

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

MAY 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. 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. Educational initiatives, meetings with those who have already conquered the industry, and the exchange of experience remain our priority for the development of the younger generation of maritime professionals.

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  
IMO Goodwill Ambassador in Ukraine  
Vice President of IFSMA





# MTWTU SAVES THE FUTURE OF OVER 1,400 CADETS

## OPENING THE WAY TO THE GLOBAL FLEET



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.

On May 28 and 29, more than 1,400 cadets from Ukrainian maritime institutions sat the USQE in four European cities — Chisinau, Varna, Munich, and Klaipeda.

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine (MTWTU) took on full organizational and technical responsibility for this unprecedented initiative. With the support of international partners, the Union ensured the exam's successful implementation. MTWTU expresses its deep gratitude to the **ITF Seafarers' Trust** for backing the initiative and helping make it possible to conduct exams outside Ukraine.

The Union coordinated closely with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the State Institution "Scientific and Methodological Centre for Higher and Professional Pre-Higher Education," oversaw the preparation of exam venues, and accompanied cadets at every stage — from planning to on-site support during the exams.







The USQE was conducted successfully at all temporary examination centres abroad. Attendance was excellent — every cadet who arrived was able to complete the exam without issue.

According to preliminary feedback, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine has positively assessed the organization of the USQE abroad. It is hoped that the exam results will reflect the high quality of preparation and delivery.

“The opportunity to take the USQE abroad is not only a response to the challenges of wartime — it is a tangible result that has allowed us to retain over 1,400 young specialists for the global maritime industry. We gave them the chance to stay in the profession, avoid losing precious time, and very soon — to join the international community of qualified maritime officers. At a time when the global fleet is facing a severe shortage of personnel, the contribution of Ukrainian cadets is of exceptional importance,” said Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman and IMO Goodwill Ambassador in Ukraine.





## WITH GRATITUDE TO VER.DI FOR SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN CADETS IN GERMANY



Munich became one of four European locations where cadets from Ukraine were able to take the Unified State Qualification Exam (USQE) outside their home country.

One of MTWTU's key partners in this process was the German trade union ver.di, which provided comprehensive assistance in organizing the USQE in Munich.

Together with our partners, we were able to give young Ukrainian seafarers the chance to take an important step toward their careers — despite the war and forced displacement.

We extend our sincere thanks to the **ver.di team** for their solidarity, care, and meaningful actions in support of Ukrainian maritime education.





## CHISINAU BECAME THE LARGEST LOCATION FOR TAKING THE USQE OUTSIDE UKRAINE



Over 700 cadets from Ukrainian maritime educational institutions took the Unified State Qualification Exam (USQE) at the **Labour Institute** which exists as part of the National Confederation of Trade Unions of Moldova (CNSM), and the **Ion Creangă State Pedagogical University** in Chisinau. These institutions opened their doors to future seafarers, while the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine provided full organizational support for the exams.

We extend special thanks to our partners for their assistance and facilitation in conducting the exams abroad. This important step has helped preserve qualified personnel in the maritime labour market and support maritime education amid the challenges of wartime.

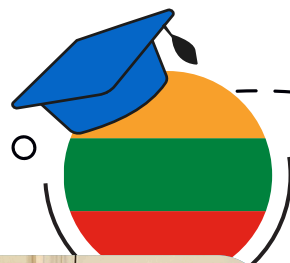




## STRENGTH IN UNITY: USQE HELD IN KLAIPEDA FOR UKRAINIAN MARITIME STUDENTS



VILNIUS  
TECH  
Lietuvos jūrų universitetas  
akademija



Klaipeda welcomed around 150 Ukrainian cadets who took the Unified State Qualification Exam (USQE) at the **Lithuanian Maritime Academy** — a trusted partner of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine.

