

## **Tripartite Working Arrangement**

### **Annual Strategic Plan 2023**

#### **Introduction**

Four years after the signature of the first Tripartite Working Arrangement (TWA), the three Agencies took a significant step towards strengthening the European cooperation on coast guard functions by signing on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 a new working arrangement for an indefinite period, aimed at defining modalities of the cooperation between EFCA, EMSA and Frontex , to support national competent authorities for different coast guard functions. The interagency cooperation has become part of the daily work of the three agencies and EFCA, EMSA and Frontex present now the same section on coast guard cooperation in their respective Single Programming Document and annual report.

As a result, EFCA, EMSA and Frontex are maintaining and deepening the cooperation in the five areas defined by the common article of the respective founding regulations (information sharing, surveillance and communication services, capacity building, risk analysis and capacity sharing) to further support the national authorities carrying out coast guard functions in various domains.

Conscious that projects and cross sector initiatives performed by the agencies can benefit a wider number of national authorities around EU and beyond, as well as taking into account some lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, EFCA, EMSA and Frontex are presenting their Annual Strategic Plan (ASP) for 2023 in the next pages. The current plan focuses on concrete projects to be developed during an indicated timeline, by adopting a multiannual-oriented approach towards the planned activities and with the intention of having the relevant Member States authorities closely involved in its implementation.

The projects and tasks of the plan are the result of the dialogue between the three Agencies on how to best serve the needs for cross sectoral activities, considering the feedback of the national authorities received through the Annual European Coast Guard Event, the different Coast Guard Fora and channels, such as joint trainings, national and regional initiatives covering more than one coast guard functions and the ECGFF/EU agencies co-organised events.

### Priorities for 2023 (outline)

#### Horizontal

Objective:	To further promote the interagency cooperation with national authorities on coast guard functions at EU and international level.
Tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) To hold the annual joint Annual European Coast Guard Event (AECGE) under the coordination of EMSA (as chair of the TWA), in line with the experience gained at the previous annual events, while enhancing interaction between participants.</li><li>2) To ensure the joint participation of the agencies in European and international maritime events with coast guard relevance.</li><li>3) To coordinate the cooperation with regional Coast Guard Functions Fora.</li><li>4) To coordinate the implementation of the adopted interagency communication plan relevant for the year 2023.</li><li>5) To contribute as required to the update of the EUMSS Action Plan.</li></ol>
Timeline:	2023

**Information sharing**

The following specific projects shall be implemented:

<b>Project A:</b>	<b>Enhancement of the Maritime Data Catalogue, to encourage a further sharing of data across Coast Guard Functions</b>
Objective and tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ensure the continued relevance of the Maritime Data Catalogue by incorporating updates/additions as appropriate, following feedback from the Member States and EU Agencies at the respective dedicated meetings in 2022.</li> <li>2) Ensure the availability of the Catalogue in a secure area on the respective Agencies' platforms.</li> <li>3) Develop of a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section in the Catalogue.</li> <li>4) Promote the Catalogue to further raise awareness at Member State level.</li> <li>5) Maintain a repository of use cases raised by Member States, for identifying opportunities for enhancing the sharing of data.</li> <li>6) Pending the assessment undertaken under ASP 2022, development of a public version of the Catalogue, for endorsement of the Member States.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	2023
Contribution from Member States authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Input to updates and new additions to the Catalogue.</li> <li>2) Provide use cases, to be used to inspire enhanced sharing of data.</li> <li>3) Provide feedback on material and presentation format of the Catalogue approved for public dissemination.</li> </ol>

**Surveillance and communication services**

The following specific projects shall be implemented:

<b>Project B:</b>	<b>Raise awareness of the user/stakeholder groups of the 3 Agencies related to surveillance and communication services</b>
Objective and tasks:	1) Produce a Surveillance Service Stakeholder's Groups Catalogue, mapping the stakeholder groups (including their scope and membership) of the 3 Agencies related to surveillance and communication services.
Timeline:	2023
Contribution from Member States authorities:	1) Awareness raising of surveillance fora available to Member States stakeholders.

<b>Project C:</b>	<b>Report on a Mapping of Information Exchange Standards in EU Level Systems between different Coast Guard Functions</b>
Objective and tasks:	Building on the Mapping of Information Standards between authorities performing different Coast Guard Functions for exchanging information in EU level systems (e.g. CISE, EUROSUR - including Specific Situational Pictures, FIS, IMS, SSN), TSC1 will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Produce a Report on a Mapping of Standards for Maritime Information Exchange Standards in EU Level Systems to the Member States.</li> <li>2) Explore the commonalities and opportunities for efficiencies found in the above- mentioned Report.</li> <li>3) Draft a road map addressing how gradually CISE will be supporting information exchange and cooperation between the three Agencies, while considering other information/data exchange systems already in place.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	2023
Contribution from Member States authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Provide feedback on the draft of the Report before finalisation, on a Mapping of Standards for Maritime Information Exchange Standards in EU Level Systems.</li> <li>2) Identify and share expertise on applying information exchange standards on national level, that can bring added value to EU Level Systems.</li> </ol>

### Capacity building

The following specific projects shall be implemented:

