



A SELECTION OF DIFFERENT EXAMPLES FROM THE EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE OF BOSKALIS | APRIL 2014

# NINA CONNECTS CULTURES



**Jules Verlinden**, project manager  
RSV Smit Kamara

“We work with 45 people, our own personnel and local people, off the Brazilian coast. They are all acquainted with NINA. When you are used to talking about safety in terms of procedures, NINA requires a bit

of a switch. I noticed that from the responses during the training. It suddenly switches to “take care of other people’s safety”. I myself already have that mindset more because, within Boskalis, I deal more often with people who already think and act that way. When a food supplier did not wear a helmet while hoisting crates on board, I saw how our SHEQ (Safety, Health, Environment & Quality) employee gave him one. That is facilitating safety and that is how I – in project-wide issues – also see my role. A ship is a closed community where that influence from outside is less. The project team on board the Smit Kamara must apply NINA itself, with up to eight different cultures on board, each with their

own standards and values and sometimes simply not understanding each other. In daily practice, that can cause communication problems: everything that you want to communicate has to be adapted to the person and his background. And on top of that: what one person finds nice and direct, another person finds so blunt that he shuts down. I expect the manner in which NINA teaches us to talk about safety to have a positive influence on all the communication. When you speak to someone about unsafe behavior, you do that out of concern and a feeling of responsibility. The other person knows that as well. In that way, NINA can bridge the gap between different cultures.”

# NINA DO-IT TRAINING

**A NINA Do-It training was given on board the Taklift 6 for all 15 crew members and eight colleagues from the Union Sapphire.**

After all the work was halted, the NINA Values and Rules were explained, along with what that means for everyone personally: taking responsibility for your own safety and that of your colleagues.

Captain Theo Koster: “In our team, we already accost each other about safety. But I noticed that everyone found it interesting to talk about safety in this way. I think it is important to strive for openness. Employees with an Asian background in particular are reticent when it comes to speaking out about things. That is where NINA can definitely provide a contribution.”

## OPEN TO DISCUSSION

The training was given in English. But: “Not everyone on board speaks English. We did ensure that it was translated as we went along, but then does everything come across? This situation also occurs in the daily work. That is why we advocate that everyone learns English.” Personally,

Theo expects mainly more action from NINA. “Our ship was built in 1974. There are various adjustments necessary in order to have it meet the current safety standards. I hope and expect that this will be open to discussion due to NINA and get the follow-up that is required.”



| Taklift 6 in Palermo