

CLOSING WORKSHOP PRESENTS RESULTS OF TRI-AGENCY COAST GUARD COOPERATION PILOT PROJECT

The closing workshop of the pilot project on the “Creation of a European coastguard function” took place in EMSA on 2 June, gathering more than 110 participants from various European and national entities. During the event, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and EMSA jointly presented the project results. The 18-month pilot project was launched in January 2016 in order to provide a test bed for the cooperation mechanism proposed by the European Commission within the framework of the border package. In the framework of the project, the three agencies explored and tested ways to further enhance their cooperation in four areas: information sharing; providing surveillance services; capacity building; capacity sharing including multi-purpose operations. The enhanced cooperation among EMSA, EFCA and Frontex will enable the agencies to support the activities of more than 300 civilian and military authorities in a wide range of areas such as maritime safety, security, search and rescue, border control, fisheries control, customs control, general law enforcement and environmental protection.



REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS TESTED IN REAL TIME FOR MULTIPURPOSE MISSIONS

A demonstration has been held in Huelva, Spain, to show the potential of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) as valuable maritime surveillance tools in operational scenarios for multipurpose missions, including pollution monitoring, border control, illegal fishing detection, anti-drug trafficking, and search and rescue. The European Maritime Safety Agency was tasked to carry out this demonstration in cooperation with Frontex and EFCA as part of the European Coast Guard Pilot Project. The demonstration was an opportunity for member state representatives with an operational role in civil maritime surveillance to become familiar with the benefits and constraints of RPAS use in different scenarios. As RPAS services become available from EMSA over the course of the year, this awareness will be instrumental in guiding future requests for RPAS mobilisation. The specific flight scenarios were carried out with the essential cooperation of Spain's Instituto Nacional de Técnica Aeroespacial (INTA) using the assets and expertise of specifically contracted companies as well as of Spain's national Maritime Safety Agency (SASEMAR) and customs authorities.

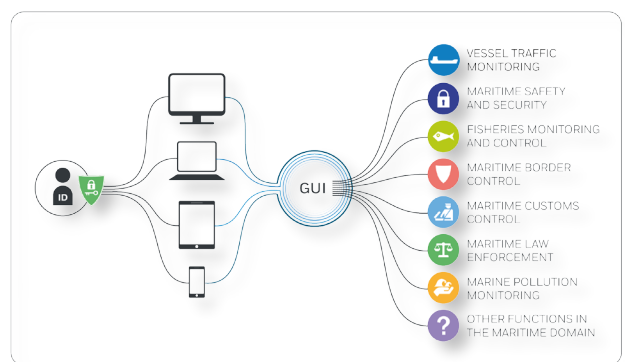


COASTEX EXERCISE HELD IN PORTUGAL

EMSA took part in COASTEX17 on 23 to 26 May 2017 in Troia, Portugal. This multifunction multiagency exercise organised by the Portuguese current chairs of the European Coast Guard Function Forum was attended by more than 100 delegates and observers from EU member state authorities performing coast guard functions and from three European agencies – Frontex, EFCA and EMSA. The event included workshops covering various coast guard functions and was complemented by demonstrations at sea. The scenarios included deployment of vessels, helicopters and airplanes. EMSA mobilised the standby oil spill response vessel, Ria de Vigo. The vessel was the main asset in the pollution-response demonstration. Additionally, EMSA supported the exercise by delivering presentations during the workshops and by providing satellite imagery for oil pollution detection and monitoring and maritime surveillance information through its Integrated Maritime Services.

MEMBER STATES MEET TO DISCUSS INTEGRATED MARITIME SERVICES AND TRAIN USERS ON THE NEW GRAPHICAL INTERFACE

EMSA hosted the Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) User Consultation Meeting (UCM) for member states. Representatives from 24 EU member states as well as Montenegro, who recently joined the service, participated in the event discussing a number of operational topics. The introduction of the new graphical interface (provisionally named SEG) was welcomed with enthusiasm. The related SEG training activities were organised back-to-back with the user consultation. Member states appreciated the scaling up of the IMS technical capabilities allowing processing of the high amount of data. They also provided their feedback on existing and new functions and tools within IMS, as well as the future developments: new Automated Behaviour Monitoring (ABM) algorithms; system-to-system interfaces to IMS data; use of digitalised ship certificates and general arrangement plans. Positive comments were provided on the evolution of IMS and the milestones achieved. Participants were very pleased with the active discussions in smaller parallel groups and expressed their interest with the continuation of this dynamic arrangement.



The Graphical User Interface shown above is a single user interface offering access to the maritime information services constituting the SafeSeaNet Ecosystem

WORKSHOP ON THE PREPARATION OF THE CYCLE OF MARINE EQUIPMENT DIRECTIVE VISITS TO MEMBER STATES

On 18 May, EMSA held a workshop to elaborate the framework of the forthcoming cycle of visits to the member states regarding the new Marine Equipment Directive (MED 2014/90/EU). The event gathered representatives from 16 EU and EFTA countries, from the European Commission (DG MOVE) and from EMSA. Participants were given information about the implementation of the MED, and about the purpose and objectives of the visits by DG MOVE and EMSA. EMSA presented the MED visits methodology which is based on a process analysis approach. Interventions from selected speakers provided operational experience gained at national level, in relation to flag state activities, monitoring and assessment of notified bodies and market surveillance. EMSA also outlined some indicators that will be used throughout the cycle to assess the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of the measures put in place by member states to implement and enforce the MED requirements. The meeting was warmly welcomed by participants who provided active involvement and constructive feedback.

PARIS MOU HOLDS ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The Paris MoU celebrated its 35th anniversary at its 50th committee meeting in held in Gdansk, Poland. EMSA plays a multifunctional role in the yearly Paris MoU committee meeting. The EMSA team provided specialist assistance to the European Commission and reported to the plenary as designated leader of two taskforces on the improvement of the information system and the new inspection policy within the Paris MoU. In its capacity as database manager, EMSA gave feedback on the enhancements and amendments made to THETIS. Finally, as developer and provider of the eLearning and Rulecheck tools, EMSA presented the various new functionalities and modules that now exist to support PSC officers of the Paris MoU. One of the main achievements is the decision to change the formula for the calculation of the flag performance list where EMSA, as leader of the taskforce, will be involved.



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VACANCIES: Reserve list for a Financial Assistant (23/6/2017); Traineeship notice 2017 (1/7/2017)

PROCUREMENT: Expressions of interest for an external database of experts (19/12/2020); ICT services for corrective and evolutive maintenance of STAR tracking system (21/6/2017); Service Contracts for Standby Oil Spill Recovery Vessels (12/6/2017)

PUBLICATIONS: Copernicus Maritime Surveillance - Product Catalogue; EMSA guidance on the inventory of hazardous materials