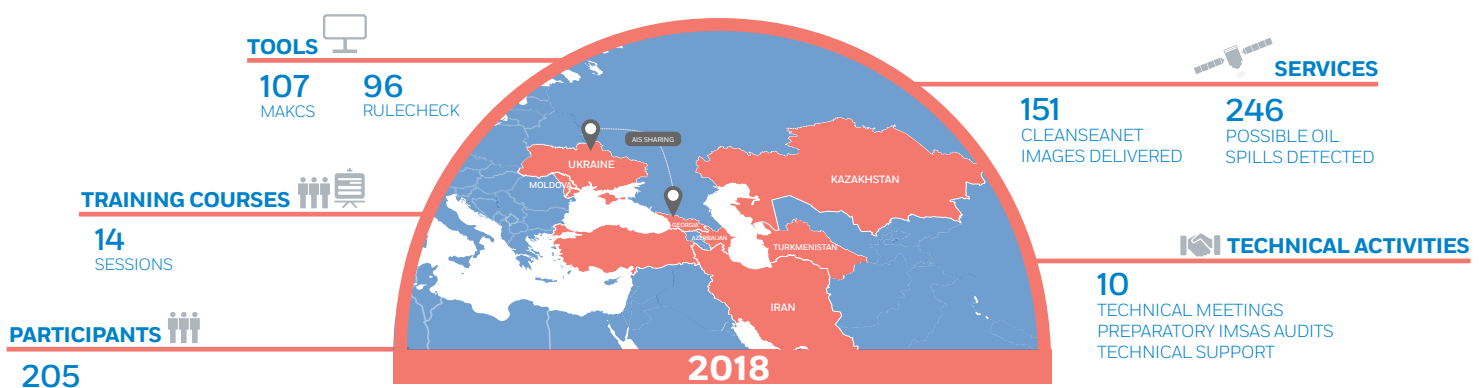


BCSEA NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 / April 2019

maritime safety, security and marine
environmental protection in the black
and caspian sea regions



REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

The technical seminars, workshops and training courses organised by the Agency contribute to the further enhancement of the expertise of the BCSEA beneficiary countries as well as to the fruitful exchange of knowledge between the maritime administration officials from the beneficiary countries and the EU Member States.

FLAG STATE IMPLEMENTATION

The activities under this component aim at supporting the Beneficiaries' maritime administrations to implement and enforce international legislation and to establish national procedures on the matter. The main objective is to enable the Beneficiary Countries to effectively perform their obligations, and to exercise an effective Flag State jurisdiction in accordance with relevant instruments, thus contributing to the overall objective of the project to improve maritime safety, security and marine pollution prevention.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Beneficiaries' maritime administrations are provided with access to RuleCheck, the EMSA's repository tool with all maritime international and EU legislation. The newly launched training session for Flag State inspectors is an initial step towards providing the Projects' beneficiaries with structural training to comply with the relevant provisions of the III Code.

Beneficiaries were also supported in the task of monitoring the Recognised Organisations delegated to carry out surveys and issuing statutory certificates on their behalf. They were also supported to prepare for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS).



10-14/12/2018 – Participants in the Core Skill course on Accident Investigation in EMSA, Lisbon, Portugal

ACTIVITIES

1/6/2017 – Provision of RuleCheck to staff of the maritime administrations of the Project's beneficiaries

1/6/2017 – Provision of E-learning through Maritime Knowledge Centre (MaKCs) to staff of the maritime administrations of the Project's beneficiaries

12-16/3/2018 – Training for flag state inspectors

10-11/4/2018 – Training on Monitoring of Recognised Organisations

12-16/11/2018 – Training for flag state inspectors

10-14/12/2018 – Core Skill course on Accident investigation

PORT STATE CONTROL

The activities under this component are directed towards further improvement of the technical requirements, criteria and standards applicable in the BSMoU through practical training for the PSC officers and further enhancing the coordination and harmonisation between the BSMoU members.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) from beneficiaries are provided with access to RuleCheck and eLearning. Tailor made seminars were delivered for PSCOs from BSMoU and non-MoU beneficiaries supporting them to comply with the Memoranda's Professional Development schemes and the III Code as relevant.

Furthermore, two Tutoring Projects on Port State Control were held in Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.



