



# Social inclusion and education

## Modern Vocational Education in Nautical Schools in Croatia

Croatia



### Project Partners

Nautical School in Split

Nautical School in Zadar

### Facts and Figures

- Total budget: €169,760
- EU contribution: €144,296
- Duration: September 2010 - September 2011

### Context

Young people in Croatia face difficulties in finding jobs. In part, this is a consequence of the general lack of job opportunities, but young Croatians also graduate from a school system that provides them with theoretical knowledge but not with practical skills. Vocational schools are not considered attractive by young people. That is why teaching equipment and materials need to be improved, and vocational education and training curricula need to be modified. The Nautical Schools in Split (the biggest one in Croatia) and Zadar took part in the project aimed at addressing these difficulties in the educational system. With the help of EU funds, the Nautical School in Split modernised two of its four programmes - for marine engineering technicians and for fishing and navigation technicians.

### Objectives

- Introduce new technologies and methodologies to modify the existing vocational education and training curricula.
- Make vocational schools more attractive to potential students.
- Improve the teachers' own vocational and educational skills and expertise, so they can apply new methods.
- Increase the availability of flexible learning materials.

### Impact

- Better cooperation between the management and teaching staff of the participating schools. Together, they strive to provide students with a firmer theoretical and practical education in order to give them the best possible preparation for the labour market.
- Both schools organised Open Days, with the purpose of attracting more prospective students.
- Modernisation of study programmes with the help of EU funds.
- Two rooms in each participating school furnished with necessary materials and modern teaching equipment such as models of electrical machines and simulators. Learning materials translated into Croatian.
- Peer learning - teachers and principals of the Split and Zadar schools participated in a study trip to the well-equipped nautical training centres in Antwerp, Belgium, known for their optimum theory-practice ratio.