

The MarEng and the MarEng Plus Projects New Online Teaching and Learning Maritime English Materials

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Abstract: This paper is based on the multimedia teaching and learning Maritime English materials aimed not only at the distance learners on board ship but also at the teachers and students of nautical colleges and maritime universities in Europe and other parts of the world.

The MarEng project, which was partly funded by the EU Leonardo da Vinci Agency, started in November 2004 and finished in April 2007. It resulted in the production of a CD-rom and online teaching and learning Maritime English materials which have been freely accessible on the Internet since May 2007.

The MarEng Plus project, which is also partly funded by the EU Leonardo da Vinci Agency, started on October 1st 2007 and was completed by the end of December 2010. It encompasses two new topics the Maritime Security and the Marine Environment.

Key words: Maritime English, Multimedia format, Online teaching and learning materials
Inter-active exercises, Marine Environment

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years a number of new English teaching and learning materials appeared and are available for the students of maritime colleges and universities. Among them the MarEng project stands out as an innovative multimedia Maritime English programme which is accompanied by a variety of inter-active exercises.

The material making partners included:

- University of Antwerp, Institute of Transport and Maritime Management in Belgium
- University of Antwerp, Department of Business Communication in Belgium
- University of Helsinki, Department of Translation Studies in Finland
- Gdynia Maritime University in Poland
- Latvian Maritime Academy in Riga in Latvia
- University of Turku in Finland
- Universidad de La Laguna, School of Nautical and Sea-related Studies, English and German Linguistic Studies in Santa Cruz de Tenerife in Spain

- Sydvest Polytechnic, School of Maritime Studies in Turku in Finland
- Åland Polytechnic, The Åland Maritime Institute in Mariehamn in Finland.

2. MARENG PROJECT

Centre for Maritime Studies in Turku in Finland was the co-ordinator of the MarEng Project and the multimedia company Lingonet Oy was responsible for the task of putting the teaching and learning material and the exercises into a multimedia format.

The materials cover two levels of Maritime English: intermediate and advanced. All the materials at an intermediate level are based on the language used during a voyage of a virtual ship, the m/s “Marina” from the port of Santander in Spain to the port of Kotka in Finland, the language used in real situations at sea and in ports.

The materials at an intermediate level cover the following topics:

- Introduction
- Welcome to a Modern Port
- Loading the m/s “Marina”
- The Ship
- Leaving Port
- In the Fairway
- Heavy Weather
- Mayday Mayday
- The Crew and its Tasks
- At Sea – Changing the watch
- Survival in an Emergency
- Helicopter Rescue
- An Encounter with the Coast Guard

All the materials at an advanced level cover the following topics:

- Port Operations
- Shipping and Maritime Management
- Cargo handling
- Cargo Space
- Vessel Types
- The Engine Room
- Port State Control
- SMCP
- Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)
- Ice Navigation
- The Weather
- Radio Communication
- Radio Medical.

The materials have been evaluated and tested by Advisory Partners including:

- APEC Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Centre in Belgium
- Antwerp Maritime College in Belgium

- National Board of Education in Finland
- Oy Rettig AB Bore in Finland
- Maritime Administration in Latvia

Most of the texts have been recorded and students can listen to them as many times as they like. The texts are also available in the PDF format for printing so it is possible to see the texts if there is such a need.

There are many types of inter-active exercises in each of the sections at both levels.

3. MARENG ONLINE

The MarEng online teaching materials can be used in the college classroom, in distance learning and for self-study purposes.

The MarEng materials can be downloaded free of charge from the website at <http://mareng.utu.fi>.

As the MarEng project materials have been successfully used for teaching Maritime English in various nautical schools and colleges in Europe since May 2007, many of its users stressed the need for filling in the gap and creating elementary level materials for the students because the knowledge of English varies in different countries, even in Europe.

So the MarEng Plus project was approved by the EU Leonardo da Vinci Agency and started in October 2008 and continued till the end of December 2010 resulting in the production of elementary level materials for both teaching and learning Maritime English.

The material making partners remained very much the same as in the case of the previous MarEng project but they have been joined by

- The National Maritime College of Ireland in Cork in Ireland
- Kymenlaakso University of Applied Sciences in Finland
- Antwerp Maritime Academy (University of Antwerp Association) in Belgium
- STC Group in the Netherlands
- Åland University of Applied Sciences in Mariehamn in Finland.

The materials were evaluated and tested by Advisory Partners and zero partners including

- The Lithuanian Maritime College in Klaipeda, Lithuania,
- The Ceronav Training Centre in Constanta, Romania

The topics for the elementary level materials cover:

- Cargo handling in ro-ro vessels (prepared by Antwerp Maritime Academy in Belgium)
- Cargo handling of Dangerous Goods (prepared by Universidad de La Laguna in Santa Cruz de Tenerife in Spain)
- Cargo handling of liquids (prepared by Kymenlaakso University of Applied Sciences in Finland)
- Cargo space in container terminals and bulk terminals (prepared by Gdynia Maritime University in Poland)
- Engine Room (prepared by Gdynia Maritime University in Poland)

- Navigation Bridge (prepared by the Latvian Maritime Academy in Riga in Latvia)
- Charts (prepared by Aland University of Applied Sciences in Finland)
- Radio communication (to be prepared by Universidad de La Laguna in Santa Cruz de Tenerife in Spain)
- Weather (prepared by Gdynia Maritime University in Poland)
- First Aid (prepared by Aland University of Applied Sciences)
- Severe weather conditions (prepared by Kymenlaakso University of Applied Sciences in Finland)
- The Marine Environment (prepared by University of Antwerp and ITTMA)
- Maritime Security (prepared by University of Antwerp and ITTMA)

The materials are aimed at the operational level and are available on the internet at www.lingonet.com/marengplus, password: marengplus, user name: marengplus

They include a number of inter-active exercises and are in a multimedia format. The teacher's manual is also available in the pdf form. The MarEngPlus materials can also be used on line and are available in a CD form.

The last two topics that is The Marine Environment and Maritime Security have been prepared at all three levels that is elementary, intermediate and advanced and in my power point presentation I would like to concentrate on the materials related to the Marine Environment protection.

At an elementary level, the section on Marine Environment includes short recorded texts on Man-made Pollution, Oil Spills and Oil Clearance Operations which are accompanied by a variety of exercises.

At an intermediate level, the section on Marine Environment includes Marine Environment Protection, Prevention of Oil Pollution, SMCP Environmental Protection Communications, Reporting Pollution Incidents, Methods and Devices for Oil Clearance Operations and Fuel Emissions. Again short recorded texts are accompanied by inter-active exercises.

At an advanced level, the section on Marine Environment includes sources of Man-Made Pollution, Hazardous and Noxious Goods, Anti-fouling and Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plans.

4. CONCLUSION

To conclude, the Mareng Plus materials dealing with Marine Environment can be used as complementary materials in teaching terminology in inter-active exercises or can form part of a separate course on Marine Environment Protection.