Damir Zec started his carrier in 1978 as a maritime officer. After several years at sea, he joined the Faculty of Maritime Studies, University of Rijeka, in 1985. He obtained his PhD from the University of Rijeka in 1994 for his work on the mathematical modelling of maritime traffic. Presently, he is a Full Professor and teaches maritime safety, security and pollution prevention subjects. In addition, his current responsibilities include developing postgraduate courses and supervising PhD students. He delivered lessons on related subjects at universities in Zagreb and Split (Croatia), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Genoa and Trieste (Italy).

From 1999-2004 he was a Vice-Dean responsible for R&D activities. From 2010 onward, he is responsible for technology transfer at the University of Rijeka, first as a Vice-Rector and later as a Deputy Rector. He participated as an expert advisor at various international fora (IMO, regional cooperation, international associations) dealing with maritime traffic issues on behalf of different bodies.

Damir Zec coordinated more than 100 development projects and studies for various enterprises and national and regional authorities, including 14 EU/internationally funded R&D projects, all related to maritime subjects and education. He presented research findings at numerous international venues and published in recognized journals. He was engaged as an external expert for maritime subjects in several foreign countries and professional associations. Currently, he is the Chair of the Supervisory Board of the shipping company Jadrolinija and the University of Rijeka Foundation.

