

SHIP-TO-SHORE REPORTING: SIMPLIFYING THE WORK OF SHIP AND COASTAL STATION OPERATORS

The second meeting of the pilot project set up to encourage interoperability between industry and competent authorities in the European Maritime Single Window environment under the CISE process took place on 25 September at EMSA. The pilot project aims to simplify the work of both ships and coastal station operators by exploring the synergies between the data needed by the coastal stations and the data already available in the SafeSeaNet Ecosystem. The **pilot project** will identify and test technical solutions to simplify reporting for the benefit of ships and the MRS/VTS centres. The deliverables of the project should also be of benefit to other types of coastal stations (e.g. MRCC, SAR) by providing them with integrated ship data which should lead to better awareness in their specific areas of responsibility and enhanced safety.



COMMON INFORMATION SHARING ENVIRONMENT: TRANSITIONING TO THE OPERATIONAL PHASE

The second stakeholder group meeting of the transitional phase of the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) took place on 3 October, gathering representatives from 17 EU/EEA member states, the European Commission, EFCA, Frontex, SatCen and the European Defence Agency. The group discussed the progress of the transitional phase activities and provided updates on the status of the implementation of national nodes for CISE. The meeting also marked the **launch of new CISE webpages on EMSA's website**, which will be the main information hub for online visitors with a content to be enriched during the project's lifetime to demonstrate the progress made.



ENSURING THE SAFE OPERATION OF RO-RO & HIGH-SPEED PASSENGER SHIPS

On 24-25 September, EMSA organised and hosted a workshop on the implementation of Directive (EU) 2017/2110 on a system of inspections for the safe operation of ro-ro passenger ships and high-speed passenger craft in regular service (entering into force on 20 December). During the workshop, the guidance documentation developed by EMSA for inspectors was finalised. In addition, updates were given on THETIS for Port State Control as well as on the new module on THETIS EU for Flag States. EMSA hosted numerous meetings back-to-back with the workshop, including with Paris MoU bodies such as the MoU Advisory Board (MAB), Task Force 31 and Task Force 51. EMSA participated in the meetings in its capacity as data manager, task force leader and member. EMSA was also invited to present the new training concept (modular approach) to the MAB with particular emphasis on port state control. EMSA highlighted that the new approach will incorporate the existing Paris MoU's training policy, EU and international legislation and the sectoral qualification framework. It will also make use of all available technologies such as eLearning and Virtual Reality. The approach was warmly welcomed, and all parties concerned agreed to work together in preparing a proposal for the Port State Control Committee which is to be held in Romania in May 2020.



EMSA HOSTS SEA EUROPE MEETING IN MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL EXCHANGE

On September 23, Sea Europe, the European association of shipyards and marine equipment manufacturers, held its technical group meeting in Lisbon. EMSA hosted the event and, on this occasion, participated in a joint SEA Europe-EMSA workshop to discuss issues of mutual interest from a technical point of view. The agenda included topics on safety and digitalisation, and covered composite and fibre-reinforced plastics, autonomous shipping, dry docking of LNG fuelled ships and ship manoeuvrability, as well as topics on environmental protection, which encompassed alternative fuels, class approval of emission monitoring systems, onshore power supply and ship recycling. The workshop was an excellent opportunity for a close and productive engagement between EMSA and industry stakeholders with many interesting exchanges. Both parties confirmed their willingness to continue this mutually beneficial technical exchange of views in the future.

RPAS USER GROUP: OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR OF OPERATIONS PAST & PRESENT

The second RPAS user group took place at EMSA on 30 September and was attended by representatives from 19 member states, Norway and Iceland, 6 agencies (EFCA, FRONTEX, EDA, EASA, ESA, and European GNSS Agency), EU NAVFOR Med, and the European Commission. Presentations included an overview of **past and present RPAS operations** in Iceland, Spain, Croatia, Portugal, Denmark, Italy, and with EFCA and FRONTEX, as well as issues related to the process of obtaining permits to fly and airspace management. Breakout sessions took place in the afternoon, allowing participants to express their views on future RPAS operations. These sessions also provided an opportunity to review the technical requirements for services, the sharing of data, as well as operational and geographical priorities. The event was very successful and allowed for a fruitful exchange of views on the use of EMSA's Remotely Piloted Aircraft System services by member states and EU authorities in support of maritime surveillance and emissions monitoring.



INTEGRATED MARITIME SERVICES TRAINING & SAFESEANET INFORMATION SESSION GIVEN IN ESTONIA

At the request of the Estonian Maritime Administration, EMSA provided a training and information session for various national authorities. The session, which took place in Tallinn, Estonia, on 18-19 September, covered the use of the IMS graphical interface (SEG), SafeSeaNet (SSN) data, Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) products and Automated Behaviour Monitoring (ABM). An additional information session on SafeSeaNet, data quality-related aspects, management of user and common access rights policies followed the training. Twenty-one participants were trained in SEG capabilities, CMS data and ABM services for the purpose of getting an overview of activities at sea, enhancing monitoring capabilities and the identification of related risks. EMSA regularly supports the national training activities of member states, specifically in relation to the agency's Integrated Maritime Services.



BUILDING UP NATIONAL CAPACITY TO RAISE STANDARDS ACROSS THE BOARD

EMSA organised and hosted the third Safemed steering committee on 3-4 September and the third BCSEA steering committee on 18 September. During the two meetings, EMSA presented the activities (training, provision of tools and services, studies and scholarships) undertaken from September 2018 to September 2019. Beneficiary countries from both projects praised the support offered by EMSA which is of utmost importance for the building up of their national capacity. Relevant European Commission services (DG MOVE, DG ENV and DG NEAR) also attended and highlighted the importance of the project, since maritime safety, security and protection of the marine environment are common concerns of EU member states and non-EU countries sharing a sea basin. The action plan for the period October 2019 to October 2020 was agreed and endorsed by the participants.

TEAMBUILDING WITH A CAUSE

On 20 September EMSA staff took to the coastline, joining in a movement across Europe to clean up marine litter from our beaches. EMSA's efforts brought a calculated 300 kg of litter from the shore to local waste management and recycling facilities. This was a perfect occasion for over 200 EMSA staff to gather and get to know new faces in a relaxed setting. The morning clean-up was followed by a picnic on the beach, and afternoon fun and games. EMSA would like to thank the local authorities which accommodated and in certain cases accompanied the event (Câmara Municipal de Sesimbra, Capitania do Porto de Setúbal, Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente, Guarda Nacional Republicana – Posto de Alfarim, Bombeiros voluntários de Sesimbra).



emsa.europa.eu

PROCUREMENT: Call for expressions of interest for an external expert database (19/12/2020); Call for expressions of interest for external experts to implement capacity building activities (31/10/2020). See website for more information.