



Welfare Committee

Project description

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PORT OF VIGO, AN INCLUSIVE, SAFE, AND FRIENDLY PORT



The Port of Vigo, located on the northwest coast of Spain, is a maritime enclave of vital importance both regionally and internationally. With its strategic location, it has become a reference point for maritime trade and the fishing industry in Europe.

The Port of Vigo stands out not only for its economic relevance but also for its capacity to receive and serve a large number of people. Every year, thousands of individuals, including ship crews, port workers, entrepreneurs, and tourists, arrive at its facilities. The port's activity generates diverse and multicultural interactions that enrich the city's life.

In this context, it is fundamental for the Port of Vigo to focus its efforts on becoming a friendly and safe port. Recognizing the importance of diversity and equal opportunities, the port is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone. This entails ensuring equal treatment and opportunities for all individuals working or visiting the Port of Vigo, regardless of their gender, ethnic origin, age, or any other personal characteristic, to promote diversity and mutual respect. This fosters a work environment and society where all individuals feel valued and can contribute fully to their potential.

To achieve this, the Port of Vigo pioneered the implementation of a blue growth strategy in Europe in 2016. This strategy, carried out through a participatory methodology, aims to promote competitiveness, efficiency, and sustainability in all port-related activities.



One of the key focuses of the Port of Vigo's Blue Growth strategy is the humanization axis, aiming to position itself as an inclusive port, dedicated to people and committed to the training of new professions, productive and social cohesion of sectors and individuals associated with the sea, and social innovation initiatives, in line with European and international strategies such as the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



By prioritizing humanization and inclusivity, the Port of Vigo is creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all individuals, fostering social integration and cooperation within the maritime community. This approach contributes to the overall well-being and success of the port while promoting a culture of diversity, respect, and innovation.

DESCRIPTION PROJECT

The Welfare Committee of the Port of Vigo is the first of its kind to be established in Galicia and the Atlantic and Cantabrian coast. It is composed of 18 institutions that provide a multidisciplinary character and bring diverse perspectives, being "fundamental actors" in the maritime world who have firsthand knowledge of the sector and its needs. Social and business collectives, institutions, and the State Security Forces and Bodies are also represented.



The Committee is based on dialogue and active listening among all its members and aims to serve as a meeting point and forum for exchanging knowledge and experiences on these matters. It is an exercise that combines different viewpoints and sensitivities but with a common goal: "to improve the quality of life for the people who work and visit the Port of Vigo." This collaborative approach has proven to be the best system of participation for identifying shortcomings and seeking solutions.

In this context, the committee is made up of entities that, each within their scope of responsibility, are aware of the relevance of the conditions in which seafarers arriving at Spanish ports find themselves. They recognize the importance of making an effort to alleviate, as much as possible, the sense of displacement, loneliness, and various human issues that these individuals may encounter during their stay among us.

Among the entities that make up this committee are organizations with extensive experience that have been working together with the purpose of preventing and facilitating the resolution of these everyday problems faced by seafarers arriving at the Port of Vigo. Among them is Stella Maris, which is the "heart of the committee," the non-governmental organization providing support and care for refugees and migrants (ACCEM), the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) representing the interests of seafarers worldwide, the Cooperative of Shipowners of the Port of Vigo (ARVI), Fundamar, the Association of Ship Agents and Stevedores in the province of Pontevedra (ACOESPO), the Port and Ria of Vigo Pilots Corporation, Cruz Roja Galicia, and the Álvaro Cunqueiro Hospital. These entities are crucial in providing support and services to seafarers, along with the Social Institute of the Navy (ISM), Maritime Captaincy, Maritime Rescue, and the State Security Forces and Bodies. The Port Authority of Vigo and the Galician Ministry of the Sea, which has accepted the Honorary Presidency of this Committee, are also part of it.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To improve the quality of life for the people who work and visit the Port of Vigo, the following objectives have been defined within the Welfare Committee, under the framework of the Maritime Labour Convention of 2006:

1

Achieve, through the coordination of various public and private entities with competence in the maritime and port sector of Vigo, the promotion of concern for the human factor

2

Monitor the provision of appropriate welfare services for seafarers at the Port of Vigo and ensure that existing welfare facilities remain suitable, assessing the need to create new facilities or eliminate underutilized ones

