



Upskilling Shipbuilding Workforce in Europe (USWE) - Background Note:

SEA Europe and IndustriAll Europe represent close to 100% of the European shipbuilding and maritime equipment industry and its workers in 16 nations, encompassing the production, maintenance, repair and conversion of all types of ships and floating structures, commercial as well as naval, including the full supply chain with the various producers of maritime systems, equipment material, and services.

In November 2018 the EU Social Partners of the Shipbuilding and Maritime Equipment sector, [SEA Europe](#) and [industriAll Europe](#), together with [Tknika](#), the Basque VET Applied Research Centre, and [Turku University of Applied Science](#), launched a joint project for Upskilling Shipbuilding Workforce in Europe (USWE).

The social partners were mandated to undertake this important project by their national members of the EU Social Dialogue Committee for Shipbuilding. The aim of the project was to continue the important work and recommendations of the previous joint EU social dialogue skills projects. In particular, the project sought to **further identify the main skills gaps in the sector in relation to the adaptation to industry 4.0 and green technologies and the further digitalisation of the workplace.**

The USWE project has delivered an innovative methodology for managing sectoral skills and profiles in the shipbuilding industry. It identified the main skills and occupational needs, both now and in the next 5 and 10 years, and analysed the impact of 4.0 technologies on existing occupations and skills while identifying new ones that will be in high demand in the future. Moreover, the USWE Project has renewed 25 VET professional profiles identifying technical, green, digital, and transversal skills for the further elaboration of new curricula. This information has been submitted to the ESCO (European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations) Secretariat in order to be included in the European database.

Given that one of the main challenges is the scarcity of sectoral skills and workers, increasing the need to attract new workers, the partners of USWE project has also delivered a booklet to promote career opportunities in the sector to young people.

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