



**PATCH – A Channel and North Sea ports perspective on future skills  
for the Offshore Renewable Energy Sector**

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# What is PATCH?



**PATCH is an Interreg IVA 2 SEAS EU Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007/2013 project worth €9 million. It aims to create an attractive, accessible and competitive cross-border region, considering the fact that the logistic and maritime sector is important for the economy of these regions, it is even more important to handle these questions, related to these sectors.**

## **Objectives**

- **To strengthen the logistic functionality**
- **To take account of the fundamental challenge of the economic crisis**
- **To develop of new maritime activities and markets,**
- **To strengthen the cross-border efficiency and operation ability of the cooperation between the ports in the Channel area and the Southern North Sea.**
- **To improve the quality of the management of the participating ports through increasing shared capacity, internal inter-modality, economic development, employment and mobility**
- **To improve the diversification of the economic activities in the ports and the economic cross-border cooperation**
- **To implement pilot actions**
- **To strengthen and the improve the logistic and economic development of the cross-border regions to fight the recession**

# Adapting to future Marine Industries



Health and Safety



Logistics

Construction  
and  
Installation



Operations and  
Maintenance



# Challenges ...



- Massive scale
- Supply chain – vessels, equipment, skills
- Further offshore
- Deeper water
- Technology/approach step change required for offshore?
- Increased cost & investor risk
- Operations & Maintenance strategy rethink needed
- Competition – European/Global market
- Optimise onshore fabrication/assembly
- Improve offshore turbine reliability (less visits/downtime)



# Opportunities...



**Development Services** – environmental surveys, EIA, site technical surveys, front end engineering (civil, electrical), land acquisition, legal support, public relations, fisheries liaison



**Construction** - supply of equipment (turbines, transformers, switchgear, foundations, cables, control systems), installation, construction project management, port facilities, main vessels, support vessels, logistics / transport, surveys, onshore civil & electrical works, directional drilling, onshore O&M facility construction

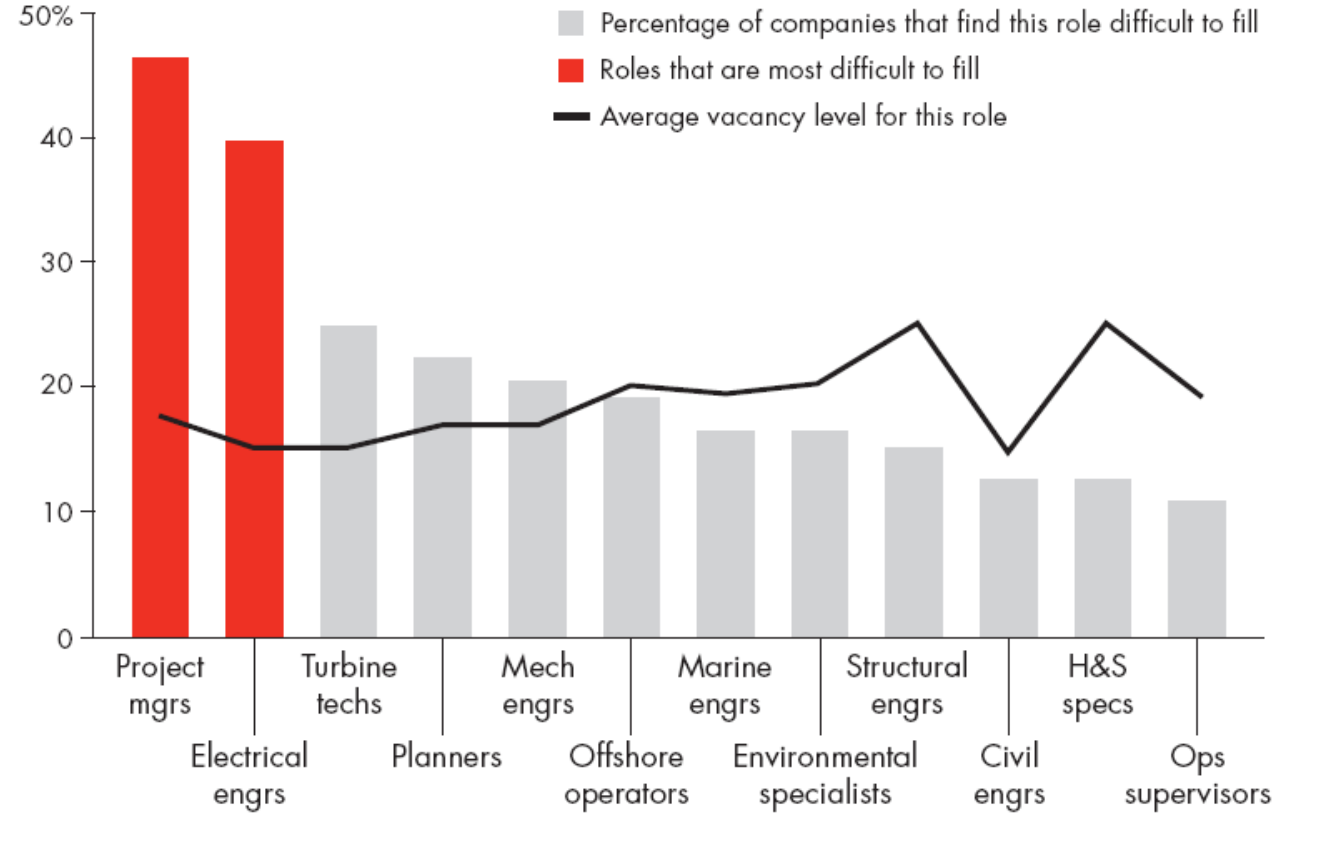


**Operations & Maintenance** – port facilities, operations base, maintenance contracts, turbine technicians, component supply/repair, vessels, crews, services ..

# Skills



Figure 6: Some specialist roles are particularly challenging to fill



Source: Industry survey



# Planning the Future

- Allocation of land at the Port
- Leasehold negotiations
- Local sourcing of contracts
- Shared Links to learning new skills
- Support for community environmental projects
- Financial planning



# PATCH's perspective on skills



1. Build on projects such as Windskills - <http://www.windskill.net/partners.html> and POWER - <http://www.offshore-power.net>
2. Focus on both basic and higher level skills
3. Links with local institutions and using partner strengths
4. Engineering and Health and safety skills



**Thank you**



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