22-26/1/2018 – Participants in the Seminar for BS MoU Port State Control Officers in EMSA, Lisbon, Portugal



ACTIVITIES

- 6-7/4/2017** – Coordination meeting with BSMOU Secretariat
- 22-26/1/2018** – Seminar for BS MoU Port State Control Officers (PSCOs)
- 20-21/6/2018** – Training on IMO Port State Control Procedures for non MoU on PSC countries

VESSEL TRAFFIC MONITORING AND INFORMATICS SYSTEMS

Enhancing the beneficiaries' capacity to monitor the maritime traffic along their coast line greatly supplements and enhances also the national capacity as PSC and in the field of maritime pollution preparedness and response. Data exchange in this domain between coastal states of the same region enables the individual States to forecast the dangers and the risks, to be in a position to know the situation outside the areas of responsibility of specific VTSs and to carry out risk analysis.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The major achievement under this component is the starting of the 2nd phase of the pilot project on sharing AIS information after the authorisation from the relevant bodies (MAREΣ EWG and SSN HLSG) was received. The second phase entails the possibility of some Projects' beneficiaries to share AIS information with selected EU MSs.

To support the sharing, beneficiaries participating to the relevant pilot project have been offered the opportunity to apply to the Call for Expression of Interest (CEI) launched by the Agency for donation of AIS stations and Central Nodes. The donation is in the final phase and it will be concluded during the first quarter of 2019.



27/8-5/9/2018 - Participants in the Training for Vessel Traffic System Operators in Turku, Finland

ACTIVITIES

- 6-7/12/2017** – 14 MAREΣ Expert Working Group
- 27/8-5/9/2018** – Training for VTS Operators
- 27/11/2018** – 15 MAREΣ Expert Working Group

PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The activities under this component focus on two main matters:

- Raising awareness on the need of the Beneficiaries to accede to and implement those international conventions to which they are still not parties, to fully implement those to which they are already Parties, and to enact legislation with approximation to the EU acquis and to provide them with the necessary technical assistance and support in the process;
- To provide the beneficiaries with operational support in the area of marine environmental protection.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine are provided with CleanSeaNet services and SAT-AIS information to support the early detection of oil spills in the waters under their jurisdiction to facilitate the identification of possible polluters. Beneficiary countries were also trained in the use of the new SafeSeaNet Graphic User Interface (SEG), the common web interface providing access to EMSA's maritime applications.



20-21/11/2017 – Participants in the Training on MARPOL Annex VI, Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships, in EMSA, Lisbon, Portugal

ACTIVITIES

- 20-21/11/2017** – Training on MARPOL Annex VI for the Black and Caspian Sea beneficiary countries
- 19-20/2/2018** – SAFEMED IV and Black and Caspian Sea Training for ENI IMS Operators

HUMAN ELEMENT

The human element is an important factor in maritime safety. It is a complex multi-dimensional issue that affects maritime safety, security and marine environmental protection involving the entire spectrum of human activities performed by ships' crews, shore-based management, regulatory bodies and others. 80% of maritime accidents can be attributed in some way to human element failures. The project will address the human element with the aim to continue achieving an effective enhancement of the maritime safety standards.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Beneficiaries were and will be provided with support as relevant to ratify or to implement the ILO Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 and the IMO STCW through regional and bilateral trainings intended to accommodate general and specific needs of the beneficiaries. External Experts have been selected through a Call for Expression of Interest (open until 19/12/2020) to further support the beneficiaries in all aspect related to the human element at sea.

ACTIVITIES

30-31/01/2019 – Training on implementation of MLC, 2006



30-31/1/2019 – Participants in the Training on the Implementation of Maritime Labour Convention in EMSA, Lisbon, Portugal

SECURITY OF SHIPS AND PORT FACILITIES

This activity aims to improve the implementation of the mandatory SOLAS maritime security requirements for ships and ports, together with a progressive alignment of the beneficiaries' national performances to the EU standards by focussing on two main pillars: awareness and knowledge.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Training session at regional and bilateral level are organised to enhance capacity of the beneficiaries to implement the ISPS Code for what concern the ship and port facility security.

The EU legislation concerning the ship, port and port facility security is also adequately dealt with to provide beneficiaries with the opportunity to align, on a voluntary basis, their relevant national legislation.



