

TRECVET PROJECT

WORKING WITHOUT BORDERS
RECOGNITION OF EUROPEAN CERTIFICATION IN VET



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➔ Why are professional skippers not allowed to work without borders in Europe?

The TRECvet conference attempted to answer this question. The EU-funded TRECvet project concluded with a successful end of project conference held in Palma de Mallorca on the 20 September 2013. The aim of the project and conference was to initiate European wide dialogue about recognition of professional skipper qualifications between Member States.

Mike John, TRECvet project coordinator, reports "The conference was a great success and we were overwhelmed with the attendance of 75 people including many professional skippers, National Authorities, nautical associations, charter companies, crew agencies, sea and diving schools. This shows that the problem the project addresses has a very wide impact on the industry. The feedback has been very positive and constructive, with UK and Spanish authorities recognising the need for more cooperation".

The legacy of this project and the conference will be to stimulate cooperation between authorities, generate pressure group activity and create greater worker mobility and opportunities for professional maritime personnel and vocational workers in many other sectors.

Phil Edwards from Dovaston Crew an international recruitment company provided the following statement for the conference. "The TRECvet project has been welcomed by many yachting professionals and we at Dovaston are one of the well recognised names that endorse the proposals. I can clearly see many benefits particularly for centres in the Mediterranean, where many nationalities of crew are employed".

Member of the European Parliament, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut took the time during a heavy work schedule in Mallorca to visit the conference and personally offer encouragement and support to the project team.

The TRECvet project has developed a method and a software tool that make professional skipper qualifications objectively comparable and has analysed as a test case three qualifications from the UK, Spain and Germany. The aim is to give detailed and objective information about the qualifications in order to compare them, to identify their commonalities and differences and to start a dialogue about how to improve the current situation. The Comparison Tool can be found at <https://trecvet.eu/comparison-tool.html>.

Based on the success of the conference, the coordinators intend to continue a dialogue with all attendees and maintain the momentum generated by the project. They also invite other authorities and interested parties with similar problems

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to contact them to formulate solutions based on the experience and tools developed in the TRECNET project. It is also planned to organise a follow-up conference in a years time to assess the advances made in the industry and to evaluate what further needs to be done to push this initiative forward.

For any enquiries please contact info@trecvet.eu

For more information please refer to www.trecvet.eu

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