

## **YEP-MED project: a tool for improving employability in the port-logistics sector**

In 2020, ten partners from seven countries bordering the Mediterranean have joined with a common objective to train young people with skills adjusted to the current market in logistics-port communities operating in the new Blue Economy. The partners will focus on the regions involved in the project, with the aim of promoting social inclusion and fight against poverty.

These actions will be carried out within the framework of a new European project titled YEP-MED (Young Employment in Ports of the Mediterranean) co-financed by the European Neighbouring Instrument - Cross-Border Cooperation in the Mediterranean (ENI CBCMED) programme. The project, which will count on the amount of 3,000,000 euros of funds for its development, will work towards a better preparation of skills required by the port-logistics labour market - a sector with a high growth potential - through vocational training.

The project, led by the Escola Europea - Intermodal Transport, aims to develop port-logistics training and vocational (TVET) resources adapted to sector needs to strengthen youth employability; increase and upgrade local employment opportunities through the creation of real dual-learning programmes with job placements, strengthening the role of SME's operating in the port ecosystems for future employment creation; and setting up collaborative national and transnational partnerships between port-logistics associations, operators, SMEs, training centres and VET providers, whilst introducing a PPP co-management process.

The project counts on the participation of partners from Spain, Italy, France, Tunisia, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan, including public administrations such as Port de Barcelona (Spain), Autorità Portuale Mar Tirreno Centro Settentrionale (Italy), Port de Marseille-Fos (France), Damietta Port Authority (Egypt), Office de la Marine Marchande et des Ports (Tunisia), Aqaba Development Corporation (Jordan) and Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut (Lebanon), as well as training centres in each of the countries such as the Escola Europea - Intermodal Transport and Fundació Valenciaport (Spain), Arab Academy (Egypt) and Institut Méditerranéen de Formation aux Métiers Maritimes (Tunisia). As associated entities, MEDPorts association and Consell Valencià de la Joventut will also join the project.

MEDPorts in particular will contribute to the development of project activities in providing a cohesion tool and platform for communication between the port communities involved in the project. This will be done through an already existing body: a training and occupation committee represented by all the

members of MEDPorts, which aims to promote and motivate training adapted to the needs detected in these communities. This way MEDPorts, already aligned with the project's priorities, will be able to facilitate its success.

Throughout 30 months, the partners and associates of the project will implement tools to achieve the main objectives of this initiatives, in the short, medium and long terms.

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## **About the Escola Europea – Intermodal Transport**

The Escola Europea is a training centre and a reference point for intermodal transport and logistics in Europe, promoting sustainable logistics through innovative courses.

The organisation centres its activities in three principal areas: Research and Innovation, Knowledge and Training.

The Escola Europea began its activities in 2006 as a training centre for European professionals and students of logistics, transport management and international commerce. Years later, the institution gained experience and know-how in areas of international and national project administration, communication, content creation, and development and promotion of logistics modules by collaborating with known European institutions and businesses.