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**Knowledge transfer and international co-operation. Polish Maritime Cluster
and Gdynia Maritime University**

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Knowledge transfer and international co-operation – Polish Maritime Cluster and Gdynia Maritime University experience

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The Polish maritime economy with about 12 000 enterprises is the important part of the blue sector in the Baltic Sea Region. With more than 2 bln zł total investment every year blue economy is the most innovative sector in Polish economy. Polish maritime sector is the area of innovation and sustainable growth. Maritime sector had 88 100 posts of employment in 2012 and generates 27325,7 mln zł revenues from total activity. Polish Maritime Cluster has a strong position in Baltic Sea Region and EU blue economy.

Baltic Sea Region cooperation

During the participation in StarDust/Marchain project, Gdynia Maritime University (GMU) and Polish Maritime Cluster (PMC) took part in several international initiatives, established cooperation with many interested parties from the BSR and represented the region on the annual meeting of European Network of Maritime Clusters. What is more, they organized a conference for Marchain partners in Gdynia and prepared two projects, which might be realized in the future.

Marchain Project partners have met in Gdynia, Poland in order to exchange the experience and knowledge connected with conducting maritime projects and to set path for further cooperation, including the development of potential projects. In the beginning participants enjoyed a study-visit to the harbor. On the second day meeting was held at Economy Faculty of Gdańsk University in Sopot in connection with the InfoGlobMar conference organized in cooperation of Gdańsk University and GMU. The aim of the Conference was to provide the answers on the questions concerning the possibilities of development for maritime related enterprises in global environment.

During the summer 2014 GUM and PMC prepared two project applications for the Seed Money Programme. The former is called "BSR-COR" and is related to the intermodal shift and transport issues and was submitted for the Transport Priority Area. The latter – "Baltic Promise" aims at strengthening the overall image of the BSR by promoting common CSR code in regional SMEs. It was submitted under the PROMO Horizontal Action and support from the HA coordinators was already received from the Seed Money Office.

European Maritime Clusters Network

Gdynia Maritime University and Polish Maritime Cluster represented BSR and Marchain on Yearly European Network of Maritime Clusters in Lisbon (2013) and Sofia (2014). During the meeting that gathered the representatives of the European Commission and some of the most active maritime clusters from the European Union several important issues was discussed concerning the EU maritime policy formulation and further developments in cluster networks and EU maritime economy. Thanks to semi-formal talks with EU Commission representative, Polish Maritime Cluster gained support for realizing maritime cluster projects in the BSR and advice on obtaining the possible funding.

European Maritime Day 2014 in Bremen

The programme of EMD 2014 was opened by the workshop entitled: "Bridging education and maritime economy in the Baltic Sea Region" organized by the employees of Gdynia Maritime University (Economy and Management Department) and the board of Polish Maritime Cluster. The workshop covered the issues of education and business in the maritime economy. Referring to more than 90 years of experience of Gdynia Maritime University and the Polish Maritime Cluster, the author, using the examples from Poland, presented the ways of knowledge transfer between universities and enterprises (especially from Pomerania maritime economy). The most common activities include: internships and meetings of various scientific circles and individual students in enterprises with managers of companies, promoting preparation of engineering, master's and doctoral dissertation closely related to the business practice, organizing seminars with the participation of representatives of the government, business and science, and conducting joint research projects. ■



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