NEWSLETTER No. 151

EMSA — European Maritime Safety Agency

THIRD BIANNUAL EXERCISE ON PLACES OF REFUGE FOR SHIPS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE HELD IN NORWAY IN CONJUNCTION WITH A CHEMICAL/OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE

The third biannual table top exercise on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance took place on 28-29 September in Horten, Norway. EMSA held the first such exercise in Rotterdam in 2013 and the second in Malta in 2015, always in cooperation with the European Commission and hosting member state. Each edition of the event focuses on a set of specific objectives. In the case of this third event, the emphasis was on the continued testing of the Operational Guidelines on Places of Refuge, the tools available through EMSA to counteract pollution by hazardous substances, and the issue of insurance and compensation claims arising from a place of refuge situation. The event took place over one and a half days and was attended by representatives of 15 EU and EEA states, relevant industry sectors covering salvage, class, insurance and port operators, as well as the European Commission and EMSA. At the same time, on 25-28 September, EMSA participated in an extensive chemical/oil spill pollution exercise in Norway in conjunction with the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) and the European Commission. The at-sea exercise simulated a collision between an oil tanker and a chemical tanker. EMSA participated — together with maritime and aerial units from Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden — with the involvement of the oil spill response vessel Norden and the North Sea Equipment Assistance Service.

EXCHANGING OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE ON EMSA'S IMS AUTOMATIC BEHAVIOUR MONITORING TOOLS

On 12 September EMSA hosted the third operational workshop on Automated Behaviour Monitoring (ABM). The event was attended by 14 EU member states and EU body representatives who are actively using ABMs for surveillance purposes. ABMs are Integrated Maritime Service (IMS) tools used for the automatic detection and alerting of specific or 'anomalous' ship behaviour. The workshop offered a unique opportunity to share ABM operational experiences and best practices between different users and communities. Noting that the usage of ABM is constantly and rapidly increasing, the workshop participants identified and prioritised a number of topics for future developments (see ABM workshop report for additional information).
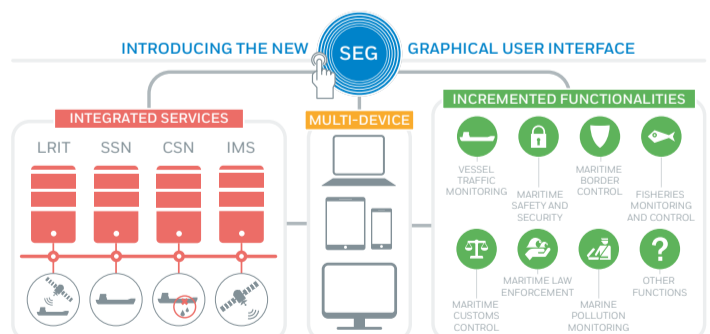
SAFEMED IV PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION GETS OFF TO A GOOD START

SAFEMED IV project implementation is now well underway following on from the inaugural steering committee on 25-26 September. The implementation phase will include 68 regional and bilateral activities spread across the nine main components: Flag State implementation; Port State Control; VTMIS; marine environment protection; human element in maritime safety; security of ships and port facilities; Mediterranean Coast Guard Function Forum; bilateral activities; and, communication. At the committee meeting, participants from the nine beneficiary countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia) emphasised the added value of regional initiatives and endorsed the work plan for the implementation of the various activities. The project, which offers a wide portfolio of technical assistance, including training, eLearning, access to tools and applications, fosters commitment, cooperation and participation from the beneficiaries. Among the very first activities was the secretariat meeting of the Mediterranean Coast Guard Function Forum (MCGFF) hosted by EMSA which promoted the participation of SAFEMED IV beneficiary countries in the 2017 plenary of the MCGFF held in Antalya, Turkey, on the 12-13 October.

TRAINING ON CLEANSEANET AND THE SAFESEANET ECOSYSTEM (SEG) GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE

On 19-21 and 26-28 September, four train-the-trainer sessions for operational users of CleanSeaNet were held at EMSA. The training was eagerly awaited and fully booked with participants keen to have a first look at the new user friendly Graphical User Interface. Some 54 participants from 26 EU member states and EFTA countries, Turkey and Montenegro attended. The SafeSeaNet Ecosystem GUI (SEG) is a new common Graphical User Interface providing access to CleanSeaNet (CSN) and Earth Observation data from Copernicus, SafeSeaNet (SSN), Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) CDC, and Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) for EU member states and other EU institutional users. The SEG is an easy to use graphical interface available on PCs and on mobile devices including tablets and smartphones.

INTRODUCING THE NEW **SEG** GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE

INTEGRATED SERVICES — LRIT SSN CSN IMS

MULTI-DEVICE

INCREMENTED FUNCTIONALITIES — VESSEL TRAFFIC MONITORING, MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY, MARITIME BORDER CONTROL, FISHERIES MONITORING AND CONTROL, MARITIME CUSTOMS CONTROL, MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT, MARINE POLLUTION MONITORING, OTHER FUNCTIONS

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VACANCIES: Assessor of Classification Societies (SNE) (deadline: 23/10/17); Project Officer for Maritime Security (SNE) (deadline: 23/10/17); MSS Officer with IT background (SNE) (deadline: 23/10/17); National Experts in Professional Training Programme (NEPT) (deadline: 30/10/2017)

PROCUREMENT: Expressions of interest for an external database of experts (deadline: 19/12/2020)