **100+** young talents

A **BLUE PORTS network**, engaging the whole value chain

A **roadmap** across Europe, Mediterranean and Black Sea

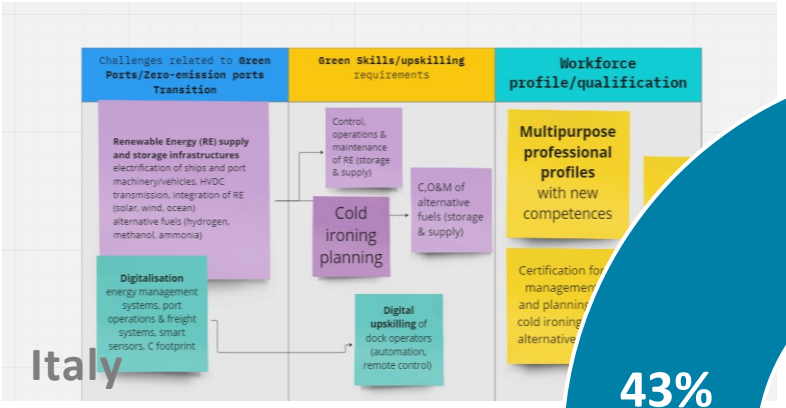
Scale-up to 1,650+ certified professionals by 2030 and 16,500+ by 2050

