

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

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2025



## DEAR ALL!

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine continues its mission to support and protect Ukrainian seafarers, regardless of distance, regardless of time, despite all the destructive consequences of the war. We never stop in our striving to create new opportunities for our members, expanding the horizons of international cooperation and strengthening union unity around the world.

The Union is constantly looking for new ways to improve legal support so that our members can easily resolve all their issues. We have always been active in supporting the youth trade union movement, helping cadets and students to adapt to professional life. Educational events, numerous meetings, communication with top experts and leaders of the maritime industry — all this our youth continues to learn together with the MTWTU.

The MTWTU remains a dedicated, reliable and unbreakable support for the Ukrainian maritime community. Only by strengthening our joint efforts, taking steps for development together, will we be able to confidently move forward towards a sustainable maritime industry. Together we are stronger!

**Oleg Grygoriuk**  
Chairman MTWTU  
IMO Goodwill Ambassador in Ukraine  
Vice President of IFSMA



# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

## MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Portuguese trade union FESMAR.

The document provides for cooperation within the Portline company and guarantees that all Ukrainian seafarers working for this company under FESMAR agreements will have access to additional social benefits offered by the MTWTU to its members. This includes a wide range of services from the Union, legal support, medical compensation, participation in educational and social initiatives.



## MTWTU EXPANDS COOPERATION: NEW BENEFITS FOR UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS

As part of the Marrakech Policy adopted at the 46th ITF Congress in 2024, the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Turkish trade union DAD-DER.

This cooperation is aimed at improving the labour conditions of Ukrainian seafarers working on ships managed or owned by Turkish companies covered by the ITF/DAD-DER agreements.

The number of the Union's international partners is constantly growing — this is the 15th memorandum, which opens up additional opportunities for the protection of labour rights and social guarantees of Ukrainian seafarers.





# STRENGTHENING YOUTH MOVEMENT

## UKRAINIAN CADETS TALKED TO IMO LEADER



One of the important components of successful professional development is communication with leading personalities who form the industry's development trends and determine its future. This is exactly the opportunity that cadets and students of maritime educational institutions of Ukraine, united by the MTWTU, had.

Thanks to the efforts of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and with the support of the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine and the State Service for Maritime, Inland Waterway Transport and Shipping of Ukraine, youth talked to IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez.

Cadets of the National University "Odessa Maritime Academy" (NUOMA), Odesa National Maritime University, Danube Institute of NUOMA and the Maritime Transport Professional College of the NUOMA joined the conversation.

Arsenio Dominguez answered relevant questions on gender equality, safety of shipping, the impact of environmental regulations and the role of the latest technologies in training specialists.



## SAIL SMART: EMPLOYMENT SECRETS FOR YOUTH

From being a cadet at NUOMA to a crewing manager at one of the leading shipping companies, Inna Martynenko told future maritime professionals about her professional career.

The event, organised with the support of the MTWTU Youth Council and IMO Maritime Goodwill Ambassador in Ukraine Oleg Grygoriuk, was held as part of the project Sail Smart: Valuable Insights.

Inna Martynenko shared with the NUOMA cadets and ONMU students the story of her formation, the challenges she had to overcome, and the key points that helped her build a successful career. She also focused on preparing for the first interview in crewing: how to confidently present yourself to the employer, what to look for and what mistakes to avoid.

**“For Wilson, the Ukrainian market is one of the key providers of seafarers. That is why, emphasizing the commitment to developing young Ukrainian specialists in the maritime industry, Wilson and the MTWTU continue to make ambitious plans,” — emphasised Oleg Grygoriuk.**



## FIRST VOYAGE CHALLENGES: CADETS RECEIVE ADVICE FROM AN EXPERT

As part of the support for Kherson State Maritime Academy cadets studying in Lithuania under a sponsored project by MTWTU and Wilson, a meeting took place with psychologist Yulia Makoid.

During the meeting, they discussed key aspects of adaptation on board: what expectations are set for cadets, what challenges can lead to crisis situations, how to recognise burnout and overcome it with simple relaxation techniques. The cadets also learnt about the types of conflicts on board, how to resolve them and the basic principles of stress resistance.





