



On November 11 and 12, the Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning of the Municipality of Piraeus successfully organized the two-day Stakeholders Conference of the European project “Maritime Innovative Network of Education for Emerging Maritime Issues” with the acronym MINE-EMI.

The main purpose of the event was to highlight the main axes of modern education in the field of Shipping.

The works of the Conference began in the Historic City Hall of the Municipality of Piraeus and was completed on the 2nd day at the Piraeus Port Authority’s Conference Hall.

Many speakers honored the Municipality of Piraeus with their presence and contributed to the successful organization of this Conference.

The works of the Conference were launched by the **Deputy Mayor of Communication-Promotion, Media and Utilization of European and National Resources, Mrs. Adriana Zarakeli**, who after conveying the greetings of the Mayor of Piraeus Mr. Giannis Moralis and welcomed the guests and partners of the program mentioned the following:



“It is a special pleasure for us as the Municipality of Piraeus to participate in such a program. Piraeus is the largest port in our country and as of 2019, the largest port in the Mediterranean and the 4th largest in Europe, after the ports of Rotterdam, Antwerp and Hamburg. In the port of Piraeus multiple activities are being developed, including trade, passenger transport, shipbuilding, repairs and all relevant and necessary ship services. Piraeus is now an important international cruise center, and also a hub for transit and trade for the wider Mediterranean. Ships of all types and sizes are being serviced daily, classifying Piraeus as one of the largest international transport hubs.”

In Shipping, like in every sector, human resources play a key role. For us, as the municipality of Piraeus, the education and training of today's students and tomorrow's executives of the Shipping industry is a very important issue. It is no coincidence that 2 purely Maritime High schools are hosted in our city at the moment, and specialized divisions of maritime professions are also established in two additional schools. Also, the AEGEAN COLLEGE includes the department of Maritime Studies in their curriculum, while the METROPOLITAN COLLEGE of Piraeus houses the Naval and Superyacht Academy. Finally, it would be a great omission not to mention the "educational flagship" of our city in the field of Shipping, the

University of Piraeus. The University of Piraeus has been hosting and educating students from all across the world for many years now. Thousands of students have successfully graduated from its undergraduate and postgraduate programs in Shipping.

Having in mind all the above, the Municipality of Piraeus, as a partner of the MINE-EMI program, wishes to contribute with all its forces in the creation of a modern postgraduate program, which will train future executives in the modern needs of the International Shipping sector. "

The 1st day of the event continued by the presentations of **Mrs. Stamatina Arvaniti, professor of the 9th Vocational Senior High School of Piraeus**, who spoke about gender discrimination in the shipping industry,



Mr. Michalis Boviatsis, PhD and Academic Officer of the Department of Shipping Studies of the Aegean College who referred to the environmental sustainability,

and **Professors Giorgos Georgoulis and Maria Lekakou, of the Department of Maritime Studies of the University of the Aegean**, who presented the program "The Ship Goes to School" which aims to inform students about the sea and maritime.

Also, through Zoom, **Mr. Georgios Alexandratos, Vice President of the Hellenic Maritime Chamber** shared with the attendees the basic principles for the transition from academic life to the maritime professional environment.

The 1st day was closed by **Mr. Alaettin Sevim, Professor and Representative of the Lead Partner of MINE-EMI, PIRI REIS University**, who presented the program.



The 2nd day of the event began under the music of the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Municipality of Piraeus, with the greeting of **the Municipal Councilor for Culture of the Municipality of Piraeus, CEO of Stavros Daifas Maritime Corporation S.A. and President of the Piraeus Maritime Club Mrs. Irini Daifa.**

Mrs. Daifa, after conveying the greetings of the Mayor of Piraeus Mr. Giannis Moralis, among other things mentioned the following:

"In an uncertain economic and pandemic environment, the Shipping Industry worldwide

is called upon, to overcome the obstacles and face the numerous challenges that arise, mainly related to safety matters, the human factor, inspections and new regulations.