COMMUNICATION

This component, through newsletters and the publication of all material and news about the project on the EMSA website and other relevant websites as indicated by the Contracting Authority, ensures the required publicity and visibility to the project and the achieved results.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Various communication actions have been implemented: the project's page on the EMSA website has been revamped and constantly updated. The project has also been presented to international for a and participated in high-level activities such as the EU-ISRAEL Multimodal Transport Dialogue and the visit to the World Maritime University.



12-13/9/2018 – Participants in the 2nd Steering Committee at the Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia in Batumi, Georgia



ACTIVITIES

13-14/6/2017 – 1st Steering Committee

15/2/2018 – Meeting with the World Maritime University

12-13/09/2018 – 2nd Steering Committee

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND BILATERAL ACTIONS

Beneficiary countries have different characteristics. The length of their coast line, the size and composition of their fleets, their maritime industry and their administrations, the number of seafarers, and the number of international conventions on maritime safety ratified and implemented vary considerably from country to country. For this reason, they can have different and specific priorities which are identified during an inception phase which includes an interactive dialogue with each beneficiary country. As an outcome bilateral actions are designed to best address the needs identified taking also into account their relevance to the achievement of the goals of the TRAS and the commitment of each beneficiary to implement the reforms supported by the project.

The bilateral actions are identified by analysing the outcome of the regional actions implemented as well as on the basis of specific requests coming from the beneficiaries. All identified bilateral needs are evaluated from the technical point of view by EMSA before being submitted for approval to the Contracting Authority together with an indication of the budget to be allocated.

PROVISION OF SUPPORT TO THE STATE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION OF AZERBAIJAN (SMAA) TO DEVELOP A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR FLAG AND PORT STATE INSPECTORS

An external expertise selected by EMSA through a public procedure provided technical assistance to support SMAA with the preparation of a Professional Development Scheme (PDS) for Flag and Port State inspectors. In the context of such activity a preparatory meeting between the expert, SMAA's representatives and EMSA was held from 6 to 8 February 2018 at SMAA premises in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The meeting was an opportunity to exchange the necessary information for the preparation of proposal for PDSs by the

external expert which takes into account the relevant Azerbaijani legislation and the resources made available by the BCSEA project.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Among others, support has been provided as relevant to prepare the Maritime Administrations to undergo IMSAS audit, to prepare Corrective Action Plans (CAP) for IMSAS audit, to draft Professional Development Scheme for ships inspectors, to draft procedures for monitoring the performance of fleets and recognised organisations, among other activities. All bilateral actions are key to provide a structural support to the beneficiaries and lay the foundation of a stronger cooperation with the EU.

ACTIVITIES

28-30/11/2017 – Fact Finding Mission to Moldova

6-8/2/2018 – Support to the State Maritime Administration of Azerbaijan (SMAA) to draft a professional development scheme for ships inspectors

16-20/4/2018 – **Kazakhstan**: Tutoring Project on Port State Control

15-16/5/2018 – **Turkey**: Training on Places of Refuge

2-6/7/2018 – **Turkmenistan**: Tutoring Project on Port State Control

18-19/9/2018 – **Ukraine**: Training “Enhance your knowledge on STCW Convention and Code”

23-24/10/2018 – **Georgia**: Training on MLC, 2006 for Flag State Inspectors

20-22/11/2018 – **Turkey**: Training on MLC, 2006 for Flag State Inspectors

10-13/12/2018 – **Turkmenistan**: Preparatory audit in view of the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS)



6-8/2/2018 – Provision of support to the State Maritime Administration of Azerbaijan (SMAA) to develop a professional development scheme for Flag and Port State inspectors at SMAA premises in Baku, Azerbaijan

ON-BOARD TALKS



Farhad Mammadov, Head of the Law, Human Resources and International Relations Department in the State Maritime Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan, talks about his experience in the BCSEA Project.

Azerbaijan is a BCSEA Project beneficiary country. In your opinion, what benefits you, as a staff of the maritime administration, and your country, are getting from the Project's activities?

I would like to begin with extending my heartfelt thanks to EMSA for the close collaboration with Azerbaijan on the effective implementation of international maritime conventions. As a beneficiary country, the Project offers us golden opportunity to study best practice on ensuring maritime safety, maritime security and protection of the marine environment. Apart from this, it helped us to continue to pursue already existing dialogue between us and neighbouring countries.

