

## **SAFEMED III Seminar on Marine Accident Investigation**

**18 and 19 February 2014**

### **Summary Report**

The SAFEMED III seminar on Marine Accident Investigation took place from 18 to 19 February 2014 at EMSA premises and aimed at familiarising the SAFEMED III beneficiary countries with the main concepts of accident investigation. It also purported to encourage the establishment of independent accident investigation bodies (in the countries that have not yet established such organisations) and, in general, compliance with the principles governing the activity of accident investigators.

The seminar was attended by the following SAFEMED III beneficiary countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

The first day of the meeting started with an overview of the international and European legislative framework regarding marine accident investigation with a specific focus on the main differences between the IMO Code for the investigation of marine casualties and incidents and the Directive 2009/18/EC establishing the fundamental principles governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector for the EU Member States.

An insight was also given to the data collection, stressing its importance and the tools to be used, such as GISIS and EMCIP.

GISIS (Global Integrated Shipping Information System) marine casualty module contains information related to marine casualties and incidents as well as full marine safety investigation reports submitted to the International Maritime Organization by reporting Administrations. The module also contains analyses of these reports, which are aimed at identifying overall trends or issues of potential concern to the marine transport.

EMCIP is a European Marine Casualty Information Platform developed by EMSA. It provides the European Commission and the Member States with objective, reliable and comparable information on maritime safety. At the national level EMCIP facilitates the creation of statistics and any other data analysis needs of the EU Member States in the field of marine casualties as well as the fulfilment of the national obligations to report investigation

findings for certain casualties to IMO by means of a link between EMCIP and GISIS.

The speakers also introduced main concepts for marine accident investigation, such as independence and impartiality of the investigative bodies and confidentiality of information.

At the end of the first day of the meeting a representative from the United Kingdom presented his national system for marine accident investigation, illustrating with several practical examples on national implementation.

The second day of the seminar started with presentations of the national system for marine accident investigation by the SAFEMED III beneficiary countries. As result of this exchange some of the countries asked for further assistance on marine accident investigation in the framework of the SAFEMED III project.

During the meeting the speakers explained the procedure for setting up an investigation, the initial assessment and response, strategy and planning. They stressed the importance of proper evidence collection (securing the evidence) and explained different types of evidence.

The speakers also addressed the issues related to the analysis, conclusions, safety recommendations and to the drafting of the final investigation report.

At the end of the meeting the participants were informed that a more detailed training "Core skills accident investigation course" was scheduled for the SAFEMED III beneficiary countries for September of this year.