I consider it a particularly important step, to involve as many stakeholders and interested parties as possible, in a dialogue to create a modern educational environment, that understands the needs of the Maritime Community, in terms of strengthening professional skills, upgrading knowledge and the continuous training of Merchant Marine Officers and Shipping Executives.



Briefly mentioning my personal views and those of the shipping community, we believe that the Maritime training should focus on matters of leadership, the environment, safety, security and soft skills, as well as on the control of environmental compliance to the regulations and risk management. In addition, cyber security, crew management, maritime meteorology, on-board inspections and the use of

LNG as fuel, are also areas that require specialization and the upgrading of knowledge as well as the strengthening of skills of all Members of the Maritime Community.

Closing my speech, I would like to refer in particular to the Greek-Owned Shipping Industry, the size of which and the cluster that depends on it, can create and support a large number of high-level jobs and of scientific potential, thus achieving a high level of quality operation, while maintaining its competitiveness.

That is the reason why I strongly believe, that the event organized by the Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning of the Municipality of Piraeus in the framework of the European project Maritime Innovative Network of Education Maritime Issues is highly important one!"

Afterwards, the **Director of Education & Lifelong Learning, Mrs. Vasiliki Sotiriou**, welcomed the invited guests, as well as the representatives of the MINE-EMI program partners and stressed that: *"The aim of the conference is to create a communication channel between the main stakeholders of the Greek shipping industry and experienced academics and professionals in the shipping sector".*

In the main part of the event, distinguished guest speakers spoke on the emerging issues of shipping and maritime education. More specifically, **Mr. Manolis Koutoulakis, Secretary General of Insular Policy and the Aegean**, spoke about the new trends in Greek maritime policy. As he stated, *"Greece is one of the most important naval states, therefore the country's shipping agenda meets and influences the global agenda."*



Then **Mr. D. Diamantidis, Charter Manager of Diamond Shipbroking LTD**, analyzed the market volatility in dry bulk carriers,

Mr. D. Spyrou, strategic planning and marketing consultant of the Piraeus Port Authority, presented the tools and digitization technologies to support environmental sustainability in the port of Piraeus,

While **Mrs. Eleni Iakovaki, professor at the University of the Aegean**, referred to the creation of material and content for the

development of soft skills for shipping.

Continuing the presentations, **Mrs. Vicky Apostolopoulou, Professor of the School of Maritime Studies of the Metropolitan College**, spoke about the evolution of technology and the challenges for maritime education,

Captain Nikos Aslanis, shipping consultant for SQLearn introduced the public to virtual reality (VR) in maritime education,

Mrs. Theoni Panteli from the Planning and Development Department of the Municipality of Piraeus, presented the Blue Development Strategy of the city

and **Captain George Vlachos, training consultant at Cosmos Nautical Training Center**, spoke about attracting young people to the maritime profession.



In the second and last part, the partners of MINE - EMI presented the development and the stages of implementation of the project. In more detail: **Mrs. Vasiliki Sotiriou** presented the position and history of Piraeus in international shipping and the importance of its participation in the project. **Professor Pinar Ozdemir from the Piri Reis University of Istanbul** (lead partner of the project) spoke about the

challenges of Integrated Maritime Policy in the Black Sea region, the **Professors of the University of the Aegean Mrs. Maria Lekakou and Mr. Georgios Vangelas** referred to the implementation of the course Port & Maritime Logistics, while the **NVNA University of Bulgaria and the University of Constanta** presented via video the development of their own content ("Port Management and Ship Operations" and "The use of maritime simulators in training and evaluation" respectively.) Finally, **Mr. Stavros Kalognomos, Executive Secretary of the Balkan and Black Sea Commission (BBSC) of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime**

Regions of Europe (CPMR) and Mr. Venelin Dobrev, Project Manager of Marine Cluster Bulgaria, presented the project promotion, communication and development activities.

The two-day conference was concluded by Professor Taner Albayrak - Vice Dean of the School of Shipping, Head of International Relations of Piri Reis University and Project Manager of MINE-EMI, who praised the Municipality of Piraeus for organizing the event, and expressed his gratitude for the implementation and the content of the conference.