3

Identify and discuss potential human and social issues that may arise in the maritime activity of the Port of Vigo, study them, and seek solutions

4

Assist and advise the entities responsible for providing welfare services and ensure coordination among them

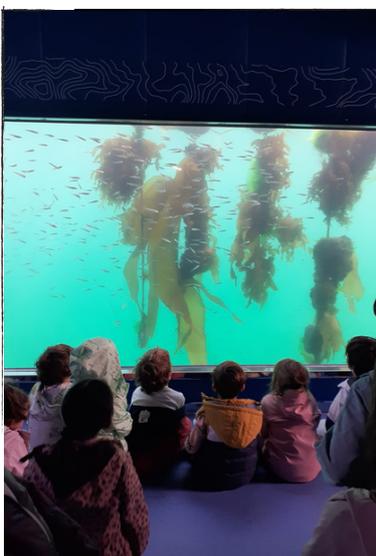
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Foster mutual assistance and collaboration among committee members to address the human issues faced by seafarers arriving at the Port of Vigo, with each member using their expertise within their respective areas of responsibility

MAIN ACTIVITIES

From the Port Authority of Vigo, efforts are being made to become a friendly and healthy port. As part of this Committee, a wide range of activities have been carried out to promote inclusion and ensure the physical, emotional, and social well-being of maritime workers. These activities include:

- Collaboration with the FAO in the Blue Ports program, providing training to workers from fishing ports worldwide on good port practices.
- Installing 32 defibrillators, both fixed and mobile, in different port areas, and training of Port Authority of Vigo workers in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (65% of the trained workers to date). This has been made possible through close collaboration with the Red Cross and the Alvaro Cunqueiro Hospital.
- Conducting awareness and environmental education activities among seafarers, as well as students and the general public, through the "Nautilus" underwater observatory located in the heart of the Port of Vigo. The aim is to promote the protection and conservation of marine ecosystems, encourage behavioural change towards more responsible and environmentally-friendly practices, and empower individuals to become advocates and leaders in ocean protection, actively participating in conservation efforts and compliance with environmental regulations. Since its inauguration in March 2023, the observatory has received over 15,000 visits.



- Providing assistance and support to seafarers and fishermen in times of need, conflict, or crisis.
- Ensuring that their rights are guaranteed and their personal and occupational dignity is respected.
- Responding to the needs of seafarers by providing specialized information, practical assistance, legal and medical advice, training, emotional support, and spiritual guidance.
- Organizing integration activities that provide an opportunity for crew members, many of whom are foreigners and away from their families and communities, to integrate with other port workers and the city. This includes events like a football championship.



PROJECT REPLICABILITY

The social inclusion projects implemented by the Port of Vigo have proven to be highly scalable and replicable in other European and international ports. Through innovative and collaborative initiatives, the Port of Vigo has successfully generated a positive impact on the local community, promoting equal opportunities and social integration. The Port of Vigo has shared its experience and knowledge with other ports, facilitating the transfer of best practices and strengthening collaboration at a European level. The scalability of these projects has allowed them to be adapted to the specific needs and contexts of other ports, providing an invaluable opportunity to improve the quality of life for port communities throughout Europe and promote social cohesion in the maritime sphere.

