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ZERO-C: OUR JOURNEY ENDS, OUR IMPACT SAILS ON FINAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE no. 3 - November 2026

Dear reader,

As we present the final newsletter of ZERO-C, I look back with pride and gratitude on a journey that has brought together universities, public institutions, maritime professionals and students around a shared ambition: preparing people for a greener, smarter and more sustainable maritime future.

ZERO-C became much more than a project. It became a community built on cooperation, trust and the exchange of knowledge across borders. Through our meetings, training activities and discussions, we learned from one another and strengthened the connection between maritime education and the real needs of industry.

Together, we have modernized important components of maritime curricula in Albania and Montenegro, strengthened knowledge in decarbonization, energy efficiency and maritime logistics, and invested in technological and simulation capacities. These resources will continue supporting students, academics and professionals through teaching, research and lifelong learning.

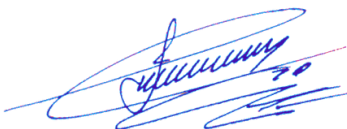
I sincerely thank all our consortium partners, institutional and industry stakeholders, project teams, and the European Commission and Erasmus+ Programme for their commitment and support. Every contribution helped turn our shared vision into meaningful results.

As this chapter closes, ZERO-C's legacy begins. Let us continue building on the partnerships we have created and preparing the next generation to shape a more sustainable maritime future.

Prof. Dr. Osman Metalla

Project Coordinator, ZERO-C

Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës





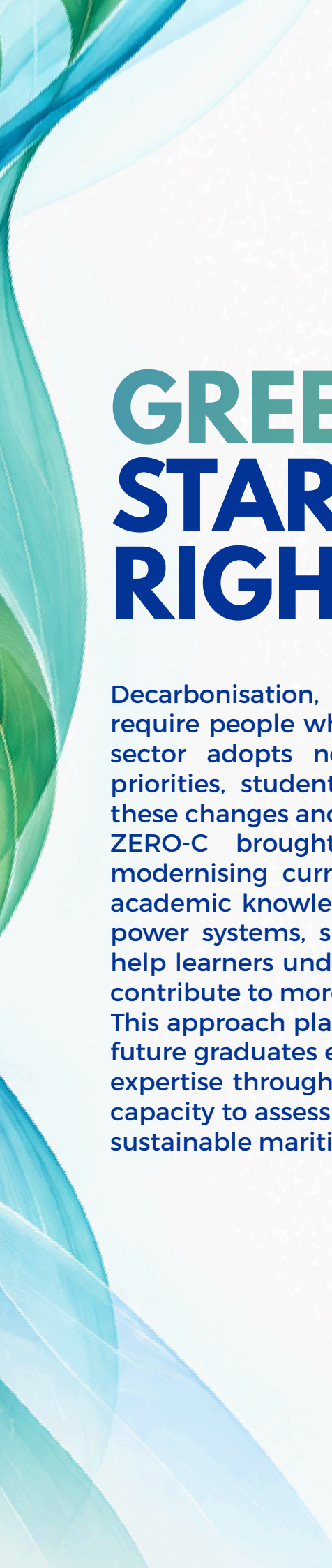
FIVE COUNTRIES, ONE SHARED VISION

The challenges facing maritime transport extend beyond national borders—and so must the search for solutions. By connecting Albania, Montenegro, Germany, Italy and Greece, ZERO-C brought different maritime environments and areas of expertise into one international partnership.

From the Adriatic and Ionian seas to the Mediterranean and Northern Europe, these countries offer diverse perspectives on shipping, port operations and logistics. Examining those perspectives together created opportunities to understand how common sustainability goals can be approached in different local contexts.

The partnership also brought several parts of the maritime sector into the same conversation. Universities contributed educational and research perspectives, while chambers of commerce, maritime authorities and environmental institutions helped connect those perspectives with business needs, regulatory responsibilities and environmental priorities.

This diversity gave ZERO-C a wider view of the transition towards lower-carbon maritime transport. Energy efficiency, logistics optimisation and emissions reduction are closely connected challenges, requiring coordinated responses across sectors and countries. Five countries, each with a distinct contribution, demonstrated the value of approaching a shared maritime challenge through international cooperation.



GREENER SHIPPING STARTS WITH THE RIGHT SKILLS

Decarbonisation, energy efficiency and smarter maritime logistics require people who can put knowledge into practice. As the maritime sector adopts new technologies and responds to environmental priorities, students and professionals need the skills to understand these changes and apply them in their daily work.

