

CASE STUDY

Name of the case study	Professional recognition of graduates in maritime sector
Case study focus	Professional certification of graduates
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Short description (Max. 300 characters)	The case study is focused on certification of graduates of maritime higher education institutions (HEIs) on a base of international professionally-oriented standards of competence for seafarers. Such certification is obligatory to access to the profession in maritime sector
Case study (max two pages)	<p>The specific focus of the case – professional recognition of graduates as ships officers.</p> <p>Access to workplaces in international shipping is possible only on a base of appropriate certification. The regulations in this field are established by International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, and in its annex - the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended (STCW Convention and Code).</p> <p>According to the STCW Convention each candidate for certification must (among other requirements) have completed approved education and training and meet the appropriate minimum standards of competence established in the STCW Code. Each minimum standard of competence in STCW Code has the following structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competences, <p>and for each competence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge, understanding and proficiency (KUP), - Methods for demonstrating competence, and - Criteria for evaluating competence. <p>Each minimum standard of competence in STCW Code, in fact, is a standard for appropriate professional (occupational) qualification. Certificate of competency issued under the requirements of the STCW Convention is a confirmation that holder of certificate is qualified appropriately in sense of professional (occupational) qualification.</p> <p>An essential specific feature of such certification is a certification authority. According to the STCW Convention, Governments are responsible for implementation of established international standards and for certification. Each certificate of competency issued in accordance with STCW Convention contains the phrase "The Government of ... certifies that .."</p> <p>So, in this case the certification bodies are not concrete employers or their associations, but Governments of countries. On the other hand, the essence of such certification can be</p>

	<p>common for different occupations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The professional (occupational) standard must be established; - The body authorised for certification has to be established; - The authorised body has to evaluate if candidate meet the appropriate standard. <p>In a case of certification of seafarers the following principles are implemented:</p> <p><i>For institutions and programmes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maritime education and training (MET) institutions have to implement Quality Standard System (Quality Assurance System); - MET programmes have to be continuously monitored (content and implementation); - Independent evaluation has to be conducted at intervals of not more than five years; <p><i>For candidates for certification:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It has to be proved that candidate achieved all prescribed competencies and appropriate learning outcomes. <p>For this purpose 2 “action lines” are implemented :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Step-by-step examination during the study period (traditional process for all HEIs); - Final assessment by external authorised body (certification authority). <p>The institutional assessment and examination system, as well as programmes in whole, is periodically inspected by national and international authorities.</p> <p>Final assessment for certification is performed by State Qualification Commission. Ukrainian national provision allows graduates to be certified during the final attestation in HEIs. During the final attestation after the completion of study programme 2 commissions work in parallel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Degree Commission established by HEI; - State Qualification Commission established by authorised body (for professional certification). <p>These commissions make 2 independent decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On Degree awarding; - On certification in accordance with STCW. <p>For certification in accordance with STCW the State Qualification Commission checks if candidate fulfilled all requirements concerning approved education and training, and examines him independently.</p> <p>In a case if candidate passes this examination successfully, the commission decides to certify him.</p> <p>In a case if candidate does not pass this examination successfully in HEI, he is required to pass the examination latter at authorised body (outside of HEI).</p>
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Thank you!