



Linking maritime education with the changing job market for a new generation of Baltic Sea experts

Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski's Heritage in the light of changes in the labour market of the southern Baltic countries and the ideas of the project Generation BALT

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“The Generation BALT Supplementary Study Programme – a laboratory of the modern maritime education”

Ph.D. Kamila Mianowicz, Ph.D. Artur Skowronek, M.Sc. Agnieszka Strzelecka, M.Sc. Michał Tomczak

University of Szczecin, Faculty of Geosciences, Unit of Geology and Palaeogeography

University of Szczecin, Faculty of Geosciences, Unit of Palaeoceanology



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- Modern maritime economy in the South Baltic Region is an innovation-oriented, dynamic and rapidly changing sector of human activity demanding a new generation of labour force, offering a variable range of unique competences which are necessary to implement the most challenging ideas and solution into operation. Higher education system of the region, in its present shape constrained by the accreditation process principles, is still insufficiently responsive to the needs of lively altering economic situation.



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- The Generation BALT is a project part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund) within the measure “Integration of Higher Education and Labour Markets” of the South Baltic Programme 2007 – 2013. It is aiming to bridge the gaps between educational offer and market demands. Interdisciplinary team of specialists has found out and developed **The Supplementary Study Programme** which is the missing link to a successful modern maritime training. This innovative type of teaching is based on practical, interdisciplinary and international approach with special emphasis on social skills improvement. Offered courses, organized in the form of workshops, thanks to their thematic variety and high quality content, can develop unique and multidisciplinary knowledge of the participants.





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- The essential part of The Supplementary Study Programme is a confrontation of students with current important topics and real-life problems, presented in an interesting way by the appropriately selected lecturers. The best example of this practice is introducing the apprentices to the environmental, legal and technical issues of the most serious Baltic Sea investment – Nord Stream pipelines system. In order to increase efficiency of proposed courses, it is highly recommended to organize the students’ hands-on exercises in small, international teams with often exchange of its participants. This kind of teaching, including practical training with personal coach, develops the ability of communication and cooperation with specialists of different disciplines. Moreover, it shows the new path in a matter of creative problems’ solving.





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- On the basis of the previous experiences, The Generation BALT Supplementary Study Programme can be considered a flexible and comprehensive educational tool that can be easily adjusted to rapidly changing global and regional economic situation. The current challenge for higher education system in SBR is to find the way to implement this kind of innovative courses for purposes of the successful modern marine education.