## MTWTU MET WITH KHERSON STATE MARITIME ACADEMY CADETS

The participants discussed important issues for youth, shared their experience and spoke about the Union's opportunities for seafarers at all stages of their careers.

Together — building the future of the maritime community!





## UNION SUPPORT OF FUTURE SEAFARERS



The Danube Institute of the National University of Odesa Maritime Academy celebrated its 65th anniversary. The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine, which supports the institute and its community, took an active part in the celebration.

As part of the anniversary, a laboratory with virtual reality simulators was opened. The simulators will allow them to practice important professional tasks, including operating and testing the steering gear, starting the fire extinguishing system, launching an enclosed lifeboat, and safely operating high-voltage equipment.

The MTWTU representatives also took part in the Open Day, shared their professional experience, provided useful advice and answered questions from future members of the maritime community.



## UNION-QUIZ AND UNION SPORT: KNOWLEDGE AND SPORTS COMPETITIONS FOR FUTURE SEAFARERS



IZMAIL  
INTERNATIONAL  
**SEAMEN'S  
CLUB**



MTWTU held two events at once at the Izmail International Seamen's Club, bringing together cadets and students from the Danube Region.

The MTWTU Youth UNION-QUIZ was an opportunity to test their knowledge of maritime geography, fleet traditions and union movement. The participants demonstrated not only their erudition but also their ability to work in a team and make quick decisions.

Equally intense and dynamic was the Union Sport table tennis competition organised by the MTWTU Youth Council. The tournament united future seafarers, enabling them to demonstrate their sporting skills, dedication and team spirit.

Both events once again confirmed that education, sports and active participation in the community are important components of the training of a modern seafarer, which the MTWTU constantly provides to youth.



## MARITIME ENGLISH WITH THE MTWTU

The project to improve the level of maritime English, initiated by the MTWTU together with the JSU in 2018, continues to help hundreds of seafarers and cadets improve their language skills.

Since 2024, the cadets of the Danube Institute of the National University "Odessa Maritime Academy", who are members of the Union, have also had the opportunity to join the project. Currently, lessons are actively held at the Izmail International Seamen's Club.





# SEAFARERS' WELFARE

## UNION SUPPORT FOR WOMEN: RESILIENCE DESERVING OF RECOGNITION

To support the struggle for equal rights and emphasise the unbreakable strength of our inspirational Ukrainian women, the MTWTU organised a Brunch for women who directly conquer the waves of the sea and for those who create a reliable rear for seafarers.

During the event, the women had the opportunity to talk to psychotherapist and psychoanalyst Maria Radzikhovskaya, who shared practical advice and secrets of happy seafarers' families. The women of the local trade union organisations also received congratulations and presents to recognise their hard work and role in the maritime community.

Each participant noted that such meetings allow them to escape from the hard realities of their daily worries and attempts to protect their relatives. Together with the entire community, the MTWTU joins the fight for a world where every woman, regardless of the date or holiday, is guaranteed equal opportunities and confidence that her rights are always protected and will never be violated.





# LEGAL SUPPORT FOR UNION MEMBERS

## MTWTU LAW HUB: SUPPORTING SEAFARERS' RIGHTS



**Belgium**  
partner in development

In response to the challenges that seafarers face on a daily basis to start or continue their professional activities, the MTWTU LAW HUB was established as part of the ILO project “ILO Support to Ukraine: prevention of labour exploitation and human trafficking, support to entrepreneurship development and social partners”, funded by the Government of Belgium.

The MTWTU LAW HUB is a consultancy centre that helps seafarers, Union members, with the preparation of qualification documents. The Hub's specialists provide support at all stages of submitting and receiving documents, help to understand the procedural nuances, analyse relevant information and can act as representatives of seafarers in obtaining the necessary documents in Ukraine.

Thanks to the MTWTU LAW HUB, several appeals have already been processed and seafarers have received prompt and high-quality legal assistance, which has enabled them to continue their work and career development.



### FOR MORE DETAILS

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