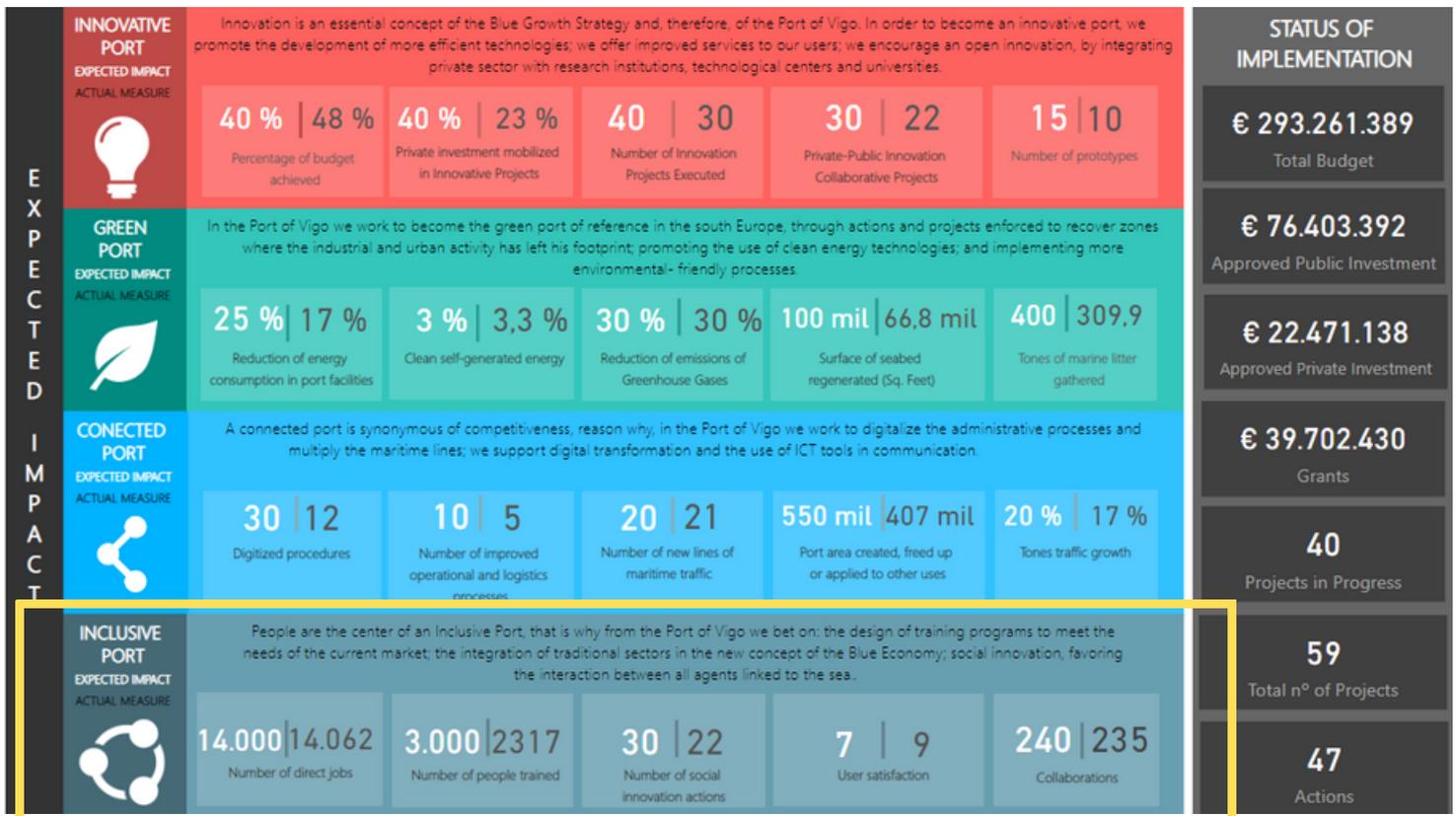
In this context, the importance of creating similar bodies in all ports worldwide where Galician and Vigo's ships work and operate has been emphasized by the sector. To achieve this, the Port of Vigo will propose the replicability of the Welfare Committee within the FAO's Blue Ports network to create an international network, where Vigo serves as a global example of a Blue Port.



IMPACT MEASUREMENT

In order to measure the impact of the Blue Growth Plan and its projects, a series of indicators have been defined. These indicators allow for quantifying the degree of achievement of the objectives set during their implementation. This is necessary to demonstrate the cumulative social, economic, or environmental changes resulting from their performance.

Furthermore, these indicators must align with the objectives of the new stage of the Blue Growth Plan for the Port of Vigo 2021-2027, as well as with Horizon Europe 2027 and the United Nations' 2030 Agenda.



The establishment of a monitoring system to measure the impact of the actions and projects undertaken on the proposed objectives provides a solid foundation for evaluating the implementation of the Plan and the degree of fulfilment of agreed commitments. As part of the indicators related to the objectives of an Inclusive Port, specific parameters have been included, such as the number of people trained, the number of social innovation initiatives, and the number of collaborations.

