

Abstract

This thesis looks at the national and international conditions of labour at sea in an international multicultural setting.

The study looks at the current state of affairs using legal texts, agreements and previous studies that have been conducted.

A qualitative study follows using a questionnaire with written questions and in-depth interviews.

This qualitative research was compared with existing literature. An analysis was made of similarities and differences concerning the themes:

- Type of crewing on board
- Selection of this crew
- Impact of international agreements
- Differences in remuneration and contract duration
- Importance of the “pool”

After this research, it can be concluded that seafaring is a very complex issue in terms of working conditions, contracts and social safety nets. Not everything turned out to be as black and white as it seemed at first sight.

Therefore, it is impossible to provide a complete answer to the research question: How is crew management arranged on board nowadays within this summary or even within this thesis?

The pool system guarantees that the Belgian shipping industry plays along in a competitive global market. This can give future security to the Belgian maritime sector to the benefit of seafarers, shipowners and the government alike.