

Welcome Speech by PCCI President at Waterborne Meeting in Piraeus

The educational system is undoubtedly the key to the formation of the learner's personality and his integration into the working environment. The need to effectively strengthen the learning functions becomes imperative, in order to form a strong environment aiming at providing knowledge at the appropriate level. Planning must lead to the formation of an educational system which has to respond to the dynamics of our times and their challenges, as the basic configuration of the current system requires brave adaptive changes. In this regard, we are not talking about the provision of basic education for young people at all educational levels, but about the necessity of retraining a significant part of the workforce for businesses. The latter have already entered the field of competition in terms of the development of digital tools that will contribute to their extroversion and competitiveness against others. And it's not just digital skills where training and retraining is needed. There are also areas which, nowadays, we take for granted and which, to a great extent, are not amenable to further training. How many times have we wondered about the skills that a forklift (clark) driver or a crane operator should meet? And what additional knowledge is required? Modern technology has given the answer to this question with simulators. Let me remind you that simulators were used for the first time by the aviation industry with spectacular results in avoiding accidents. So, why not use them in other tasks, as well? P.C.C.I. collaborates with Maria Boile, Professor at the University of Piraeus and Research Director of the Hellenic Institute of Sustainable Mobility and Transport Networks, acting as Coordinator of the Waterborne Technology Platform which aims to formulate policy proposals as guidance to the European institutions on issues related to research, development and innovation, for and from the European maritime transport sector. We have already created a dedicated space, where simulators can provide both basic training and further training outside the field so, certainly, simulators can "test" the user in various scenarios with the dominant one being the correct use and avoidance of accidents. We are close to the country's first port and it is natural that simulators simulate technological equipment used in industrial facilities and logistics and, of course, in the port. I am very pleased that the Chamber is able to provide its member companies with a space for training - retraining of their staff. Fortunately, the 77 billion euro of the Recovery Fund and the NSRF 2021-27 that our country claimed and will receive, through the "Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation" Operational Program, finances training and certification programs for workers in various fields aiming at the acquisition of new specialized and horizontal knowledge, skills and abilities. The programs are implemented by professional and sectoral bodies. Through the design and implementation of employment, training, education and lifelong learning interventions, the programs contribute to the achievement of the national goals for employment, education and the fight against poverty, thus, supporting the overall vision of the country for the renaissance of the Greek economy and the strengthening of social cohesion. P.C.C.I. stands by those who fight against bureaucracy, as well as those formalities that create problems, mainly for the SMEs' access to financial tools. It is obvious that the Chamber has been always supporting the necessity of taking advantage of

every possible financial means provided through EU economic actions and programs to improve cognitive skills of the businesses' manpower. In terms of finance, it should also be noted that the strategic objectives of the Waterborne TP include its contribution to the appropriate mobilization and allocation of the necessary financial resources (private/regional/national/EU sources); "As I grow old, I keep on learning..." "Γηράσκω αεί διδασκόμενος" in ancient Greek... phrase attributed to Solon the Athenian Lawmaker. Of course, there can be no doubt that Solon was absolutely right. The older we get, the more we learn, fortunately! As for the way we use our knowledge, however, that's another story...this story is Growing Together.