

# SAFEMED IV NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 / April 2019

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



## TOOLS

106  
MAKCS

144  
RULECHECK

## TRAINING COURSES

12  
SESSIONS

## PARTICIPANTS

207



## SERVICES

704  
CLEANSEANET  
IMAGES DELIVERED

225  
POSSIBLE OIL  
SPILLS DETECTED

## TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

21  
TECHNICAL MEETINGS  
OIL SPILL POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISES  
PREPARATORY IMSAS AUDITS  
TECHNICAL SUPPORT



SAFEMED IV  
Project funded by  
the European Union



## REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

The regional technical activities organised by the Agency, which include seminars, workshops and training, amongst others, contribute to further enhance the technical capacity and skills of the SAFEMED IV participants as well as to foster a fruitful exchange of knowledge between the maritime administration officials in the Mediterranean basin.

## 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

All staff from the beneficiaries' maritime administrations are provided with access to RuleCheck, the EMSA's repository tool storing all International and EU Maritime legislation.

The newly launched training session for Flag State inspectors is an initial step towards providing the projects' beneficiaries with structural trainings to comply with the relevant provisions of the III Code.

Beneficiaries were also supported in the task of monitoring the Recognising Organisations surveying and issuing statutory certificates on their behalf as well as train auditors for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS), in collaboration with the IMO.



05-9/2/2018 - Participants in the Training Course for auditors under the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) in EMSA - Lisbon, Portugal

## ACTIVITIES

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

**5-9/2/2018** – Training course for auditors under the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS)

**5-9/3/2018** – Training for flag state inspectors

## PORT STATE CONTROL

The activities under this component are directed towards the implementation of the technical requirements, criteria and standards applicable in the Med MoU through practical training for the PSC officers. In addition, the component aims at further enhancing the coordination and harmonisation between the Med MoU members.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

All Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) from Beneficiary Countries are provided with access to RuleCheck and the EMSA eLearning platform.

Tailor made seminars were delivered for PSCOs for inspectors of the MEDMoU. Such seminars support the Med MoU Secretariat and its Professional Development scheme.

The Agency is also cooperating with the Med MoU Secretariat to develop a new inspection database, namely THETIS-Med which should replace the current Med MoU information system.



26/6/2018 - Participants in the 20th Med MoU Advisory Board Meeting in Limassol, Cyprus

## ACTIVITIES

**21/3/2018** – Meeting with the Med MoU Secretariat

**16-19/4/2018** – Med MoU PSC Seminar

**19-20/6/2018** – Training on the implementation of the III Code

**26/6/2018** – 20<sup>th</sup> Med MoU MAB Meeting

**12-14/9/2018** – 20<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting of the Med MoU

**26-29/11/2018** – Med MoU PSC Seminar

**11/12/2018** – Bilateral meeting for development of THETIS-Med



## VESSEL TRAFFIC MONITORING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The establishment of a regional VTMISS in the Mediterranean Sea regions greatly supplements and enhances the national capacity for vessel traffic monitoring, PSC, and maritime pollution preparedness and response by allowing data exchange and thus creating better overall picture of the maritime traffic (improving maritime domain awareness). It will enable the individual States to forecast the dangers and the risks, to be in a position of knowing the circumstances outside the areas of responsibility of specific VTSSs and to perform risk analysis.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

The major achievement under this component is the launching of the 2nd phase of the pilot project on sharing AIS information after the authorization from the relevant bodies (MAREs EWG and SSN HLSG) was received. The second phase entails the possibility of some project's 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.

### ACTIVITIES

**6-7/12/2017** – 14<sup>th</sup> MAREΣ Expert Working Group

**27/8-5/9/2018** – Training for VTS Operators

**27/11/2018** – 15<sup>th</sup> MAREΣ Expert Working Group



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

## 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

Amongst the project's beneficiaries, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia are provided with CleanSeaNet services and SAT-AIS information to both support the early detection of oil spills in the waters under their jurisdiction and 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.



19-20/2/2018 - Participants in the SAFEMED IV and Black and Caspian Sea Training for European neighbourhood instruments for Integrated maritime services Operators in EMSA - Lisbon, Portugal

### ACTIVITIES

**19-20/2/2018** – SAFEMED IV and Black and Caspian Sea Training for ENI IMS Operators

**25-27/9/2018** – SAFEMED IV Oil Spill Pollution Response Exercise

**12-13/12/2018** – SAFEMED IV Seminar on Civil Liability in the Maritime Domain

## 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

In 2018, beneficiaries were provided with support as relevant to ratify or to implement the ILO Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.

### ACTIVITIES

**20-21/3/2018** – Training on the implementation of the MLC, 2006



20-21/3/2018 - Participants in the Training on the implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 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.

## MEDITERRANEAN COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS FORUM

Under this task, support will be provided to the MCGFF to pursue its objectives in order to enhance cooperation and information sharing among member states and third countries in their effort to detect, monitor, deter and intercept transnational maritime threats to the global safety, security, economy and environment.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

The active participation of the SAFEMED IV beneficiaries to the Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum (MEDFORUM) plenary conferences has risen because of the support provided by the Project. The support provided also includes hosting the Secretariat meetings at EMSA premises in Lisbon.

