

## VASCO DA GAMA PROJECT: A STRONG MARITIME NETWORK IS VITAL FOR SUSTAINABLE SHIPPING



Pär Karlsson is professor at the Kalmar Maritime Academy of Linnaeus University. As a highly committed expert in the Vasco da Gama project, he is launching a master programme in sustainable shipping starting in January 2015. This course is open to students from all maritime Regions as explained on the [Vasco Da Gama](#) official web site.

**CPMR: Pär Karlsson, you are one of the key partners in the Vasco da Gama project developed by the CPMR. Can you explain what motivated the Kalmar Maritime Academy to join this EU-supported project?**

**PK:** It is important for us to take part in this project as our goal is to continue to develop safe and environmentally friendly shipping in Europe. A strong European Maritime Network is vital for sustainable shipping to thrive, and we should be there to take part in this effort.

**CPMR: After 8 months, what are the main lessons you have learned from the project?**

**PK:** We have learnt that although challenges can arise when working together on a European-wide level, it is important to continue pursuing this project as it facilitates the possibility to cooperate with maritime academies and the shipping clusters in Europe.

**CPMR: You are launching a university training course from January to June 2015 in Kalmar on a series of topics related to sustainable maritime transport. This course was developed in partnership with the other Vasco da Gama partners. How can non-Swedish students benefit from this training?**

**PK:** Safe and sustainable shipping is of course not only a goal in the Swedish maritime industry, but in all maritime-focused industries throughout Europe (and the world!). We're looking forward to hosting students from other countries through the VDG project, and we're asking you, the members of CPMR, to spread the word! We also have the core group members in the four work packages in the VDG – project that will help us. Finally, we have employed a liaison who has a strong European network which will disseminate information about our university's courses.

We look forward to welcoming these students when they arrive in Kalmar and we believe that all of our students will develop strong European networks that will benefit them, as well as the future of the European shipping industry.