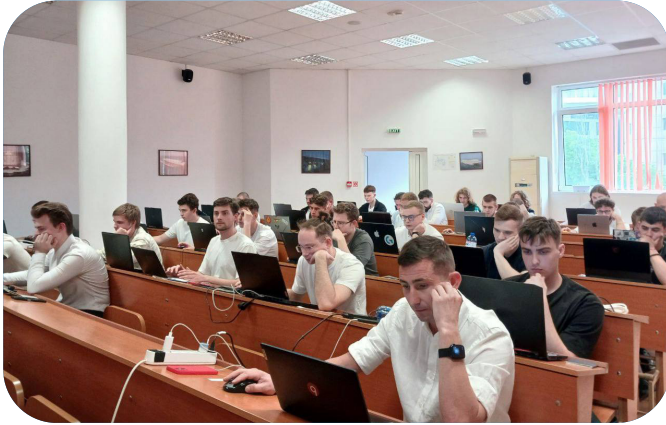
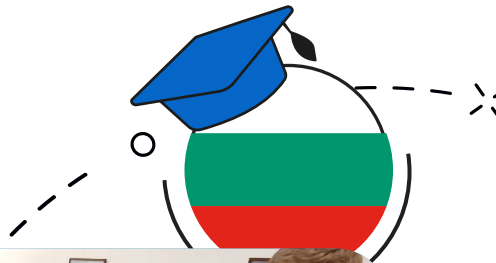
The organization of the exams was carried out at a high standard, with full attention to the comfort and safety of all participants. This ensured the continuity of the educational process and gave young seafarers the opportunity to advance confidently along their professional path.

We extend special gratitude to the **Lithuanian Seafarers' Union** for their comprehensive support, which proved to be crucial to the success of the event. Our sincere thanks also go to the Ukrainian seafarers — holders of dual diplomas and graduates of the Lithuanian Maritime Academy and Kherson State Maritime Academy — who took on the important roles of exam supervisors. Their contribution ensured academic integrity and good order throughout the examination process.





## MTWTU CADETS TOOK EXAMS IN BULGARIA THANKS TO RELIABLE PARTNERS



Around 250 cadets from Ukrainian maritime educational institutions successfully passed the Unified State Qualification Exam (USQE) in Varna. The exams were held at the **Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy**, which kindly opened its doors to our cadets. The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine provided full organizational support, ensuring comfortable and safe conditions for the examinations.

Thanks to MTWTU's support, these young specialists were given the opportunity to continue their education and start their professional careers despite the challenges of wartime.





# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

## OLEG GRYGORIUK ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE SCOCEEN

At the meeting of the Seafarers' Committee of Central, Eastern Europe and Norway (SCOCEEN), it was decided to elect the head of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine, Oleg Grygoriuk, as the Committee's Chairman.

SCOCEEN established over 30 years ago, it serves as an effective mechanism for developing social dialogue between employers and trade unions. It brings together trade union representatives from the region, the Norwegian Shipowners' Association (NSA) and Norwegian trade unions. Since 2002, within the framework of SCOCEEN, the Union has been representing the interests of Ukrainian seafarers, who, despite the full-scale war in Ukraine, remain among the leading workers on the ships of Norwegian shipowners belonging to the NSA.

“Thanks to the high level of skills, professionalism and responsible attitude to work, Ukrainian seafarers have always played an important role in global shipping. And for their protection and development, the Union focuses its daily work. We are constantly working to conclude new bargaining agreements, expand partnerships and create conditions for stable employment and social protection.

We are grateful to our international partners who support us in these strivings and move in solidarity with us. I am confident that our unity will continue to strengthen the Ukrainian seafarers' position and create a decent future for our members,” said Oleg Grygoriuk.





# STRENGTHENING YOUTH MOVEMENT

## OPEN DAY AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY “ODESSA MARITIME ACADEMY”

Future cadets of NUOMA took the first step towards the MTWTU family.

The youth got acquainted with the MTWTU activities and the prospects that trade union membership opens up at all stages of their career — from studying to the first voyages.



## MTWTU STANDS BY YOUTH SINCE THE FIRST STEPS

The Chornomorsk Maritime College of the Odesa National Maritime University held an Open Day, a bright event for those who dream of building their future with the sea and technical professions.

Among the participants of the event were representatives of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine. They told how the MTWTU supports youth from the start: from acquaintance with the profession to the first voyages and a confident start to their careers. It included assistance to cadets, development opportunities, participation in trade union life and protection of future professionals' rights.