<b>Project: D</b>	<b>Practical Handbook on European cooperation on coast guard functions and Coast Guard qualifications Network</b>
Objective and tasks:	<p>Strengthen the cooperation between the European coast guard function authorities in further developing the practical handbook<sup>1</sup> and in selected capacity building activities.</p> <p>1) To support the implementation of the project “<i>Implementation of the results of the Coast Guard qualifications Network and the Practical Handbook on European cooperation on coast guard functions</i>”<sup>2</sup> through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using the existing databases in the Agencies for keeping the handbook updated in the online platform avoiding any double reporting from Member States</li> <li>• Proposing initiatives to develop further the coast guard training network and the on-the-job exchange opportunities.</li> <li>• Promoting the Sectoral Qualifications Framework for Coast Guard Functions (SQF), among others, through a dedicated awareness session on SQF for Coast Guard functions.</li> </ul> <p>2) To manage and maintain an online platform and define the generic contents to be included to reflect the existing areas of cooperation and to host the most important ASPs projects’ deliverables</p>
Timeline:	2023 (multiannual, follow up work from 2022)
Contribution from Member States authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Feedback related to the implementation of the online platform.</li> <li>2) Feedback on possible further developments of the Handbook.</li> <li>3) Update of country factsheets.</li> <li>4) Member States authorities to participate in the identification of training needs, offer training and on-the-job exchange opportunities.</li> <li>5) Member States authorities to cooperate on the promotion and, as adequate, implementation of the Sectoral Qualifications Framework for Coast Guard Functions (SQF).</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> Commission Recommendation (EU) 2021/1222 of 20 July 2021 establishing a ‘Practical Handbook’ on European cooperation on coast guard functions, OJ L 268, 27.7.2021, p. 3–18

<sup>2</sup> Contribution Agreement attributed to EFCA through Commission Implementing Decision of 4.6.2021 on the financing of the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2021, C(2021) 3870 final.



<b>Project: E</b>	<b>Cross-sector training and capacity building</b>
Objective and tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Offer joint cross-sectoral training to Member State national authorities by developing or implementing as adequate joint cross-sector training events or awareness sessions for items such as:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Search and Rescue;</li> <li>b. Fishing vessels safety/fisheries inspection rules;</li> <li>c. Maritime Surveillance;</li> <li>d. EU cooperation on coast guard functions.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2) Offer joint cross-sectoral training to at least one third country by developing or implementing as adequate joint cross-sector training events or awareness sessions.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	2023 (multiannual, follow up work from 2022)
Contribution from Member States authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Member States will benefit from the cross-sector trainings to be organised.</li> <li>2) Where relevant, Member States to participate with their input.</li> </ol>

### **Risk Analysis**

The following specific project shall be implemented:

<b>Project: F</b>	<b>Cross-sector risk analysis</b>
Objective and tasks:	<p>Provide support to Member States authorities carrying out coast guard functions on cross-sector risk analysis/assessments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To further develop and update cross sectorial risk analysis/assessment methodologies to be used in different European sea basins and deliver a common report for specific areas and/or sea basins in coordination with the TSC3 MMO project.</li> <li>2) To organise a workshop on risk analysis and assessment joining the communities of the three agencies, with the objective of:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Raising awareness of the different frameworks and methodologies used by the different communities of the three agencies and;</li> <li>b. Fostering the exchange of information and best practices between the different communities.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Timeline:	Full year 2023

Contribution from Member States authorities:	The tasks outlined above are related with the outcome of the survey done in 2021. Member States will contribute by providing feedback on cross-sector risk analysis information and will be participating in the planned workshop.
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**Capacity sharing**

The following specific project shall be implemented:

<b>Project: G</b>	<b>Multipurpose Maritime Operations</b>
Objective and tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To further develop the concept for implementation of MMO(s).             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identify potential areas and periods of interest for the implementation of MMOs in 2024, taking into consideration the availability of multipurpose capacities of the three Agencies, in those areas in such periods as well as operational activities already in place;</li> <li>b. Keep updated the generic modalities.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2) To implement the MMO(s) agreed by TWA Steering Committee in the European sea basin, upon MS's or Agencies request and in line with the generic modalities for MMO.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Implement a MMO in the Black Sea. Prepare specific modalities in accordance with the generic modalities for MMO and relevant decision of the Steering Committee;</li> <li>b. Implement a MMO in Baltic Sea (Possible alternative TBC: North Spain/Portugal). Prepare specific modalities in accordance with the generic modalities for MMO and relevant decision of the Steering Committee;</li> <li>c. Implement a MMO in an additional European sea basin (TBD). Prepare specific modalities in accordance with the generic modalities for MMO and relevant decision of the Steering Committee.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Timeline:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Possible areas/period of interest to be identified by September 2023 for the endorsement of the Steering committee for ASP 2024.</li> <li>2) During year 2023</li> </ol>
Contribution from Member States authorities:	MSs' feedback on MMO received through the evaluation report. Generic modalities: Through AECGE, feedback from MSs involved in previous MMOs.



Project: H	<b>Mapping of the Agencies' assets deployment in support of Member States</b>
Objective and tasks:	Finalise and make available a mapping of the agencies' assets deployment in support of the MSs. <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Each Agency to provide regularly updated information of their chartered assets deployed in EU sea basins that are suitable for multipurpose operations. This project to be implemented taking in consideration development of TSC1 project on maritime data catalogue.</li></ol>
Timeline:	2023 (multiannual. Follow up work from 2022).
Contribution from Member States authorities	N/A