

RPL in Maritime studies

Leonardo Marušić



SVEUČILIŠTE U ZADRU

Universitas Studiorum Jadertina





RPL in general

Recognition of knowledge obtained by non-formal and informal learning is all about **assessment!**

There are a few questions about assessment that need to be answered:

Who? - Institutions providing formal education

How?

When? - After recognition is requested and before a certificate is issued



RPL in general

There is one more question: **Why?**

To improve employability or get promoted

How?

- by getting some certificate
assessment = one (or few) exam(s)
- by obtaining a qualification
assessment = many exams = a lot of time

Or there is another way?



Maritime education

Job market is very much international which required recognition of qualifications.

In **1978 IMO** (International Maritime Organization) adopted the **STCW convention** (International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers).

It defines training and certification of seafarers, through two **levels** (operational and management).

It contains IMO Model Courses, with „**learning outcomes**”, and **workload** (hours).



Maritime education

Knowledge is assessed, and certificates are issued by **maritime authorities** (harbormaster offices as branch-offices of the ministry responsible for maritime affairs).

Employers require these certificates **instead** of formal qualifications!

But, some of the certificates cannot be obtained without some formal qualifications, e.g.:

- Certificate for watch officer cannot be obtained without a formal high school degree (EQF level 4)
- Certificate for first officer cannot be issued without two years of university education (EQF level 5)



Maritime education

Some of the IMO courses are embedded in the formal education programmes, and then automatically recognized by the maritime authorities.

But, the formal education program has to be co-accredited by the maritime authorities!

I.e. maritime system **recognizes** formal education, if it is involved in accreditation.



Two parallel systems

Formal education

(education ministry)

High school

University

Bologna process

EQF and NQF

Quality Assurance

Maritime

(maritime ministry)

Operational level

Management level

STCW convention

IMO Model Courses

ISO quality

+ informal learning

Recognition?



Career paths

Path 1:

maritime high school

→ maritime study

→ kadetship

▶ 3rd officer

▶ 2nd officer

▶ 1st officer

▶ captain

Path 2:

maritime high school

→ kadetship

▶ ▶ 3rd officer

▶ ▶ 2nd officer

⇒ maritime study
~~something else~~

▶ 1st officer

▶ captain

▶ - IMO courses, experience ...

Path 2 takes longer!



Something else

A program taking into account prior learning

STCW courses embeded in BSc program

D2 Basic Safety Training

D6b ARPA and Radar Observer –
Operational level

D6c ARPA and Radar Observer –
Management level

D11 GMDSS General Radio Operator

D12 Advanced Fire Fighting

D17 Proficiency in Survival Craft and
Rescue Boats

D19 Medical First Aid

D20 Advanced Medical Care

Examples of BSc courses

Mathematics (0% covered)

Safety at sea (100 % covered)

Electronic navigation
(6 ECTS, 30 + 30 hours)
(~50% covered)



Thank you for your attention

Imarusic@unizd.hr