



**Polski Klaster Morski**  
**Polish Maritime Cluster**

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**Vasco da Gama project**

On February 11<sup>th</sup> 2014, the ENMC Secretary General attended the kick-off meeting of the Vasco da Gama project in Brussels.

The Vasco da Gama project (VDG) aims to:

- Improve the skills of persons employed in the European shipping industry with a view to addressing two specific challenges, namely maritime safety and the reduction of environmental damage, thereby contributing towards increasing the competitiveness of EU personnel within global competition
- lay the foundations for mobility within Europe, involving education and training institutions that wish to contribute towards these two challenges (along the lines of a 'maritime Erasmus' for instance).

The project involves partners from a number of EU countries, including regions, maritime training institutes, clusters, and stakeholders from the maritime professions.

The project is organized into 6 work packages: Management - Recommendations, dissemination - Maritime Erasmus - Greening maritime transport - Training and maritime simulators- Training for maritime safety.

Besides the European Transport Federation (ETF) and the European Community Shipowners' Association (ECSA), the ENMC is member of the Advisory board and will continue to follow-up these meetings.

After having prepared the file with the chairman, the ENMC representative stated that:

1. Maritime safety and the reduction of the ecological footprint of shipping activities are indeed two major challenges the Blue Economy is faced with
2. Therefore, both ENMC Chairman and Secretary General will follow up this project
3. The lead partner can reckon on our support, i.e. the follow-up and dissemination of the guidelines, recommendations and decisions to be taken during the advisory board meetings
4. it would be useful to try and draw some lessons from the data collected by EMSA when inspecting maritime schools all over the world (for years now EMSA has visited many schools everywhere and it might be worthwhile to investigate whether some general common trends have been noted as far as weaknesses are concerned, especially re safety).

More information can be found on the Vasco Da Gama website: <http://www.vasco-da-gama.eu>