



The need for cross Acceptance in Seafarers Certificate of Acceptance

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Erasmus+

Mr. Ugurcan Acar

Founder & Managing Director

MARITIME INNOVATORS



Mr. Ugurcan Acar - Founder & Managing Director

- has a Bachelor`s degree in **Marine Studies (Merchant Shipping)** from the **University of Plymouth (2009)** and a **HND from City of Glasgow Collage (2008)**.
- is a **Merchant Navy Deck Officer** having over **three years sea experience** at sea on board of various vessels e.g. **tankers, containers, general cargo vessels**.
- specialized in European R&D projects and has over **10 years experience in European Union projects** such as Horizon 2020, Erasmus +, Leonardo Da Vinci programmes etc.
- is **General Secretary of TUDEVMED** (please see www.tudevmed.com) and **delegate of TURDEF (Turkish Shipping Federation)**.
- managed to receive a number of ideas to be supported by EU with his sea and academic experience. The proposals were funded by European Union such as
 - **ACTS:** Avoiding accidents at sea – www.ecolregs.com
 - **NEO-COL:** Navigational Oriented Colregs Training – www.neo-col.com
 - **PraC-MarEng:** Practical and Communication Based Maritime English - www.prac-mareng.com
 - **SeaSAFER:** Simulation of Sea Accidents For Effective Responses - www.seasafer.com
 - **ENDORSEME:** Enabling Seafarers to Mutual Endorsement - www.endorseme4seas.com
 - **SEA MENTORS:** SEAfarters Experiential Knowledge Based MENTORS - www.seamentors.com

Summary



- This presentation reports on the European Maritime Certification of Competence (COC) practices.
- The research was conducted with the participation of six partner countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Spain, Turkey, Ireland, Slovenia), covering national practices related to STCW training and seafarer certification.

Research Methodology



- Each partner collected information from their country's maritime administration.



COC Requirement under STCW within EU



*“Under the STCW Convention **masters and officers / engineers and officer** shall hold certificates of competency (CoC) entitling the lawful holder to serve in the capacity and perform the functions involved at the level of responsibility specified in the document.”*

To become a master or an officer on board seagoing ships flying an EU Member State flag, you need to hold a certificate of competency by completing specific approved education and training, fulfil the requirements in terms of minimum age, medical fitness, seagoing service and meet the standards of competence as prescribed in the STCW Convention.

*Holders of certificates of competency issued by other EU Member States or non-EU Member States shall also hold an **endorsement** attesting the recognition of the said certificate issued by the EU Member State whose flag the ship flies.*

National administrations use STCW standards for recognizing foreign certificates. However, specific rules and criteria exist for recognizing certificates issued by certain countries.

Requirements for CoC recognition across EU Member States:



- *The person has submitted an application with attached the certificate of competency and its endorsement, valid health certificate, identity document;*
- *The Administration, which has issued the certificate and its endorsement, shall certify their authenticity;*
- *Seafarers are required to speak the working language which is set by the employer. If it is English, then the CoC covers this. If it is a national language the additional certificate of language competence is required.*

Requirements for CoC recognition :

