

## FINAL PROJECT CHARTER

- 1. University:** Kherson State Maritime Academy
- 2. Your position/unit:** Iryna Shvetsova. Associate Professor of English Language Department for Deck Officers, Specialist of International Affairs Department.
- 3. Final Project Title:** Internationalisation tools to increase the recognition of HEI.

### **4. Project Goal(s) and SMART Objective(s):**

The main **goal** of the project is to develop a system for the staged implementation of internationalisation tools.

### **Objectives:**

- supreme development of partnership with foreign universities and scientific institutions of both maritime and other areas, in order to create conditions for sharing experience in pedagogical, methodical, and scientific areas; introduction of joint consistent study programs (e.g., Dual degree programs) with partner universities;
- implementation of a Master's study program carried out in English;
- introduction of individual courses/subjects carried out in a foreign language into the learning process, as well as the use of individual courses in English for teachers' advanced training (internship);
- attraction of foreign grants and scholarships contributing to improve the quality of teaching and expand research opportunities;
- promotion of an academic mobility expanding the horizons of both students and teachers and creating conditions for improvement of the learning process at the Academy;
- promotion of research study, project and publication activities, as well as arrangement of seminars and conferences for integration of teaching staff of the Academy into the European education area;
- active representation of the Academy in the world ratings, forums, symposia etc.
- development of instruments for the Academy branding (advertising) contributing to the great recognition of the Academy at the world educational market.

### **5. Deliverables: Please enlist the deliverables of your project matching your goals:**

In accordance with the objectives, the following results were achieved:

**Specific** - the work of the [International Department at KSMA](#) has been intensified and all departments of the Academy have been involved in the process of internationalisation.

**Measurable** - the number of international conferences conducted by KSMA increased from 1 to 3; the number of foreign partner institutions increased (+4); student mobility intensified (+220 people); publication activity abroad increased by 20%.

**Assignable** - the staff of the Academy, according to their official duties, has distributed the functions of the implementation of internationalization tools of the Academy.

**Realistic** - the results achieved (see Specificity) prove that the tools of internationalisation were chosen correctly in order to increase the recognisability of the higher education institution.

**Time-related** - the first results are already taking place in the process of increasing the recognition of KSMA in the international educational space. The results obtained during the project are sufficient, so the next stage, after completion of the project will be the

expansion of the implementation of internationalisation tools and their structuring to obtain more significant results of internationalisation of KSMA.

**6. Challenges and Support. What were the main challenges of your project and how did you manage to overcome them?**

The global challenge to the project was the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russian army forces. In particular, Kherson was occupied, the academy had to relocate to Odessa, students and teaching staff are still located all over the world. This problem was solved by the online mode of operation of the academy, which since April 2022 has been fully organised according to the challenges of the time.

**7. Lessons Learnt: What are your lessons learnt and recommendations you would like to share?**

The important lesson learned from the project is the need to develop effective communication in the implementation process, as very often there is a misunderstanding of certain concepts and categories, which causes a number of problems in the process of work. Hence it is suggested that

- a. prepare a communication plan in advance;
- b. strictly define the conceptual and categorical framework so that no misunderstandings occur;
- c. conduct communication processes based on the following principles: active listening, consistency, clarity, accessibility, respect.

**8. Impact: Please describe how your project contributed to/ advanced the specific aspect of the internationalization at your university.**

The project contributed to the intensification of the internationalisation of KSMA, as one of the brightest examples of cooperation with the University of Plymouth (UK). The following projects were implemented during the year:

**The HELLO Project** is a buddy scheme for new international students. The project directors (Helen Bowstead (Plymouth University) and Iryna Shvetsova (KSMA)) organised the welcome sessions and facilitated the project activities throughout the year. **The Buddy programme** supported students in integrating into a new cultural, linguistic and academic environment, developing foreign language competence, and promoting intercultural contacts by international students.

**The Mental Health Project**, organised by the project coordinators Olena Bezlutska and Iryna Shvetsova, provided meetings between students of the Navigation Faculty and Kelly Lewington (Student Wellbeing Services Manager). The interaction within this project was useful and fruitful, as it provided both lecturers and students with information about useful Plymouth University resources on mental health, as well as useful skills and other activities in the framework of the project topic.

Kherson State Maritime Academy in cooperation with Plymouth University has received a grant to work on a **double degree programme**. Future MSc students of the Faculty of Marine Energy will have the opportunity to obtain a double degree from Kherson State Maritime Academy and Plymouth University in the field of Management of Shipboard Technical Systems and Complexes. Kherson State Maritime Academy

became one of the winners from Ukraine along with partner universities in the UK under the UK government's Twinning programme, which supports Ukrainian universities.

On 15 June, **the 1st International Scientific and Practical Conference** "Actual Problems of Teaching Educational Components of Social and Humanitarian Sphere in Higher Education" will be held. The conference will include joint webinars, workshops and a research poster project.

### **9. Outlook and Sustainability:**

The results obtained during the project are important for the development of the Academy as a whole, so the Academy is determined to continue the implementation of internationalization tools to increase the visibility of KSMA in the global educational landscape.

To ensure the sustainability of the project for the implementation of the following components, it is considered imperative to manage the results of the project:

1. The human resource of the academy - the sustainability of the human resource of the academy means how the staff and students as recipients of the completed project can access and interact with the outcome over time. For this, a 5 year plan will be developed to implement internationalisation tools.

2. Financial - drawing up the financing plan for the implementation of the internationalisation tools.

3. Organisational - organisational sustainability refers to how the academy is able to work and manage the project after completion, including the financial component as well as the individual responsibilities and expectations of the academy team as a whole.