

MOBILITY FOR MARINE CAREERS

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Mobility for Marine Careers was an EU Erasmus+ project which offered the opportunity to 12 Cornish students trained in marine engineering and boat building to gain valuable first-hand experience in world-class marine leisure businesses in Brittany, France.

The series of two-week work placements, which took place in April and June 2017, provided students with the opportunity to join the workforce of seven French boat and shipyards to experience work and embrace a new culture in a professional environment, aimed to equip students with new skills.

The mobility experiences both took place in Concarneau in Southern Brittany, a thriving place for the naval manufacturing and marine engineering sectors. The educational programme also included marine-related learning activities (Douarnenez Maritime Museum, Ateliers de l'Enfer Training Centre in sail-making; wooden boat building and saddlery; kayak, sailing and stand-up paddle) and visits to flagship businesses (Piriou, Kairos, TOWT). This highlighted the shared maritime culture and history between Cornwall and Brittany.



THE PARTNERS

Cornwall Marine Network (CMN) is a not-for-profit organisation owned by more than 350 marine businesses and is dedicated to supporting the marine sector in Cornwall. Its subsidiary company, the Cornwall Apprenticeship Agency (CAA), provides bespoke support to small businesses to help them grow their workforce through apprentices. The CAA led this project.

Falmouth Marine School is part of the Cornwall College Group and provides a comprehensive selection of courses, specialising in boatbuilding, leisure and watersports, marine engineering and marine science and biology. Eight students, trained at Levels 2 and 3 in boat building or marine engineering, were recruited to participate in the project.

Helston Community College, which collaborated with CMN over the 2016/17 school year to offer an innovative 1-day-a-week Level 1 boat building and marine engineering course to Post 16 construction students, recruited four motivated participants to join the project and travel to France.

The Finistère 360° Agency, which is dedicated to the development of both the marine leisure and tourism sectors, was the local representative for the project in Finistère, Brittany. Through its active network, Finistère 360° secured placements for the students in high-profile companies and organised a comprehensive programme of marine-related visits and activities.



Funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



FEEDBACK ON WORK EXPERIENCE

"The trip was character-building".

Adam Cocks who was placed at SEMIM, company which specialises in naval repair on large units.

"I have been sanding, painting, fixing things and doing some hull work. I learnt new skills in a different environment".

Matthew Moseley who was placed at IDB Marine, shipyard. This company has won several awards for the production of 8 to 11-meter sailing boats.

"I worked on the production of sailing yachts and I have learnt new methods of boat construction. It was a brilliant experience and I now better understand the French culture".

Drew Passmore, who was placed at Maree Haute, an award winner in 2007, 2011 & 2014, with recognised expertise on resin infusion processes.

"The main tasks for me were to prepare moulds and get them ready to be used, and then fill the moulds so that it made the final piece". The most important experience was to learn new skills and be able to meet new people and work alongside them".

Ben Collins at Maree Haute.

"I carried out boat maintenance tasks and I also helped maintain the quality of the engine and ensure it was working to full capacity. I learnt more about the language and understanding someone not just from speaking but by other methods of communication as well".

Isaac Dryburgh, at Concar'nautic, company which specialises in the purchase, sale, maintenance & lease of boats.

"I have learnt some French skills. I learnt how to take apart, service and re-assemble pieces of equipment".

Milo Ramsey, at Meca-Diesel, business which specialises in large industrial units & repair services on diesel marine engines.

What did the employers say?

Six employers have agreed to renew the experience and thought having English students in the shipyards was highly beneficial for their staff, allowing them to progress in English; a requirement when working with international clients and contracts.

"The students are extremely motivated, have a good technical level and are willing to work".

Arnaud Tudal, Workshop Manager at Maree Haute.



PROJECT OUTCOMES

The main motivation for the twelve students to carry out a learning mobility period abroad was to enhance their technical and professional skills (92% of the participants agreed) followed by the opportunity to meet new people (67% agreed) and to enhance their future employability in the UK (67% agreed).

By the end of their work placements, 67% of the students felt more confident and convinced of their abilities. 58% thought they were now better capable of taking over work tasks with higher responsibility and 67% had a clearer idea about their professional career aspirations and goals.

After their stay abroad, 75% of the students felt they had improved their technical and professional competences and increased their chances of getting a new or better job. 87% of them felt they now have better opportunities for internships or jobs in the UK.

75% of the students thought the trip had helped them improve their skills in French and 67% could easily imagine working in France, whilst 58% would like to work in an international context.