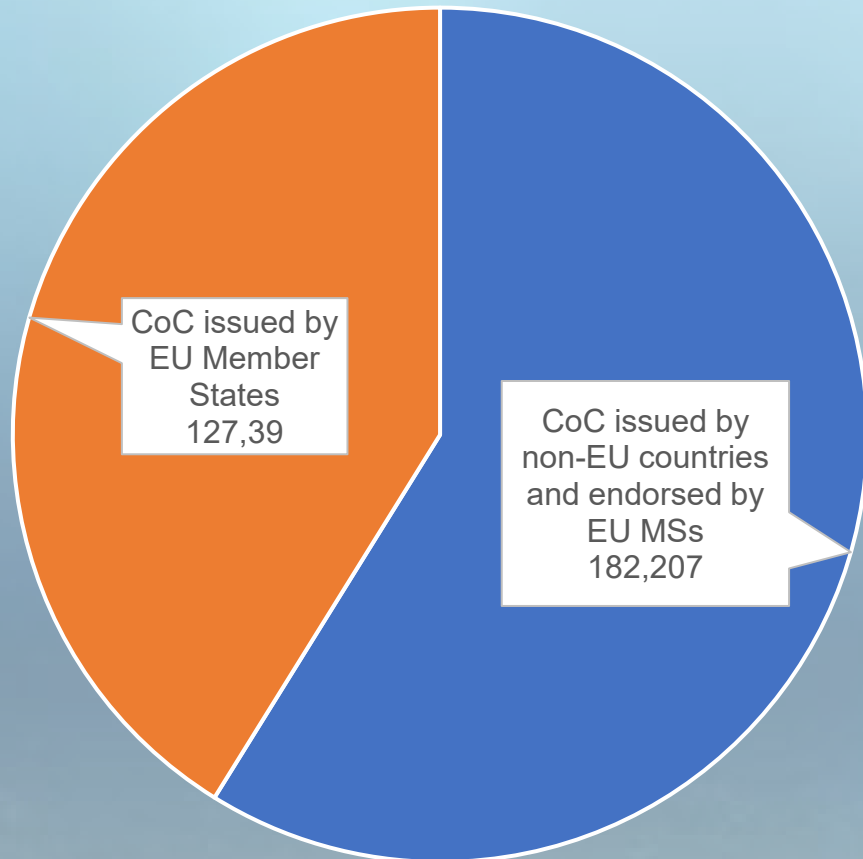


- *personal request (printed form) written and signed by the applicant through which he assumes full responsibility for the authenticity and legality of the submitted documents;*
- *valid certificate of competency/proficiency;*
- *valid GMDSS certificate (in case it's a separate document);*
- *valid attesting endorsement of the certificate of competency/proficiency (where appropriate);*
- *identification document;*
- *request from a shipping company or a company operating ships flying EU Member State flag;*
- *valid psychologically - medical visit for the position held.*

Masters and Officers COC



Available to serve on EU flagged vessels
In total 309,597 Masters and Officers



- *To crew their vessels, shipowners of EU Member States may choose to recruit from among more than 300,000 masters and officers, holding the relevant certificates.*
- *One-third of these masters and officers hold certificates of competency issued by non-EU states and endorsed by EU Member States.*

Non-EU masters and Officers available to EU vessels



Top 5 nationalities of non-EU masters and officers available to serve on EU flagged ships



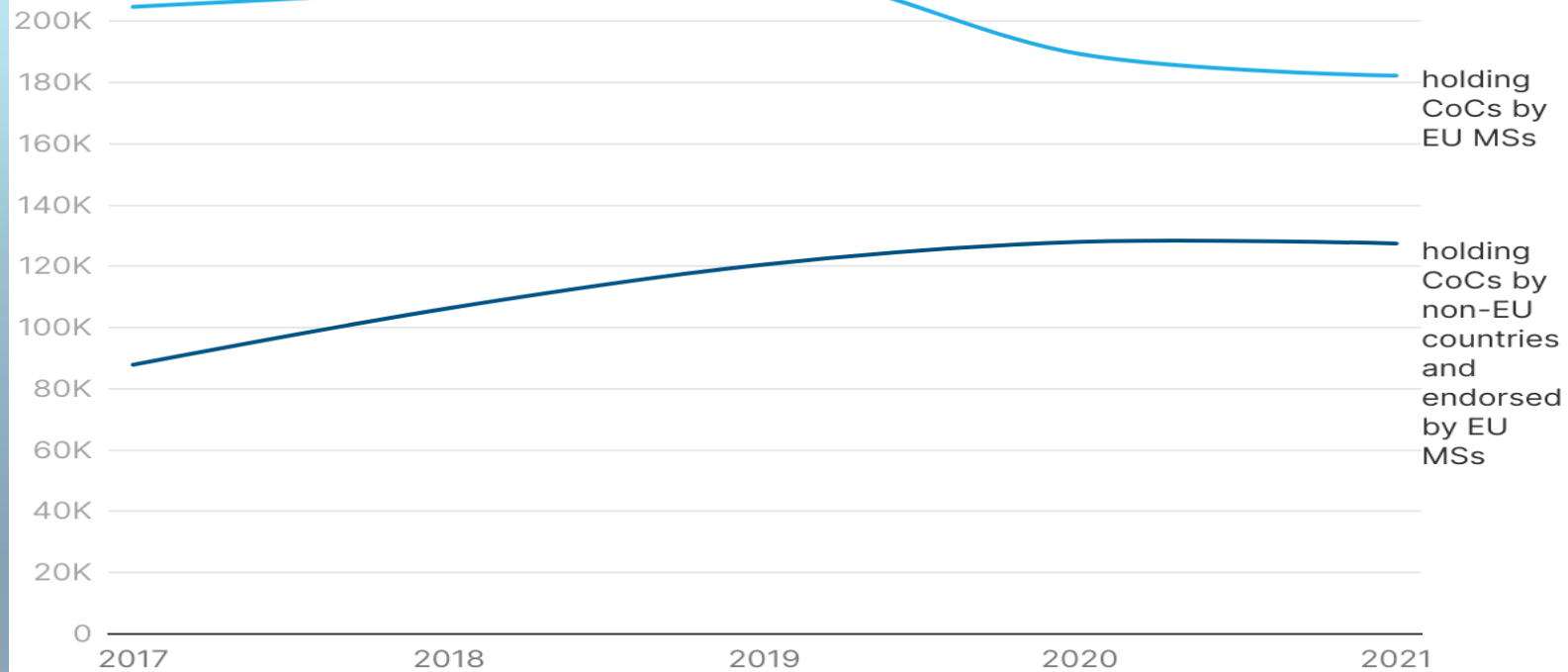
Filipinos (36.4%),
Ukrainians (21.5%),
Russians (13.5%),
Indians (10.4%),
Turks (5.3%).

