Smart-Up BSR mini-camp

13-15 June 2018, Palanga-Klaipeda, Lithuania

Local sub-challenge: Digitization and Automation in Maritime Industry

Digitization and automation has recently become a hot topic among companies and organizations in the global maritime supply chain. Discussions center around such different notions as autonomous ships, fully automated ports, digitized shipping information and documentation, automatic monitoring of vessels and equipment, and more.

The challenge in the digitalization and automation of Maritime industry is hidden in the scale. There is a huge difference in automatization of production processes in car manufacturing and shipyard, or the amount of data to be processed in order to develop autonomous ship and autonomous car.

At the time EU is still leading the Maritime development globally, the challenge for the regions like Klaipeda is to found the way to benefit on being frontrunners in application of the technologies, gaining enough knowledge and capacity to transform local Maritime industries to a higher added value products and services. Growing from port cargo handling company to equipment producer, shipyards stepping in to the autonomous shipping technology suppliers etc.

Since Klaipeda region itself has no RIS3, it is part of Lithuanian national RIS3 – thus, the region always needs to ensure that its interests are reflected in the national strategy, which is also a framework document for governmental investments. In addition, the maritime industry is diversified, so in order for the local policy makers to lobby regional priorities, it is first necessary to reach a consensus on what are the priorities.

It is important to find the way on how engagement of maritime value chain, policy makers scientists and investors of the region, could help shape the regions RIS 3 to reach the consensus on the industry transformation priorities, channel the resources for strategy implementation.

Specifically, Klaipeda region is trying to address two specific tasks:

1) How to engage regional stakeholders to the planning of transformations for maritime industry? Reaching consensus, agreeing on directions and goals.
2) How to lobby and implement this content to national RIS3, as Klaipeda region is "competing" with other priorities of national level.

Desired outcome

To build up the tools or methodology for establishing the regional RIS3 fosused on maritime industry.

Why is this important?

It is important for regions development, to have consensus on the strategic priorities.

What makes it difficult?

Diversification of the maritime industry and involvement of other existing industries, makes it dificult to establish priorities due to the fact that everyone wants to be a signnificant part in there.

What has already been done (or now being done) to address this?

Several meetings aiming to establish regional priorities were implemented.