



## PRESS RELEASE

### USWE PROJECT ORGANISES ITS 1ST WORKSHOP IN TURKU, FINLAND

The EU-funded project “**Upskilling Shipbuilding Workforce in Europe**” (USWE) organised its first Workshop in Turku, Finland on 8 May 2019.

Thirty participants from industry, trade unions, education providers and public authorities from eight countries participated in the discussions and visited the **Meyer Turku shipyard** and its **shipbuilding school**.

The USWE project, which was initiated by the **European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for Shipbuilding** aims to support industry and workers in adapting to **industry 4.0 technologies**. The USWE project brings together industry, workers’ representatives and education providers to analyse the impact of technological change in existing occupations and to anticipate future skills needs.

In order to carry out this project the European sectoral social partners, **SEA Europe** (Shipyards’ & Maritime Equipment Association of Europe) and **industriAll Europe** (European Trade Union) have teamed up with **TKNIKA** (centre for innovation on VET) and **Turku University of Applied Sciences**.

One objective of the project is to **identify skills gaps and anticipate the future skills needs** arising from the impact of new technologies in the so-called “Industry / Shipyard 4.0”, but the project also aims to find ways to bridge the skills gap at European level by improving workers’ mobility across Europe. The eventual aim is to aid in the creation of further joint design of educational programmes providing solutions for industry-led demand for skills and competences.

**Francois Lambert**, Executive Director of GICAN, mentioned how relevant is for the industry to keep working to be able to provide a future to young motivated people, starting to bring the digital companionship and to Integrate industry 4.0 in a new age. At the same time, he said that “***This needs to be done at European level. If not we will have a competition within European companies and Asians will win***”.

**Tiina Perho**, member of the Board of South West Finland and Chair of the network of European regions on Maritime Industries, said that “***Europe needs specific policies for the shipbuilding and maritime equipment sector in order to support the development and implementation of new technologies, new energy solutions and to meet Europe’s climate goals***”.

Last March, the **Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions** adopted a [Joint Manifesto](#) requesting the European Commission to update *LeaderSHIP 2020*, the strategy for shipbuilding, maritime engineering and manufacturing in Europe. Ms Perho quoted the content of the Manifesto, reminding participants that “***maintaining an industrial capacity and jobs in Europe is fundamental, not only because of the importance of current maritime industrial employment in Europe's territories, but also for the development of emerging industrial sectors. Traditional shipbuilding industries are indeed sources of skills and infrastructures that are essential for the development of marine energies.***”

The next Workshop will be organised in Navantia, Cadiz, on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019.



*8/05/2019. 1<sup>st</sup> USWE Workshop in Turku, Finland*