EU ISSUED AND ENDORSED COCs



Number of masters and officers

available to serve on EU flagged ships*



CoC: Certificate of Competency

*from 2020 total numbers were affected by BREXIT and COVID-19

Cross Recognition

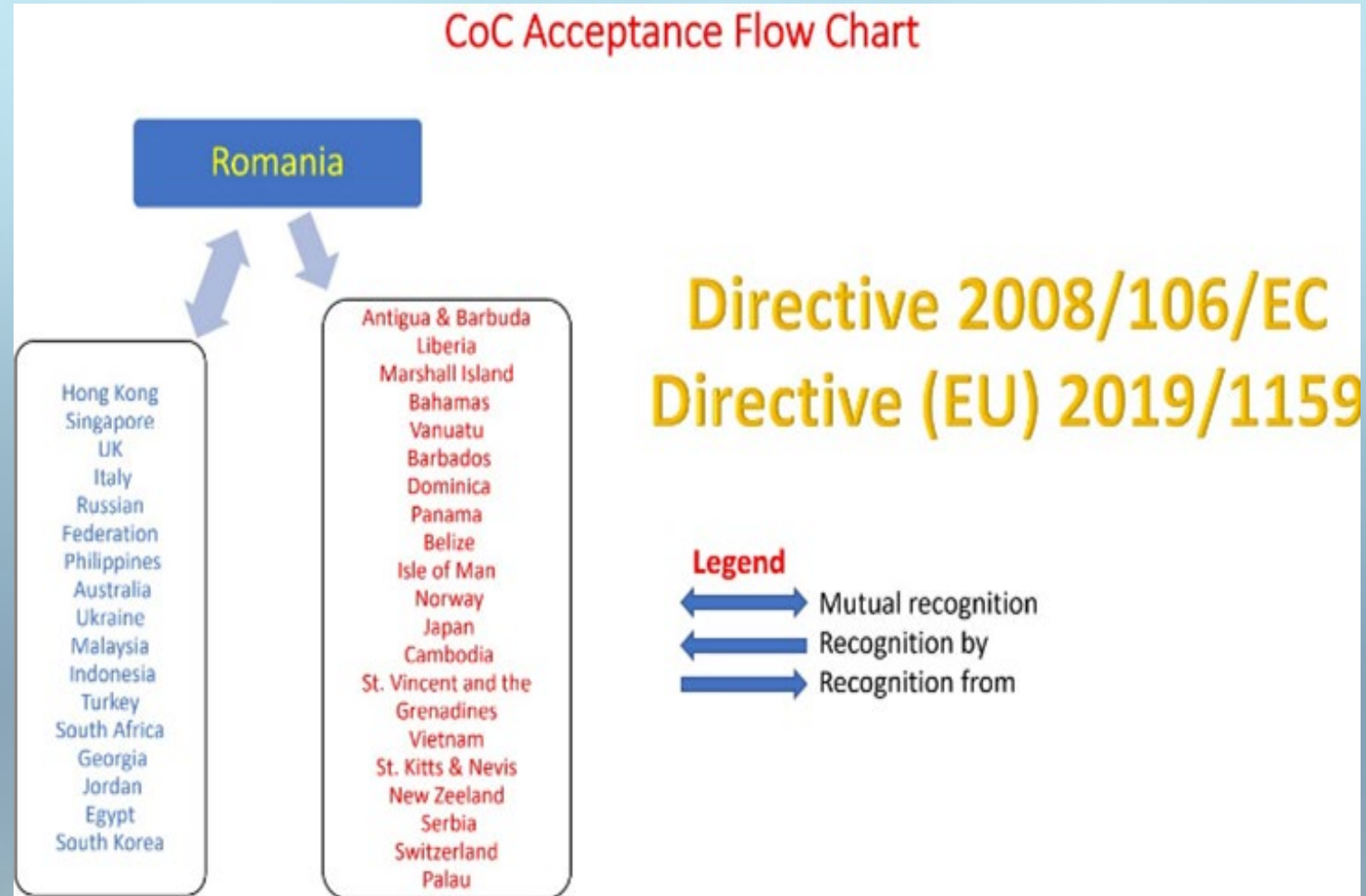


- There are still challenges in cross-recognition arise due to differing STCW training practices within/outside Europe.
- Some EU member states impose stricter standards, leading to complications in certificate revalidation.
- For Ireland, the United Kingdom is now a third party country since leaving the European Union.

