

PORTABILITY

Shaping the future of our port cities, together!

As Europe transitions towards a more sustainable future, port cities are facing major challenges, with traditional industries transforming and new opportunities emerging in the green, digital, and blue economies.

PortAbility is a pioneering project that connects Vocational Education and Training with the evolving needs of **port ecosystems**, equipping the local workforce with the skills needed for the jobs of the future.



Our main objectives are:

- Activate **Centres of Vocational Excellence** in four Mediterranean port territories: Taranto in **Italy**, Andalusia in **Spain**, Volos in **Greece**, and all over **Cyprus**.
- Strengthen **labour market forecasting** through collaboration between industry, education, public authorities and civil society.
- Create **VET strategies** for the just transition, define skills, and design upskilling & reskilling pathways.
- Promote **social inclusion** and **innovation**, ensuring that no one is left behind.

[Click to learn more about the project.](#)



Who is this project for?

A green, digital, inclusive transition for our port cities will benefit all stakeholders in port-related ecosystems:

- **Business & industry** will gain a skilled workforce and strengthen competitiveness
- **Education & research** will connect with employers and align training with real industry needs
- **Public authorities** will attract investment and upgrade regional profiles
- **Civil society** organisations and local communities will be empowered and have access to fair opportunities for all.

In PortAbility, we have a vision for a sustainable future that includes everyone. Collaboration is at the heart of our project, and **we want all of you on board!**

[Contact us](#) to learn how to be part of the journey.



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A powerful partnership set sail

The PortAbility consortium brings together **VET centres, universities, companies, social organisations, and public authorities** across Europe, united by a shared vision to support the just transition in port city regions.

24 full-time partners and **3 associate organisations** will work together over the next four years to deliver concrete tools and strategies that equip port areas across Europe with the port-related skills and competences needed for the jobs of tomorrow.

Country clusters in **Italy, Spain, Greece, and Cyprus** will be complemented by our partners from **Germany**, who will support us with their experience and best practices from Hamburg, a port region that has advanced in the just transition, to inspire and guide us.

This collaborative journey started in **Taranto**, Italy, with a kick-off meeting organised by the project coordinator, **CIOFS-FP**. For two days, partners engaged in dialogue, exchanged perspectives, and set a shared vision to empower port cities and their communities through upskilling and reskilling initiatives that will strengthen their role in Europe's green and digital transitions, leaving no one behind.

[Click to read more about the partners](#)



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Exploring Port Transformation in Hamburg

The project's first study visit took place in early October, with **Italian** and **Spanish** partners travelling to Hamburg for a two-day programme organised and hosted by our **German** partners, Hidden Strategy and gsub.

Across two intensive and highly productive days, participants explored how Hamburg's transforming port landscape is driving **new skill needs, emerging job profiles, and innovative approaches to VET**.

Highlights included sessions at the Hamburg Vocational University BHH, site visits to HHLA's automated container terminal (the first of its kind worldwide) and to the training centres of Ma-co, Germany's leading maritime VET provider, as well as a visit to HqfenCity.

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Hamburg 2045: Alternative future skills in alternative future ports

Integrated into the study visit was the second part of an innovative **Creative Workshop** that felt more like stepping into the future together, exploring three bold "what-if" scenarios for the Port of Hamburg in 2045:

1. **Hydrogen Hub Metropolis & Autonomous Port**
2. **Port without Sea**
3. **The Adaptive Port**

Using these alternative futures as prompts unlocked high creative potential. By shifting perspectives and sharing experiences, peers from the different collaborating port regions identified key uncertainties and co-created narratives of change, while jointly reflecting on what these futures could mean for emerging professions and VET systems across regions.

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