The Blue Economy, and specifically maritime logistics, has the potential to deliver growth and jobs in the coming years, which demands an adequate flow of blue skills, by reskilling existing staff and recruiting new skilled specialists. Such needs bring urgent challenges to companies and higher education institutions.

**Companies challenges:**
- to promote lifelong learning of graduate professionals;
- to create facilitating mechanisms for new professionals, such as traineeships that allow students to improve their technical and soft skills (like communication, teamwork and intercultural skills), and become more entrepreneurial.

**Higher education institutions challenges:**
- to develop innovative learning materials that are suitable to lifelong learners;
- to incorporate research and development into education components, namely in what concerns the challenges from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), soft skills or systems thinking;
- to improve professors/researchers teaching and research skills in the multidisciplinary topic of maritime logistics.

The Mobility for Maritime Logistics project (M4ML) addresses these needs and provides the opportunity for companies to have access to and participate in the development of adequately skilled and motivated specialists.

The M4ML project leverages the engagement of professionals in the new innovative master’s degree program in Maritime Logistics and aims at promoting and supporting the bilateral exchange between Portugal and Norway of students, professors and researchers in the scope of this unique master’s program. The M4ML partnering academic institutions are the NOVA School of Science and Technology (NOVA SST), the Portuguese Naval Academy (Escola Naval), and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). The industry partner is Qualiseg – Engenharia e Gestão, a Portuguese SME quite active in sea-related international projects.
The M4ML project provides a suitable environment for the mobility of professors, researchers and students, with the following foreseen outcomes:

- at least 1 student from Norway attending at least one course of the Master in Maritime Logistics or a traineeship/project work in Portugal for 2 months;
- at least 4 students of the Master in Maritime Logistics performing traineeship/project work in Norway for 1 month;
- mobility actions at Portuguese Naval Academy/NOVA SST by professors and researchers from NTNU and vice-versa, to do research in engineering and management of maritime logistics, develop new curricular content or methods in this area, and deliver lectures/seminars in the context of the Master in Maritime Logistics;
- half-day workshops for students and companies in Portugal and Norway and at least one 2-day teaching workshop in the context of engineering and management of maritime logistics.

Companies from Norway and from Portugal can take advantage of their early involvement in the preparation of the mobility actions, by accompanying and participating in the selection of students for traineeships/projects and committing to host them. In this way, companies assure privileged access to highly motivated and skilled specialists and promote their useful engagement in the companies’ goals.

For the Master in Maritime Logistics students and Norwegian students, the M4ML is a unique learning/practicing opportunity to strengthen their skills in a challenging but welcoming environment.

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\* Through the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are partners with the Member States of the European Union in the internal market. As a way of promoting a continuous and balanced strengthening of economic and trade relations, the parties on the EEE agreement established a multiannual Financial Mechanism, known as EEA-Grants. The EEA Grants aim to reduce social and economic disparities in Europe and strengthen bilateral relations between these three countries and the beneficiary countries.