National and International Cases



- Third country qualified seafarers from the perspective of the EU are shown to hold certifications that are not fully aligned with standard STCW qualification.



Certification Practices in Partner countries



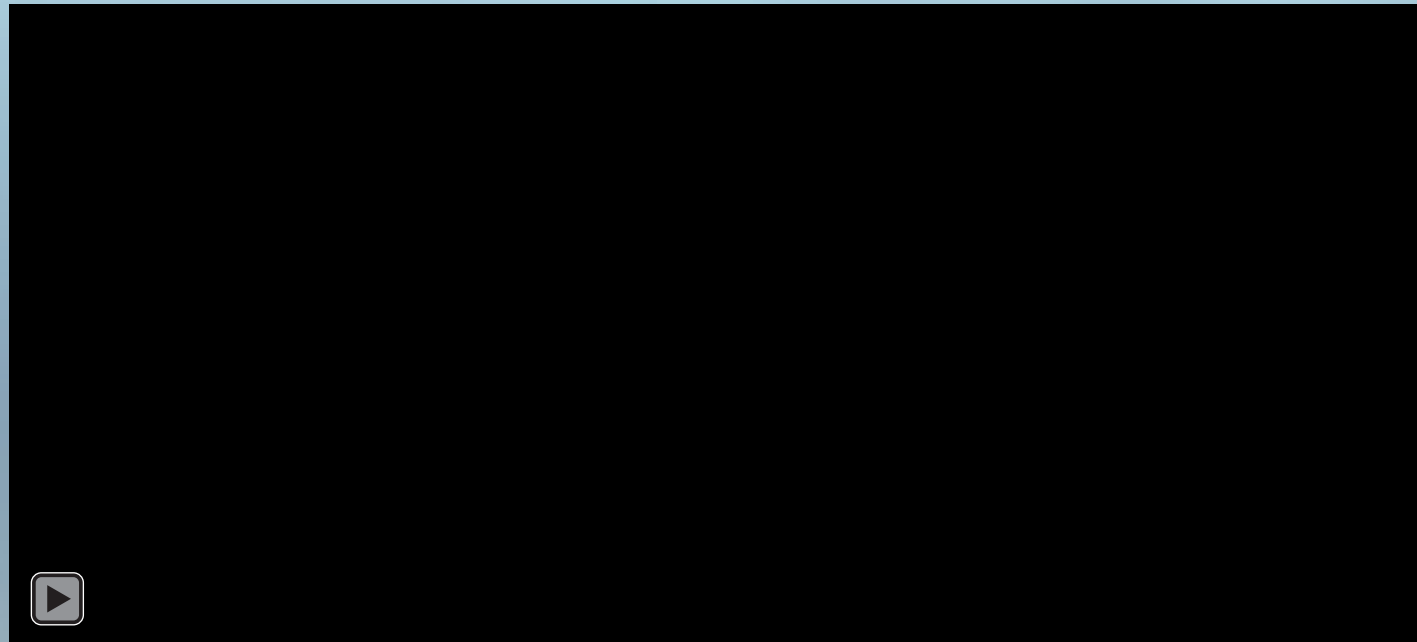
➤ *Most of the information about recognition of certificates is public on Administrations' websites.*

	Bulgaria	Ireland	Slovenia	Romania	Spain	Turkey
National Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bulgarian language is NOT required for international flags but for national flags - Working Language is required but not limited to English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum English Language required (Marlins) - IRISH Maritime Administration assess COCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If in Slovenian Waters, Slovenian language competence to be displayed - Working Language is required but not limited to English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Romanian Language is NOT required for international waters but for national waters - Working Language is required but not limited to English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spanish Language is NOT Required for International Flagged but for national flagged - Working Language is required but not limited to English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A minimum maritime English language is required for COCs - Working Language is required but not limited to English
Work Permit	- If from EU, Not required	- If from EU, Not required	If from EU, Not required	If from EU, Not required	If from EU, Not required	Required for all nations working in Turkish Flagged vessels
Assessments to <u>recognised</u>	National Authority conducts COCs exams	National Authority conducts COCs exams ENG1 Medical Certificate required	National Authority conducts COCs exams And COCs are accepted from STCW recognized countries	Romanian Naval Authority Issues Recognition is possible with bilateral agreements	The General Directorate of the Merchant Marine issues and decides recognition	National Administration checks Holder must be from White List Bilateral Agreements

ENDORSEME TOOL



- The practices and processes that show pathways to solutions for various obstacles to cross recognition is included at ENDORSEME site - <https://endorseme4seas.com/#sid1655368220162>





THANK YOU FOR LISTENING



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