

PRESS RELEASE

General Assembly of the SMARTYards project invites small and medium sized shipyards to join the network

The third General Assembly of the European funded project SMARTYards took place in October 2014 in the city of Galati, Romania. The project aims to improve the access of small and medium sized European shipyards and maritime service providers to innovative technologies, this improving their productivity and the ability to design and produce new products for emerging markets.

While the productivity of leading European shipyards has continuously improved during the last years, the implementation of new technologies in smaller and medium sized yards often meets typical restrictions, such as

- limited financial resources for investments, restricted production facilities and space;
- the need to cope with a variety of orders from ship new building through retrofit to repair;
- insufficient information on latest technological developments and upcoming rules and regulations;
- limited personal resources and skills related to new technologies;
- lacking access to networks facilitating cooperation and knowledge transfer with other shipyards and technology providers.

Productivity improvements in smaller and medium sized yards therefore require tailored technological solutions and a better network for cooperation.

With this in mind, SMARTYards elaborates a catalogue of “easy-to-implement” solutions for design, production engineering and manufacturing which meet the specific needs of the target companies. Those technological solutions shall feature limited investment cost and must be robust, simple and flexible to use. The catalogue will contain technical specifications as well as essential information on return-of-investment, required skills and qualification, hints to potential cooperation and business models as well as guidance for an efficient implementation. Selected solutions will be demonstrated within partner companies during the project, thus making them convincingly visible to a wider community of smaller companies in the maritime sector.

During the project, technology developers, shipyard experts and researchers visit partner shipyards to elaborate solutions for realistic challenges jointly with the personnel of the companies.

Along with technical results, representatives of the industrial partners value the SMARTYards network as an opportunity to exchange experiences with colleagues and technology providers more frequently and systematically, to get up-to-date information on technological developments and to jointly work on the improvement of competitiveness of the network partners.

In order to obtain a critical mass for the continuation and further development of the SMARTYards network after the end of the EU funding, the consortium decided to invite interested European companies to join the network and benefit from the work already while the project is still ongoing. To make the network more sustainable the consortium will aim for a close cooperation with European associations and regional clusters.

More information on the SMARTYards project can be found under www.smartyards-project.eu. Application forms to join the network can be obtained from the project coordinator, CMT or downloaded from the website.

Background:

The project „SMARTYards – Developing Smart Technologies for Productivity Improvement of European Small and Medium Sized Shipyards“ receives funding from the European Union Seventh Framework Program (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement no. 605436. The project is coordinated by the Center of Maritime Technologies e.V. (www.cmt-net.org) of Hamburg, Germany and runs between 2013 and 2016.



The SMARTYards consortium during the 3rd General Assembly in front of the University “Dunarea de Jos”, Galati, Romania © SMARTYards



Experts of the SMARTYards consortium discuss actual problems of a small shipyard with yard personnel during a shipyard visit. © SMARTYards