

MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2024



DEAR ALL!

Since the war began, our country and Trade Union members have endured countless hardships. Yet, through it all, we have stood firm, united by the belief that together, we are stronger.

Ukrainian seafarers have faced significant challenges, from job losses due to martial law restrictions to the ongoing threat of missile strikes and infrastructure failures. Ports and the civilian vessels calling at them have also been targeted. However, the MTWTU has remained steadfast in its mission to support its members. We organize social events, and provide financial assistance, humanitarian aid, and legal support, ensuring that no one faces their struggles alone.

We strive to stay close to our members abroad, offering them comprehensive support. Each of them should know that, despite the distance, they are remembered, and we are always ready to assist.

In addition, we continuously address the urgent issues of Ukrainian seafarers by engaging with the Ukrainian government, competent authorities, and the maritime industry internationally. This includes border crossings, obtaining foreign passports, and document renewals.

We firmly believe that no matter the obstacles, we can overcome them if we stay united and support one another. This sense of solidarity is our greatest strength.

And of course, we are incredibly grateful to all our partners for their unwavering support. Your help and commitment continue to be invaluable as we navigate these challenging times together.

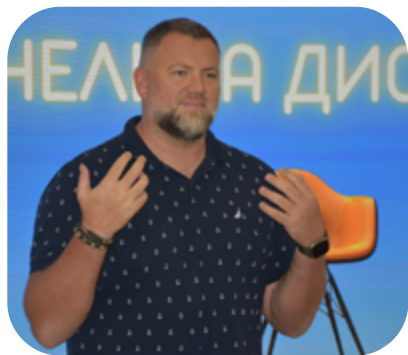
*Your sincerely, Oleg Grygoriuk
Chairman MTWTU
Vice President IFSMA,
Goodwill Maritime Ambassador*



YOUTH-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

MTWTU YOUTH FORUM: BUILDING LEADERSHIP

On September 5, the MTWTU organized a youth networking event with support from the Danish 3F Trade Union. The event began with participants discussing their experiences within trade unions, focusing on goals and strategies for recruiting new members. It was followed by a public speaking workshop led by TV and radio host Roman Sardaryan, who provided practical tips and advice to help young leaders enhance their speaking skills.



The second day of the MTWTU Youth Forum, held on September 6, centered around the theme “Human Capital as the Key to Ukraine’s Sustainable Development”. This day featured discussions on labour market challenges, maritime logistics, and the impact of the war on human capital, with insights from experts across various sectors. Additionally, a stress management and team-building workshop was conducted to further develop leadership skills.

Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman, stated, “Youth is our greatest asset, shaping Ukraine’s future. Your knowledge and energy are vital for sustainable development, especially in wartime. The Trade Union is dedicated to supporting you throughout your journey, as a strong, educated, and motivated youth is essential for our country’s success.”



CADETS' INTRODUCTION TO MTWTU

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine (MTWTU) continues to play an important role in supporting students of maritime educational institutions.

In September, first-year cadets at the National University Odessa Maritime Academy were informed about the MTWTU and its mission. Representatives highlighted how the Trade Union helps cadets understand and defend their labour rights, as well as prepare for the challenges of their future maritime careers. Many cadets submitted membership applications to MTWTU, securing reliable support for their professional journey.

The MTWTU local trade union organization of the Danube Institute of the National University Odessa Maritime Academy also held a meeting, where cadets from the Danube Vocational College, affiliated with the academy, learned about the Trade Union's role in youth development. It was emphasized that joining MTWTU is more than just a choice — it is a vital investment in the future.

Advisor MTWTU Chairman Julia Pelykh stressed the importance of protecting the rights of Trade Union members and ensuring fair working conditions and employment opportunities. The cadets also became aware of the career growth opportunities the Trade Union provides, demonstrating that MTWTU is a steadfast partner in securing their success.



WELCOMING NEW CADETS: INITIATION AND MTWTU MEMBERSHIP

This year, ceremonies of initiation into cadets were held at the Danube Institute of the National University Odessa Maritime Academy, Odessa Maritime College of Technical Fleet, and Black Sea Maritime Vocational College of Odessa National Maritime University.

During these events, first-year cadets were formally welcomed into the maritime community, marking the start of their professional journeys.

In addition to their cadet initiation, students at each institution became members of the MTWTU, ensuring their continued support throughout their careers. MTWTU representatives highlighted the significance of the maritime profession for Ukraine and the global industry, while also emphasizing the Union's commitment to protecting the interests of young professionals.



YOUTH COUNCIL OF MTWTU HOSTS “LEGAL HORIZONS” MEETING

On September 20, the MTWTU Youth Council, in collaboration with Diana Mykhailova, hosted a hybrid meeting titled “Legal Horizons” as part of the Sail Smart: Valuable Insights initiative.

Diana Mykhailova, who holds an LL.M. in International Maritime Law from the IMO International Maritime Law Institute and is a graduate of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Maritime Law and Management of the National University Odesa Maritime Academy, shared her expertise as a lawyer at an Interlegal law firm. The event provided a unique networking opportunity, where participants gained insightful experiences, received practical advice, and engaged in discussions about real cases.



INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL COOPERATION

OLEG GRYGORIUK ATTENDS IMO ANNUAL AMBASSADOR MEETING

Oleg Grygoriuk, IMO Goodwill Maritime Ambassador in Ukraine, participated in the annual meeting of IMO ambassadors, which gathered maritime industry leaders worldwide. The event focused on key issues related to safety, innovation, and the future of maritime transport.

During the event, Oleg Grygoriuk presented a report on his activities as an ambassador, highlighting collaboration with youth and cadets from maritime educational institutions

and the implementation of educational projects. He stressed the need to engage young professionals in the maritime industry and create conditions for their professional growth.

“We actively support our cadets and young specialists, helping them develop the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in today’s environment,” said Oleg Grygoriuk.



SEAFARERS' WELFARE

MTWTU AND SEKO SUPPORT UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS' FAMILIES

The MTWTU, with the support of the fraternal trade union SEKO (Sweden), launched an initiative to distribute hygiene kits to the families of Ukrainian seafarers who are members of MTWTU.

The first distribution took place in Odesa on September 19, and the initiative has since expanded to Izmail, where the event was also successfully held. Most of the planned 500 kits have already been delivered across Ukraine.

This initiative is a strong example of international solidarity, showcasing the cooperation between MTWTU and SEKO in providing much-needed support during these challenging times.

Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman, emphasized the importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of union families through such efforts.



SEAFARERS' SOCIAL LIFE

MTWTU MEETS SEAFARERS IN BULGARIA

The joint project of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine (MTWTU) and ITF Seafarers' Trust continues.

In the Bulgarian city of Varna, MTWTU held an event to meet Ukrainian seafarers temporarily staying abroad. The purpose was to provide current information and support seafarers in wartime. The MTWTU takes care of its Union members, regardless of location, assisting in any situation and world corner.

“Seafarers have always been one of the strongest communities in our country. Now, when Ukraine is going through the trials of war, unity, and solidarity between us have become even more important. Regardless of where you are now — at sea, on land or in another country — you can be sure that the Trade Union is always near you, ready to support you in any circumstances”, Oleg Grygoriuk, Chairman of the MTWTU, congratulated the seafarers.

The meeting covered key issues such as renewing seafarers' documents, military registration, wartime support for members, and mental health. Nataliya Yefrimenko, ITF Inspector also shared guidance on dealing with onboard issues and navigating high-risk zones.



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