Co-funded by the European Union

Co-creation with the port sector

The BLUE PORTS National Technical Committees

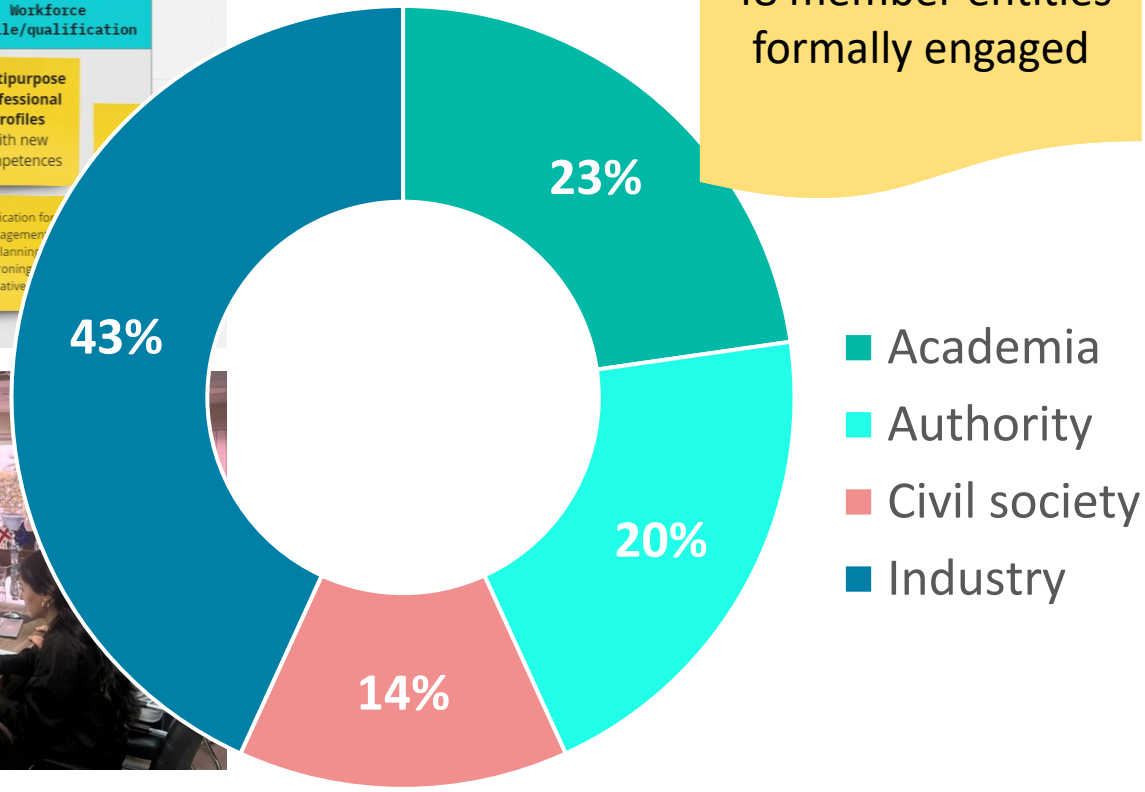








48 member entities formally engaged



Co-funded by the European Union

National Technical Committees

Co-creating the BLUE PORTS Scheme

Trust-Confidence-Ownership





Industry

Academia



Authorities

Civil Society



Co-funded by the European Union

BLUE PORTS

BLUE CAREERS IN NET-ZERO ENERGY PORTS

TRAINING | SKILLS | SUSTAINABLE PORTS

PEOPLE
SKILLS
GREENER PORTS

A more sustainable tomorrow starts with skilled people

BLUE PORTS AT A GLANCE

PILOT TRAINING COURSES 2026

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE PORT FUTURE TOGETHER

248
Applications Received
STRONG INTEREST IN A GREENER PORT SECTOR

197
Trainees Enrolled
PROFESSIONALS INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE SKILLS

155
Eligible for Certification
READY TO LEAD THE TRANSITION

44
Trainers Involved
EXPERTS SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

8
Pilot Courses Delivered
A COMMON EUROPEAN TRAINING FRAMEWORK

4
Countries
GEORGIA · GREECE
ITALY · SPAIN

2
Certification Profiles
OFFICER & OPERATOR FOR SUSTAINABLE PORTS

Skills for Sustainable Ports

Co-funded by the European Union

Co-funded by the European Union

PILOT COURSES ACROSS EUROPE

FOUR COUNTRIES • EIGHT PILOT COURSES • A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

PEOPLE
SKILLS
GREENER
PORTS

Blue Careers in Net-Zero Energy Ports

Training today for sustainable ports tomorrow



SPAIN
45 trainees
20 trainers

ITALY
53 trainees
12 trainers

GEORGIA
26 trainees
3 trainers

GREECE
73 trainees
9 trainers

Different ports A common direction



197 trainees

44 trainers

8 pilot courses

1 common goal sustainable ports

Co-funded by the European Union

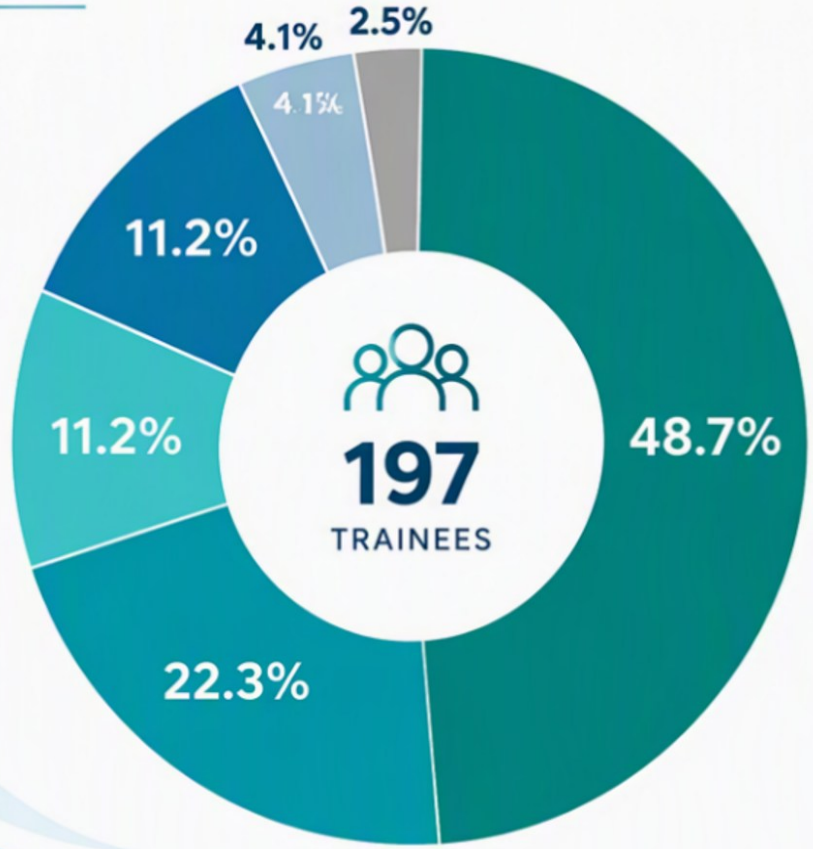
Co-funded by the European Union

BLUE PORTS

Blue Careers in Net-Zero Energy Ports

SKILLS FOR GREENER PORTS

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND OF TRAINEES



- Port Authority **48.7%**
- Port Operator **22.3%**
- Port Service Provider **11.2%**
- Maritime Service Provider **11.2%**
- Maritime Authority **4.1%**
- Other **2.5%**

