

# MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN

JUNE 2025



## DEAR ALL!

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine continues to carry out its mission to support and protect Ukrainian seafarers wherever they are. Even thousands of kilometres away from home, we remain close — in touch, with the necessary support, ready to act. In the face of war, instability and global challenges, we are convinced every day that true international solidarity has no borders.

The Union constantly interacts with partners and organisations around the world to ensure that Ukrainian seafarers are confident in their present and future. Thus, for the first time in the history of Ukrainian maritime education, cadets specializing in 271 'Maritime and Inland Water Transport' successfully passed the Unified State Qualification Exam (USQE) outside of Ukraine. Additionally, in June, cadets had the opportunity to retake the exam. We are grateful to our international colleagues for their solidarity, which strengthens our common struggle for the future, for the rights and welfare of our Union members.

The MTWTU constantly provides legal and social assistance. We support youth who are just starting out in the maritime profession, helping them to adapt and feel the power of the trade union community. The MTWTU remains a dedicated, reliable and unbreakable support for the Ukrainian maritime community. Only through joint actions can we confidently move forward towards a sustainable future. Together we are stronger!

*Your sincerely, Oleg Grygoriuk  
Chairman MTWTU  
Vice President IFSMA,  
Goodwill Maritime Ambassador*



# MTWTU PRESERVES THE WAY TO THE SEA

## FOR UKRAINIAN CADETS



On 19 June, the Ukrainian cadets of maritime educational institutions passed the second session of the Unified State Qualification Exam (USQE) in Chisinau. This exam was made possible thanks to the persistent position and actions of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine. This has opened the way for hundreds of cadets to enter the profession even in times of war.

The retake is another result of this large-scale work. The cadets who did not pass the exam the first time due to objective reasons were given a fair chance to prove their qualifications and move on to receive their first diploma.

The MTWTU continues to work to ensure that young Ukrainian seafarers have every opportunity to start their professional careers — despite all the challenges.





# STANDING WITH SEAFARERS BEYOND BORDERS

## CRUISE SEMINAR 2025



A Cruise Seminar for Ukrainian passenger fleet workers took place in Bulgaria and held under the auspices of the ITF. It was organized by its affiliated unions from Norway (NSU), Germany (ver.di), Italy (FIT-CISL), and Ukraine (MTWTU) — leading trade unions that have consistently supported Ukrainian seafarers and cruise industry workers for many years.

As part of the Seminar for Ukrainian seafarers, the MTWTU presented the key areas of its work, focused on protecting seafarers during wartime and strengthening international cooperation. Central to the discussion were also the legal mechanisms for protecting seafarers' rights. On the final day, participants focused on a crucial issue — combating bullying and harassment on board. Real cases, recommendations on how to act in case of discrimination, and the important role of trade unions in protecting workers' rights were considered.

Participants exchanged experience and gained new knowledge on labour rights, working conditions on ships, professional and career development.



## SEAFARERS' NETWORKING MEETING IN VARNA: SUPPORT AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SEAFARERS



After successful Seafarers' Networking Meetings in Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova, organised with the support of the **ITF Seafarers' Trust**, the MTWTU again went to meet with seafarers in Varna. As usual, it was a sincere conversation, lively interaction and an important dialogue about the issues that really concern them.

The discussion covered everything: how the MTWTU is working today to protect seafarers' rights; how to adapt to new challenges and not lose yourself; how to maintain mental health when life is changing faster than the weather at sea. Plans and new opportunities were discussed.

"The MTWTU continues to be the voice of Ukrainian seafarers in the world — both in peacetime and in times of war. We protect rights, support families, develop social projects, adapt to new realities and look for new opportunities for our members. Today, it is important not just to respond to challenges, but to form a perspective — for those on the voyage and for those waiting at home. And we are building this perspective together with you," emphasised Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman.





# EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

## LEARNING ENGLISH — BUILDING A MODERN CREW



To ensure that our Union's seafarers don't have trouble with a foreign language, since 2018, the MTWTU, together with the Japan Seamen's Union, initiated a project to improve the level of maritime English.

