

SAFEMED III VTMIS Workshop

Lisbon, 8 and 9 April 2014

Summary Report

The SAFEMED III VTMIS Workshop took place from 8 to 9 April 2014 at the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) premises in Lisbon.

Eight SAFEMED III beneficiary countries, i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia and the Italian Coast Guard in its capacity as MAREΣ server's manager, attended the workshop.

The first day of the meeting was mainly devoted to the presentations of the national traffic monitoring infrastructure and systems by the SAFEMED III beneficiary countries. This was intended to provide the necessary ground for the second-day bilateral meetings which were meant to help EMSA to assess the readiness to share AIS info at regional or sub regional levels, technical needs in this area as well as to define the possible follow-up actions.

Andrea Tassoni, Policy Advisor at EMSA, chaired the meeting underlining the importance of VTMIS infrastructure for ensuring high maritime safety standards in the region. He also stressed the importance of this issue in the framework of the SAFEMED III project.

After an introductory tour de table, Giuseppe Russo, Senior Project Officer at EMSA, delivered a general presentation on SAFEMED III project particularly focusing on the VTMIS actions. He explained the actions taken during the first nine months from the beginning of SAFEMED III, noting the technical meetings already organised. He welcomed the active cooperation of the beneficiary countries and underlined the importance of the experience exchange and the technical expertise SAFEMED III countries were bringing to the meetings. With regard to the VTMIS activities he underlined the benefits of AIS info sharing and stressed the importance in this respect of the bilateral meetings planned for the next day.

The SAFEMED III beneficiary countries took then the floor and provided an update on the AIS infrastructure and organisation in their country.

This allowed the identification of three main groups of countries including the beneficiaries that can start sharing AIS information; those needing some

technical support before starting to share and those beneficiaries which have no AIS infrastructure in place.

Following the presentations by the participating beneficiaries, Giuseppe Aulicino from the Italian Coast Guard delivered presentation on the AIS data sharing among the EU Member States: experience in the Mediterranean and Black sea regions. After recalling European legislative framework on the VTMIS based on the Directive 2002/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system, he explained the functioning, main features and the benefits of MAREΣ. As a conclusion, he provided the participants with **a to-do list for connecting to MAREΣ:**

1. Provide to Italy relevant IP addresses:

Participant Country will provide to Italy the following information:

- one static IP address (IP1) together with the related port from which all AIS data collected by the national network will be sent to the proxy.
- one static IP address (IP2) together with the related port from which proxy application shall receive/send data to the national server;
- one static IP address (IP3) together with the related port, resident on the public network (internet). By the mean of this address the regional server shall acquire/send the AIS data.

2. Set up the firewall:

Participant Country shall set up their firewalls in order to connect IP2 with IP3, establishing a logical connection between private and public network.

3. Provide adequate bandwidth:

Participant Country shall provide adequate bidirectional bandwidth of at least 256 kbps for the internet connection. This value is based on a 6 min down sampling rate. Italy will provide one IP address exposed on the public network with adequate bandwidth.

4. Provide hardware and basic software.

After presentation on the MAREΣ, the participants visited EMSA Maritime Support Services (MSS) Centre where they received information on the functioning of the MSS Centre, with a specific focus on SafeSeaNet and CleanSeaNet.

At the end of the day sharing AIS information was recognised by the participants of paramount importance in ensuring a high level of maritime safety, security and pollution prevention and response.