I would like to draw your attention to the point that BCSEA initiative includes not only eliminating gaps in the maritime sector regionally but going beyond this it also recognises the importance of specific priorities of each country and assists them in meeting their intended objectives efficiently. Constant support that we received during the drafting process of Personal Development Scheme for Flag and Port State inspectors in Azerbaijan illustrates this point clearly. In particular, I want to thank Mr. Russo and his team for all the efforts and concern. It is under his guidance that we successfully completed the drafting process. Additionally, it should be emphasized that under the bilateral activities we were provided concrete guidance on how the MLC 2006 provisions should be implemented in practice.

If we consider all the facts, it seems more accurate to say that the employees of the State Maritime Agency, including myself benefited greatly from the trainings conducted in accordance with the Project components. Furthermore, I see distance learning and RuleCheck as being of fundamental importance in equipping our staff with the skill set necessary to give full and complete effect to relevant international conventions.

What is the most effective support provided through the BCSEA Project?

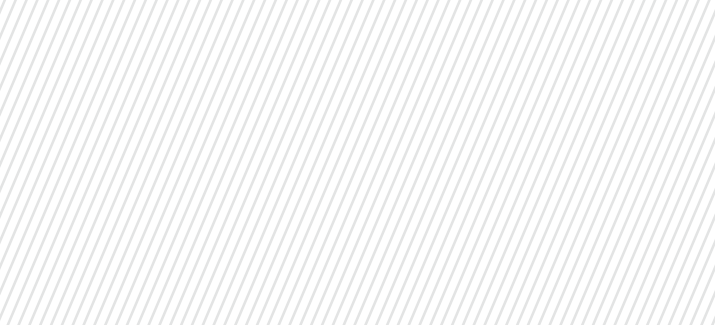
I strongly believe that each provided support is a key instrument in serving the purpose of the BCSEA Project. To support what I have said conducted trainings help us to acquire considerable knowledge and broaden our practical experience, developing a working partnership with neighbouring countries determines the main directions of cooperation in the maritime field and contributes to achieving our shared goals on promoting safe, secure and sustainable maritime transport, e-learning platform leads to analysing our understanding of international conventions more efficiently, last but not least RuleCheck is the main source of keeping ourselves updated about the adopted new regulations or amendments. For example, we get much benefit from studying the practice of countries that ratified the international conventions which Azerbaijan is not a party to and this helps us to identify and deal with challenges in advance. Cooperation and learning from the experience of other beneficiary countries are of great significance to us and solving the problems directly has a positive effect on reaching our primary objectives.

“A golden opportunity to study best practice on ensuring maritime safety, security and protection of the marine environment”

According to your experience with the Project's activities, what are the main results achieved so far? What do you expect from the Project in the near-future?

Following my earlier example, within the framework of this Project we improved our documented system for qualification and continuous updating the knowledge of our personnel so that they could perform their duties efficiently. Moreover, fact finding Missions assist us in setting our priorities for further development. Moving on, I would like to stress that we are very pleased to see the impressive accomplishments of our employees owing to the delivered trainings under the BCSEA initiative.

On the question of near-future expectations, it should be highlighted that connecting the Caspian and Black Sea and ensuring uniformity of maritime transport initiatives will give rise to setting principal priorities for increased cooperation at a regional scale such as improving Euro-Asian transport corridors.



What would you change/modify in the Project's structure?

I sincerely appreciate and place great value on the assistance provided to Azerbaijan within BCSEA Project. However, adopting a different approach to delivering some trainings such as MLC will prove useful in expanding our understanding of how to implement the convention. I believe it is a bit difficult to encompass the entire convention and examine the methods of application within 2-3 days of trainings. This strengthens the idea that a longer time is needed to achieve the intended result of trainings.

Furthermore, as we indicated in our previous feedback we would be grateful if you could cooperate with us to determine why International Convention on Load Lines and International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships are not applicable to the Caspian Sea. Although very little is currently known about this issue, the above-mentioned conventions are being applied by the littoral states of the Caspian Sea and this research will contribute to a deeper understanding of the conventions specially in terms of Flag State Surveys.



Baku, Azerbaijan




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MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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