The MTWTU is always with youth — by helping them choose a profession, develop and move forward with confidence!





## KSMA CADETS TAKE OATH IN KLAIPEDA



On 10 May, the first-year students of Kherson State Maritime Academy, who are simultaneously studying at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy thanks to the sponsorship project of the MTWTU and Norwegian shipowner Wilson, officially took the oath and became rightful cadets of the educational institution. The event took place at the Klaipeda Cruise Ship Terminal.

The project, implemented with the support of the MTWTU and Wilson, provides guaranteed practice on the company's ships, covers certain specialties, as well as provides payment for tuition at both educational institutions (for cadets on contract-based type of education at KSMA) and accommodation in the dormitory of the Lithuanian Maritime Academy.

The MTWTU continues to support the younger generation of maritime professionals and provide them with the best conditions for education and development.



## FUTURE LAWYERS ON AN EXCURSION TO THE COURT



With the support of the MTWTU Youth Council, cadets of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Maritime Law and Management of the National University "Odessa Maritime Academy" visited the Odesa Administrative Court of Appeals.

They attended a court hearing, got acquainted with the work of the court's office, archive and museum. This is where the MTWTU has repeatedly defended the rights of its members.

Our goal is to form a new generation of lawyers who are ready to stand up for justice.





# LEGAL SUPPORT FOR UNION MEMBERS



**Belgium**

partner in development

## MTWTU LAW HUB — LEGAL PROTECTION ON EVERY STEP

Daily, the MTWTU Law Hub — established within the framework of the MTWTU's implementation of the International Labour Organization's 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 — processes applications regarding the protection of our Union members' labour rights.

For example, seafarers have recently asked questions concerning updating Seafarers' Identity Documents, exchange and obtaining of working diplomas and necessary work experience, requirements for obtaining new qualifications for a higher position, necessary certificates, medical examinations and which institutions are considered accredited for issuing relevant documents, obtaining permission to travel abroad during the martial law regime, fines from the Territorial Centre of Recruitment and Social Support, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine to check military registration documents when crossing the state border of Ukraine as part of a ship's crew, pensions, etc.

Consultations are provided both on and off the MTWTU office premises, offline and online, for union members located in Ukraine and abroad.





# EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

## MARITIME ENGLISH WITH THE MTWTU



IZMAIL  
INTERNATIONAL  
SEAMEN'S  
CLUB

To ensure that seafarers feel confident on board, since 2018, the MTWTU, together with the Japan Seamen's Union, has been actively working to help seafarers and cadets integrate into the global community by providing them with the necessary resources and support to achieve their goals.

The seminar programme is delivered in the most convenient formats — online and offline at the Maritime Union Centre — using modern technologies, text, audio, and video materials, and was developed specifically for maritime professionals.

Since 2024, the cadets of the Danube Institute of the National University “Odessa Maritime Academy,” who are members of the Union, have also been able to improve their language skills at the Izmail International Seamen's Club.

Since the beginning of 2025, nearly 100 union members have been able to join the initiative and start the journey of confident communication in English.





# SEAFARERS' WELFARE

## UNION DENT: MODERN DENTAL TREATMENT FOR SEAFARERS



In 2021, the MTWTU and the German trade union ver.di presented UNION DENT — a project for seafarers, MTWTU members, who work on the ships of German shipowners covered by ver.di collective bargaining agreements. The project was launched at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, despite the constant challenges, the MTWTU is a progressive trade union that continues to open up new opportunities for seafarers.

This year, a new stage of the UNION DENT project was implemented thanks to the strong support and unity of the MTWTU, the Welfare Fund of Maritime Transport “MORTTRANS”, and the German trade union ver.di. 100 cadets from Odesa, Izmail, Chornomorsk and Kherson received invaluable support — the opportunity to get a free check-up at the UNION DENT clinic in Odesa, consult with experienced dentists, have their teeth professionally cleaned, and receive hygiene sets for dental care.

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine doesn't change one of its key priorities — the health of its members and their families.



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