PEOPLE
KNOWLEDGE
SUSTAINABLE PORTS

Co-funded by the European Union

Co-funded by the European Union



- 42.6% of trainees women
- the Officer course almost at parity (73 of 143)
- The Operator course only 11 women/54 (a gap to address)

Co-funded by the European Union

BLUE PORTS: Setting a new standard

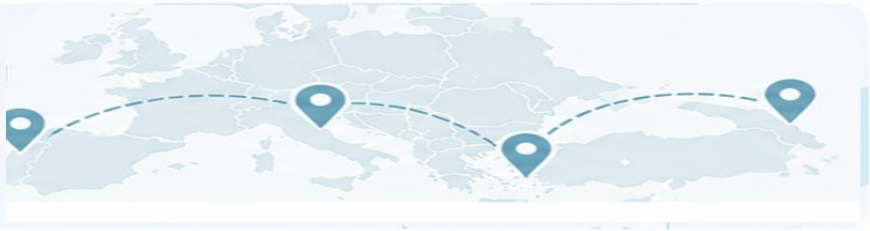
Personnel certification
in accordance with ISO/IEC 17024



Developed and validated
with the active involvement
of the port community



Tested in four countries



Designed for mutual recognition
across Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

Join the BLUE PORTS Certification Scheme



Ports Sustainability Officer

Management workforce: knowledge to participate in teams that assess, implement, manage, and monitor green transition strategies, plans, roadmaps and drive sustainability initiatives

(for executives, managers, administrators, etc.)



Ports Sustainability Operator

Technical and operational staff: knowledge to technically and operationally support the application and operation of new technologies, practices and tools related to the port green transition

(for technicians, engineers, laborers, operators, etc.)

Co-funded by the European Union

The added value of the BLUE PORTS certification

For the employee

- Competitive advantage
- Specialized knowledge
- Proof of professional competence
- Employment opportunities
- Job mobility
- International recognition

For the port sector

- Specialized staff
- Increased reliability
- Optimal system performance
- Reduced investment risk
- Satisfied customers

For the society

- Build trust
- Improved economy
- Greenhouse Gases reduction
- Improved quality of life

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CRETE
SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
RENEWABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
SYSTEMS LABORATORY

Co-funded by
the European Union

About the BLUE PORTS future

- **High potential for replicability:**
  - 92.1% of Officers and 96.2% of Operators had never attended similar training

- **The certificate is valued:**
  - 84.2% of Officers and 98.3% of Operators believe it gives a labour-market advantage.
  - 97% of Officers and 100% of Operators would recommend the programme.

- **It can be scaled up.**
  - Trainees: BLUE PORTS adaptable to national contexts (85.1%) and suitable for EU (77.7%)
  - multilingual delivery (Georgian, Greek, Italian, Spanish, English)

- **Keeping experienced workers up to date (reskilling).**
  - 92.9% of trainees were aged 30–59, and 50.3% had more than 10 years' experience

- **Benefits for port cities**
  - The curriculum covers corporate social responsibility, environmental protection and zero-waste

Co-funded by the European Union

The BLUE PORTS team

Project Coordinator

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CRETE
SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
RENEWABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
SYSTEMS LABORATORY

FUNDACIÓN VALENCIAPORT

HERAKLION PORT AUTHORITY SA
ΟΡΓΑΝΙΣΜΟΣ ΛΙΜΕΝΟΣ ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟΥ ΑΕ

DLTM
DISTRETTO LIGURE
DELLE TECNOLOGIE MARINE

MARITIME TRANSPORT AGENCY OF GEORGIA

TÜVNORD



Associated partners

MINISTRY
OF
MARITIME AFFAIRS
AND
INSULAR POLICY

Institut Méditerranéen
de Formation
Aux Métiers Maritimes

info@blue-ports.eu

www.blue-ports.eu

Co-funded by
the European Union

THANK YOU!

Co-funded by the European Union



Follow us on social media:

BLUE PORTS
www.linkedin.com/company/blue-ports/

BLUE PORTS
https://www.facebook.com/blue.ports.eu

@BluePorts1
https://twitter.com/BluePorts1

info@blue-ports.eu

www.blue-ports.eu

Disclaimer: BLUE PORTS is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can beheld responsible for them.