ZERO-C brought these priorities into maritime education by modernising curricula, supporting practical training and connecting academic knowledge with industry experience. Topics such as marine power systems, ship technology and sustainable maritime transport help learners understand how technical and operational decisions can contribute to more efficient shipping.

This approach places people at the centre of the green transition. From future graduates entering the workforce to professionals updating their expertise through lifelong learning, relevant education helps build the capacity to assess new solutions, improve practices and support a more sustainable maritime sector.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM. BEYOND THE PROJECT.

ZERO-C's technological and simulation resources will continue supporting practical learning, research and professional training beyond the project's completion. These investments give students and educators opportunities to explore maritime systems, connect theory with practice and develop knowledge through hands-on experience.

For students, simulation offers a space to examine operational scenarios and better understand the decisions involved in maritime activities. For academics and researchers, these resources provide a foundation for developing teaching approaches, investigating practical challenges and pursuing further collaboration.

Through lifelong learning, the benefits also extend to people already working in the maritime sector. Professional training creates opportunities to refresh knowledge, explore emerging technologies and respond to changing industry needs.

By embedding these resources within partner institutions, ZERO-C leaves a foundation that can serve successive generations of learners. Its lasting value will grow through continued use—in classrooms, laboratories, research activities and professional development.





ZERO-C IN ACTION: **DECEMBER 2025** **OCTOBER 2026**

The final year of ZERO-C brought partners, students and maritime professionals together through events dedicated to learning, exchange and cooperation. From training activities and open lectures to stakeholder meetings and the final conference, this period offered opportunities to share results, explore industry challenges and discuss how the project's achievements can support future maritime education.

The following highlights capture the activities and people who helped turn ZERO-C's shared ambitions into practice.



Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës successfully hosted the Zero-C National Convention, a high-level event that brought together a diverse group of stakeholders committed to advancing sustainability in Albania. Representatives from universities, public institutions, private enterprises, as well as the maritime and logistics sectors gathered to exchange knowledge, experiences, and forward-looking ideas aimed at accelerating the transition toward a zero-carbon economy.



The convention served as a collaborative platform for discussing zero-carbon strategies, energy efficiency measures, and pathways for the green transition, with particular emphasis on sectors critical to national development. Special attention was given to the transformative role of innovation, digital technologies, and applied research, highlighting how academia-industry cooperation can drive practical solutions to environmental challenges while supporting economic growth.

The convention opened with welcome addresses from key institutional leaders and sector representatives, who emphasized the shared responsibility of public authorities, academia, and the private sector in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable practices. These contributions set the tone for a constructive dialogue centered on partnership, responsibility, and long-term impact.

The event concluded with the signing of memorandums of cooperation, formalizing new partnerships between participating institutions and organizations. These agreements represent a concrete step toward sustained collaboration, reinforcing a collective commitment to innovation, sustainability, and a more resilient, low-carbon future for Albania and the wider region.



Zero-C National Convention in Montenegro



On 22 December 2025, the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro hosted the ZeroC Project National Convention in Podgorica, bringing together academia, institutions, and industry to discuss energy efficiency and decarbonisation in maritime transport and logistics.

Co-organised with the University of Montenegro – Faculty of Maritime Studies Kotor and the Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro, the event highlighted the importance of strong business-academia cooperation, targeted education and training, and joint projects to support the maritime sector's green transition.



A key outcome was the presentation of a Memorandum of Understanding, paving the way for long-term collaboration toward a more sustainable and competitive maritime sector.



Open lecture at Aleksander Moisiu University, focusing on maritime practices for minimizing CO₂ emissions

Maritime transport keeps the world moving, carrying more than 90% of global trade. While its share of global CO₂ emissions is relatively small around 3% the sector still faces a crucial responsibility: decarbonizing for the future. With the ambitious target set by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to reach Zero Carbon shipping by 2050, the industry is actively exploring cleaner fuels and new technologies that can significantly reduce or eliminate emissions. At the same time, there is a powerful solution available right now: improving energy efficiency on board ships.

Tools such as EEDI, EEXI, and CII help operators better understand, monitor, and reduce their environmental footprint. One of the most impactful factors is ship speed. Even a small increase in speed can lead to a much higher fuel consumption and higher CO₂ emissions. That's why finding the right balance between speed, fuel use, emissions, and operating costs is a daily challenge for modern shipping.

These were the key ideas we explored today during an open lecture with students from all three years of the Navigation and Maritime Management program. Through discussion and reflection, we highlighted how education and awareness play a vital role in building a more sustainable and responsible future for maritime transport.