As part of the training for students at the Danube Vocational Education and Training Centre, a lesson with the topic 'Career Opportunities and Gender Equality in the Maritime Industry' was held.

The event was aimed at future chefs and waiters. The participants discussed the role of the crew on board a ship, modern requirements for employees and career opportunities regardless of gender.

Thanks to such initiatives, the MTWTU creates not only professionals, but also conscious crew members who are ready to build an inclusive and fair maritime environment.





# SEAFARERS' WELFARE

## SEAFARERS' DAY WITH MTWTU — OVER 600 MEMBERS RECEIVE SUPPORT SETS



The MTWTU with the support of the ITF-ETF Solidarity Fund, held a large-scale campaign for its members on the International Day of the Seafarer. More than 600 sets were handed over to the MTWTU members, including the Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company. In Odesa and Izmail, the seafarers had the opportunity to personally receive the sets, while address delivery was organised for those located in other regions of Ukraine.

"Today, in times of difficult challenges, the Union continues to be a reliable support for its members in every corner of Ukraine. We are always near: we support those who are on voyage; we take care of those who are unable to go on voyage; we work for those who are just starting their maritime career. Each such campaign is our way of saying that you are not alone. Regardless of the holidays, despite the time and distance, every day and every minute, we do everything we can to make our seafarers and their families feel confident in their future," said Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman.





## CHILDREN'S DAY WITH MTWTU — JOY AND CARE FOR 100 SEAFARERS' KIDS



On the eve of the International Children's Day, the Welfare Fund of Maritime Transport "MORTRANS," together with the MTWTU and the Swedish trade union SEKO, organised an event for 100 seafarers' children.

This day was a breath of happiness and carefree atmosphere for the kids, who need warmth and support in difficult times of war. Animators, entertaining games, delicious sweets, bright emotions — all to make children's hearts forget for a moment about explosions, constant danger and the shadows of war.

We sincerely believe that even in the darkest moments we must find the strength to give children joy. Because they are our future. And each happy child's smile today is a step towards a peaceful and bright tomorrow.

## UNION DENT — REAL SUPPORT FROM THE MTWTU



In these challenging times, as many Ukrainian seafarers lost their jobs and the chance to work at sea, healthcare — especially dental care — often took a back seat due to high costs.

To address this, the MTWTU, together with **German trade union ver.di**, launched Union Dent — a social project that provides free quality dental treatment to MTWTU members and their families. The project, which was started during the COVID-19 pandemic, has been significantly expanded since the beginning of the full-scale invasion with the support of the **ITF Seafarers' Trust**. About 360 seafarers and their families have already received dental treatment.

This year, thanks to ver.di, 100 cadets of maritime educational institutions also joined the initiative.

The Union Dent project is not just about dental health. It is about care and confidence. Let's read what the seafarers have to say:

“Today, access to quality dental care is real and valuable support. After undergoing an internship on a ship covered by ver.di collective bargaining agreements, I returned from the voyage and received dental treatment at the Union Dent clinic. Everything was professional — modern equipment, attentive care, no pain or stress. Now I'm ready for my next voyage with a healthy smile. Many thanks to the MTWTU, the WF “MORTTRANS” and German partners for caring about our health,” Andrii Madzyk, cadet, ver.di.



“I've dedicated 20 years of my life to working at sea. When I faced dental problems, I realised that they could seriously affect my ability to go on a voyage. That's why I turned to Union Dent. I received full, painless, high-quality treatment— and now I can go back to sea without worrying about my health. Grateful to the Union for supporting our well-being,” Stanislav Prokopovych, AB, Wilson.



### FOR MORE DETAILS

+380482 42 99 01

[mtwtu.org.ua](https://mtwtu.org.ua)

[office@mtwtu.org.ua](mailto:office@mtwtu.org.ua)

### GET IN TOUCH

[facebook.com/MTWTU](https://facebook.com/MTWTU)

[mtwtu\\_itf\\_ukraine](https://mtwtu_itf_ukraine)

[t.me/MTWTU](https://t.me/MTWTU)

[mtwtu\\_itf](https://mtwtu_itf)

