

Work package n°4 - Content improvement and digitalisation of teaching materials***Report on the workshop and guidelines for harmonisation of maritime law course curriculum***

The harmonization of maritime law course curricula is a critical initiative aimed at standardizing education in maritime law across different partner institutions the Technical University of Catalonia, University of Split (Faculty of Maritime Studies), and Riga Technical University (Latvian Maritime Academy). The initiative aligns with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Model Course 7.01 to ensure consistency in teaching and learning outcomes. The recent workshops held in Barcelona on April 16-17, 2024, under the MareLaw project, focused on upgrading and harmonizing the Maritime Law STCW-based curriculum for maritime students through developed Guidelines for Harmonisation of Maritime Law Course Curriculum.

During the workshop the key elements to be included was discussed and agreed:

- Recommended teaching hours and ECTS.
- Defined course aims and learning outcomes.
- Common topics to be covered across institutions, such as international maritime conventions and regulations.
- Inclusion of country-specific legal topics where necessary to enhance practical relevance.
- Establishing continuous student evaluation and grading mechanisms.
- Developing standardized assessment criteria to ensure fair and consistent grading.
- Encouraging the use of case studies, simulations, and real-world scenarios to improve student understanding.

The maritime law course should have 7 ECTS credits and a total of 75 contact hours is suggested, including lectures, seminars, and self-study.

To ensure effective delivery of maritime law courses, the recommendation is to mix of traditional and modern teaching methods such as:

- Lecture-Based Learning: Traditional classroom teaching for legal theory and concepts.
- Case Studies & Practical Scenarios: Students analyze real-life maritime cases to understand the application of legal principles.
- Digital Learning Tools: Use of online course materials, quizzes, and interactive learning modules.
- Guest Lectures & Industry Collaboration: Engagement with legal professionals, maritime authorities, and industry experts.

A standardized system of student assessment is proposed to ensure fairness and consistency. Recommended evaluation methods should include:

- Written Exams – Assessing theoretical knowledge and application of maritime law.
- Case Study Analyses – Evaluating students’ ability to apply legal reasoning to real-world scenarios.
- Oral Presentations & Debates – Developing communication and critical thinking skills.
- Continuous Assessments – Quizzes, research assignments, and participation in discussions.

The aim of *Guidelines for Harmonisation of Maritime Law Course Curriculum* is standardizing maritime law courses across different partner institutions. It seeks to ensure that maritime law courses follow a harmonized curriculum that aligns with international standards, particularly the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Model Course 7.01 while still allowing flexibility for national legal differences and provides a comprehensive legal education for maritime professionals.

This approach balances global consistency with national legal diversity, allowing institutions to maintain core legal principles while addressing local legislative requirements. By incorporating modern teaching methodologies, digital learning tools, and practical case

studies, the guidelines aim to create a comprehensive and recognized maritime law curriculum.

