SEAFARERS EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CREWING IN UKRAINE

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Keywords: Maritime Education and Training, Crewing, Certification.

Nowadays, Ukraine is among leaders as for officers’ supplying country to the world maritime labour market. Changes in maritime education and training system in Ukraine will widen the possibility for Ukrainian seafarers to be employed on board vessels entitled to fly the flags of almost all countries, in all basins of the oceans, and contribute to the high prestige of our maritime personnel and enhancement of the positive image of Ukraine.

According to the information of UNCTAD and in accordance with the report of BIMCO/ISF world maritime fleet supplies about 1545000 working places for the seafarers in international shipping. Nearly 51% of positions are for officers, 49% - for ratings. It is the first time in the history when the officers' rate became larger in comparison to ratings.

During 2005-2015 a global demand for seafarers increased up to 45% which corresponds to the increase of world shipping for the same period. The biggest amount of seafarers is provided by China (243635), followed by Philippines (215500), Indonesia (143702), Russian Federation (87061), India (86084) and Ukraine (69000). There is an analysis concerning the number of seafarers including the officers taking into account the population of the above-mentioned 6 countries which provide the biggest amount of the seafarers for global shipping. Total number of valid seafarers’ certificates issued in Ukraine is 111920. The five non-EU countries which had more masters and officers holding their CoCs recognized by EU Member States were the Philippines (33966), Ukraine (23192), Russian Federation (16381), India (7626) and Turkey (6377).

The specialists’ training in the seagoing specialties in compliance with the requirements of the STCW Code and STCW Convention in Ukraine is conducted by 7 higher educational institutions. Most of students of sea-going specialties study in Odessa. The number of students enrolled in 2017 for the first year of study for different educational levels in educational institutions of Ukraine for the programmes leading to the obtaining of the certificate of competence is 5380: Junior Specialist – 1967; Bachelor – 2718; Master – 695.

Ukrainian Seafarers’ Training and Education System can be characterized by the obligatory “educational” degree obtained as a result of successful completion of the formal educational program. This degree allows getting a specific diploma, which gives the right to occupy the officer position on a vessel (Certificate of Competency). There are special rules in Ukraine defining the procedure of rank awarding to the seafarers. According to these rules, a corresponding degree of higher education is an essential condition to obtain the Certificates of Competency, which meet the operation and management level of the STCW Code. The programs of higher maritime education provide realization of the Model Courses of IMO and include an indispensable practical training as the obligatory component. The programs of maritime education combine such components which lead to necessary professional skills as well as the components, providing knowledge and understanding of corresponding sciences, principles of equipment operation and technological processes, development of cognitive skills. As a result, a high level of the Ukrainian seafarers’ competence is achieved and the skills of situation awareness and decision making in unforeseen situations and restricted resources conditions are formed. Accordingly, the officers’ training is conducted at higher maritime educational institutions.

National Certification Regulations should be amended as a result of the changes in the higher education structure. New Regulations should provide, as before, the overall structure of seafarers’ training and certification based on the higher maritime educational establishments, and opportunity for the officers to acquire new competences and corresponding new qualifications gradually. Most likely, future Regulations will not consider the Master Degree obligatory for getting Certificate of Competency of the STCW Code management level.

Many foreign companies with long-term programs for Ukrainian seafarers on board their vessels invest significant funds into personnel training with the help of their own “cadets programs", giving sponsor support to maritime training institutions, creating their own training centers. In the
framework of cadets programs together with training institutions they select cadets in compliance with
the company's requirements, organize planning and control over complying with on-board training
programs. Companies cover all expenses connected with on-board training. It should be emphasized
that almost all companies have their representative offices in a large number of maritime countries of
the world. The level of training of our graduates meets the requirements of our partners. This fact
explains the interest of international shipping leaders in Ukraine.

Taking into account all above-mentioned we consider the following as the perspectives of
development:

Promoting an integrated approach to maritime affairs, good governance and exchange of best
practices in the use of the marine space;

Promoting sustainable development of coastal regions and maritime industries as a generator
of economic growth and employment, including through the exchange of best practices;

Promoting strategic alliances between maritime industries, services and scientific institutions
specializing in marine and maritime research, including the building of cross-sectoral maritime
clusters;

Endeavoring to improve maritime safety and security measures and to enhance cross-border
and cross-sectoral maritime surveillance to address the increasing risks related to intensive maritime
traffic, operational discharges of vessels, maritime accidents and illegal activities at sea;

Support of cadets’ on-board training by all interested parties including companies, IMEC and other
organizations, maritime administrations, International Maritime Organization, reconstruction and
maintenance of training vessels;

Motivation of professors and instructors of educational establishments from the side of the
companies, providing opportunities of working at sea and at educational institutions including
internships and cadets' training supervision.

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