Research Project Highlights CO₂ Emissions Impact in the Durrës–Porto Romano Port Complex



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ZeroC Project Online Training for Students: Advancing Knowledge for a Sustainable Maritime Future

ZeroC Project successfully organized an engaging and impactful online training program designed specifically for students, bringing together leading experts from prominent European partner universities. The initiative served as a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, focusing on critical themes related to the decarbonization of the maritime sector—one of the most pressing challenges in today's global effort toward sustainability.

This comprehensive training reflected the ZeroC Project's commitment to equipping the next generation of maritime professionals with the tools, insights, and innovative thinking required to navigate the transition toward a low-emission and environmentally responsible industry.

The online format enabled participation from a diverse group of students, fostering an inclusive and interactive learning environment that transcended geographical boundaries. Experts shared not only theoretical knowledge but also practical insights drawn from research, industry applications, and real-world case studies.

The training emphasized interdisciplinary collaboration, highlighting how engineering, logistics, digital technologies, and environmental science intersect in shaping the future of maritime operations.

The screenshot displays a Zoom meeting interface. The main window shows a presentation slide titled 'EcoPorts & ESPO - Voluntary Port-Sector Standards'. The slide includes text about the standards being initiated by proactive European ports in 1997 and fully integrated into ESPO since 2011. It also features a table of 2023 Performance Highlights (ESPO Environmental Report) with metrics like 78%, 8.67, 95%, and 99%. Below this, another slide titled 'Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI)' is shown, explaining that EEXI is a measure of the individual technical design of an existing ship and is compared to the required EEXI. A table of ship types and their EEXI ranges is also visible. The Zoom interface shows a grid of participants on the right and a list of names at the bottom.

The screenshot displays a Zoom meeting interface. The main window shows a presentation slide titled 'MEPCM'. The slide includes text about the MEPCM project and a list of participants. The Zoom interface shows a grid of participants on the right and a list of names at the bottom.



Showcasing Project Zero C at International Week 2026 UAMD

We were proud to present the outcomes of Project Zero C at the International Week 2026 – “Connecting People, Empowering Partnerships”, organized by the Aleksandër Moisiu University in Durrës.

This prestigious event brought together academics, professionals, and innovators from across the globe, creating a vibrant space for collaboration, dialogue, and knowledge exchange. As part of this dynamic environment, Project Zero C had the opportunity to share its vision, progress, and tangible outcomes with an engaged international audience.

Within this context, Project Zero C stood out as a strong example of how sustainability and innovation can intersect to create real impact. Our presentation focused on practical solutions, creative approaches, and the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in addressing today's environmental and societal challenges.

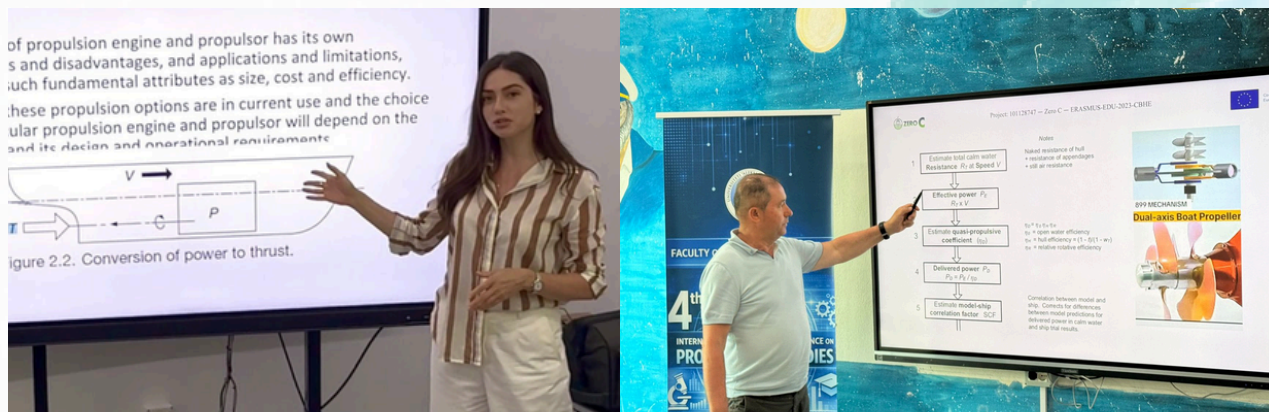
Advancing Sustainability Through Action

Project Zero C is built on a commitment to sustainability, creativity, and long-term impact. During the event, we highlighted:

- Innovative strategies aimed at reducing environmental impact
- Creative problem-solving approaches driven by research and collaboration
- Practical outcomes that demonstrate measurable progress toward sustainability goals

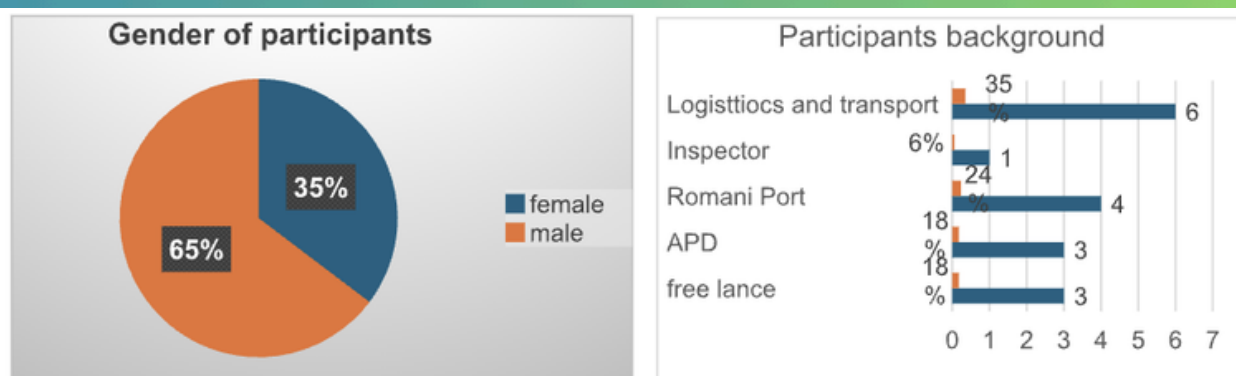
Our work reflects a belief that meaningful change is achieved not only through ideas, but through action, partnerships, and continuous learning.





Implementation of Lifelong Learning (LLL) Courses under the Zero-C Project at the University “Aleksandër Moisiu” of Durrës

In accordance with the Statute and academic regulations of the University “Aleksandër Moisiu” of Durrës (UAMD), the Department of Engineering and Maritime Sciences within the Faculty of Professional Studies remains fully committed to strengthening maritime education, professional training, and skills development in Albania. As the maritime industry undergoes a profound transformation driven by digitalization, environmental regulations, and the transition towards low-carbon and zero-emission shipping, higher education institutions have an increasingly important role in equipping current and future maritime professionals with the knowledge and competencies required to meet these challenges. To support this mission, the Department continuously develops and delivers professional development initiatives, lifelong learning (LLL) programs, and specialized training courses designed to respond to the evolving needs of the maritime transport, logistics, and port sectors.

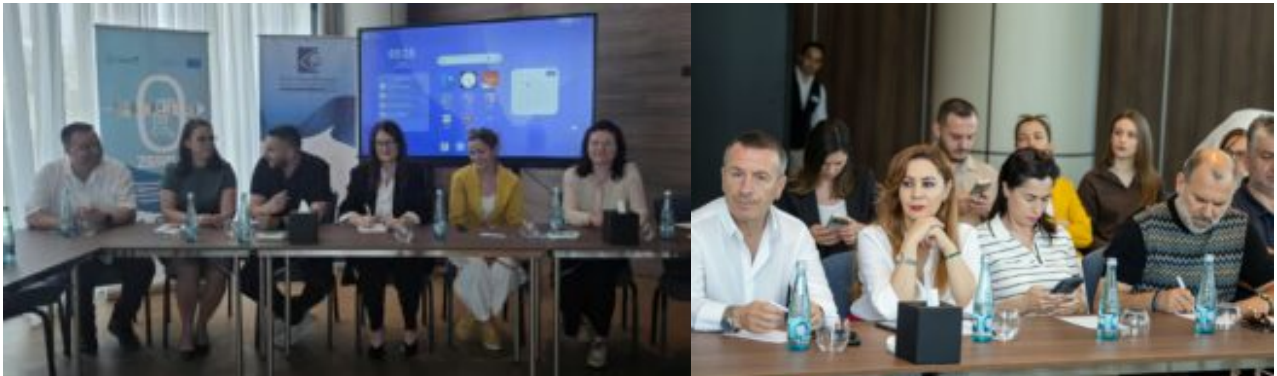


The successful delivery of the LLL-2 course demonstrates UAMD's commitment to supporting the modernization of maritime education and training in Albania and aligns with the objectives of the Zero-C Project to strengthen competencies related to green and sustainable maritime transport. By offering internationally recognized training based on IMO standards, UAMD contributes to the development of a skilled workforce capable of addressing the environmental challenges facing the maritime industry in the coming decades. The composition of the participants by professional sector and institutional affiliation is presented in the following graphs. These figures illustrate the diversity of stakeholders involved in the course and highlight the broad relevance of ship energy efficiency and decarbonization issues across the maritime sector.

Raising Awareness of Maritime Decarbonisation

An information and awareness-raising event held under the ZERO-C project introduced participants to its objectives and highlighted the importance of decarbonising maritime transport and logistics. Discussions explored the challenges and opportunities that the transition towards a low-carbon economy presents for businesses and other sector stakeholders.

The event promoted dialogue between institutions, the business community and maritime and logistics stakeholders. By sharing the project's objectives, activities and results, it encouraged discussion of more sustainable transport solutions and strengthened awareness of the sector's green transition.



Building a Shared Approach to Greener Maritime Transport



An information meeting organised under the ZERO-C project presented its objectives and activities, highlighting the importance of a shared approach to sustainable maritime transport and logistics.

Participants exchanged perspectives on sector developments, business needs and the involvement of different stakeholders in the green transition. Discussions helped identify common interests and opportunities for cooperation, supporting a more informed and engaged network around ZERO-C's objectives.

As part of the project's communication and dissemination activities, the meeting increased its visibility and encouraged continued dialogue on the future of the maritime and logistics sectors.

ZERO-C's Final Conference: Achievements and Future Perspectives



Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës hosted the ZERO-C final meeting, bringing together project partners to review achievements, assess their contribution to maritime education and discuss how the results will remain valuable beyond the project's completion.

Day One: Reviewing Progress and Results

The meeting opened with welcome addresses by UAMD Rector Prof. Dr. Shkëlqim Fortuzi and Project Coordinator Prof. Dr. Osman Metalla. The first day focused on project management, quality assurance, the development and implementation of skills-oriented curricula, and the communication and dissemination of results.



Partner presentations provided an opportunity to reflect on the work accomplished and its contribution to modernising maritime education in Albania and Montenegro. Discussions highlighted updated teaching content covering marine power systems, ship systems and equipment, ship construction, maritime logistics and sustainable transport. These developments support closer connections between theoretical knowledge, practical applications and the changing requirements of the maritime sector.

ZERO-C's Final Conference: Achievements and Future Perspectives

Day Two: Planning for Sustainability and Future Cooperation

The second day addressed financial management, preparation of the final report and evaluation of project results. Particular attention was given to sustaining the achievements, ensuring their continued use and identifying opportunities for future collaboration.

UAMD's new technological and simulation capacities formed an important part of this discussion. These resources will continue supporting students, academics and researchers, while lifelong learning programmes extend their benefits to maritime professionals seeking to update their skills.

The meeting concluded by reaffirming the importance of continued cooperation between universities, public institutions and industry. ZERO-C leaves a lasting foundation of modernised curricula, improved learning resources and international partnerships supporting a more sustainable maritime future.



These achievements support the development of knowledge and practical skills in decarbonisation, energy efficiency and sustainable maritime logistics.

Looking ahead, the priority is to build on these foundations: keep educational content responsive to industry developments, make active use of the resources created, and pursue further cooperation in teaching, research and professional training. Continued engagement will help translate ZERO-C's achievements into lasting benefits for maritime education and the sector's green transition.

STAY CONNECTED: JOIN THE ZERO-C NETWORK



JOIN ZERO-C NETWORK

- **Scan the QR Code**

Open your phone camera and tap the link.

- **Register**

Fill in your name, email, username, and password.

- **Access the Platform**

Log in and start exploring Zero-C Network

To support continued engagement, a dedicated networking platform has been established on the ZERO-C website. Through its online registration page, interested participants can create an account and become part of the project's wider community.

The network aims to connect academics, students, maritime professionals, businesses and institutional representatives who share an interest in decarbonisation, energy efficiency and sustainable maritime logistics. It provides a point of connection for maintaining relationships developed through ZERO-C and encouraging further exchanges across institutions and countries.

As the project concludes, the platform offers a way to keep its community connected and support future dialogue between education and the maritime sector. Its continued value will depend on the participation and contributions of those committed to carrying this cooperation forward.

Join the community and stay part of the journey towards a greener maritime future.

SCAN ME