### ACTIVITIES

**6/9/2017** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Secretariat Meeting

**12-13/10/2017** – MCGFF 2017 Plenary Conference Antalya

**21/3/2018** – 1<sup>st</sup> MCGFF Secretariat Meeting 2018

**11/5/2018** – 2<sup>nd</sup> MCGFF Secretariat Meeting 2018

**27-28/6/2018** – MCGFF 2018 Plenary Conference



27-28/6/2018 - Participants in the Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum 2018 Plenary Conference in Marseille, France



## 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 internationally and participated in high-level activities such as the EU-ISRAEL Multimodal Transport Dialogue and the visit to the World Maritime University.

## ACTIVITIES

26/9/2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee

14/12/2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> UfM Stakeholder Conference on the Blue Economy

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

3/5/2018 – 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GTMO 5+5 expert group

16/10/2018 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee

22/10/2018 – EU-ISRAEL Multimodal Transport Dialogue



22/10/2018 - EU-ISRAEL Multimodal Transport Dialogue Activity in Jerusalem, Israel

## BILATERAL ACTIONS

Bilateral actions are the means to yield tailor-made assistance offered project's beneficiaries and provide them with an effective support which contributes to the implementation of the internal maritime regulatory framework.

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.

All bilateral actions are key to provide structural support to the beneficiaries and lay the foundation of a stronger cooperation with the EU.

## PREPARATORY AUDIT IN VIEW OF THE IMO MEMBER STATE AUDIT SCHEME (IMSAS)

The IMSAS has the aim of determining the extent to which the IMO Members discharge their obligations and responsibilities as provided by the III Code.

The SAFEMED IV team, in collaboration with experienced IMSAS audits, carried out preparatory audits with Beneficiary Countries with the objective to support the maritime administrations in preparation for the IMO audit.

22-26/1/2018 – **Lebanon**: preparatory audit in view of the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS)

25-29/6/2018 – **Algeria**: preparatory audit in view of the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS)



25-29/6/2018 - Participants in the Preparatory Audit in view of the IMO Member State Audit Scheme in Algiers, Algeria

## OTHER ACTIONS

### OIL SPILL POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISE IN CYPRUS

SAFEMED IV project organised an Oil Spill Pollution Response Exercise in the waters of Cyprus with the EMSA contracted oil spill pollution response stand-by vessel M/V Alexandria. The event was held in Limassol, Cyprus, from 25 to 27 September 2018. Overall, 17 participants from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia participated in the exercise.



During the exercise, EMSA has witnessed a high level of communication amongst the participants. The activity was well received both in the classroom and in the field. All countries actively discussed with EMSA, the crew on board and the contractor on the various procedures and techniques. This shows how “hands-on” activities have the benefit of showcasing the added value of the project by enhancing, at the same time, cooperation between the beneficiary countries.





## ON-BOARD TALKS



“Seeing the Working Plan of the project, I am sure that once all the activities of the SAFEMED IV project will be delivered by qualified maritime experts, the result will be surely beneficial and significant to all the staff of our maritime administration. The project is improving their maritime knowledge and enhance the capacity

to implement the international maritime convention requirements in my country.

In my opinion, the most effective action was under the component of Bilateral Activities, regarding the Preparatory Audit carried out in Algeria in June 2018, which was very beneficial to our maritime administration to prepare for the IMSAS audit scheduled on September 2019 gave to the different entities involved on maritime administration, the opportunity to coordinate their actions.

I also believe that this action is paramount to enhance cooperation and to cater “first-hand” the strengths and weaknesses of each country (all entities involved on maritime administration) in order to identify its needs.

In addition to the above, I want to mention the great opportunity offered to the staff of our maritime administration to access the EMSA tools such as RuleCheck and MaKCs which are used on a day-to-day basis for inspections and training.”

**Abdelhak Boukharouba – Head of Maritime Port and Safety Office from the Republic of Algeria**



“The participation of Morocco in such regional initiative with Mediterranean and European Member States presents an important opportunity to advance the shipping industry, improving the safety at sea and tackle the problem of substandard ships. A coordinated approach is key if we take into consideration we share the same sea.

The SAFEMED IV project covers various aspects which fall within the scope of our maritime strategy such as the implementation and enforcement of the international legislations into the national legislation, the alignment with the EU standard, the harmonisation of PSC activities and ensuring a high level of security of ships and ports facilities and protection of the maritime environment. Overall, the project greatly contributes to enhancing the maritime safety and refining the knowledge and competencies of the staff attending all the various actions.

All activities are managed under exemplary conditions. Every aspect it is taken care of from the journey to the preparation of the lecturers.

The participation to these technical activities as allowed me and my colleagues to compare our national legislation with those of others States from the region as well as to discuss and exchange experiences and best practices. If I must say, RuleCheck and MaKCs e-learning platform remain the best tools that I have discovered and explored thanks to the SAFEMED IV Project.”

**Ahmed Sassa - Head of Local Office Maritime from Kingdom of Morocco**





## ABOUT THE EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY

The European Maritime Safety Agency is one of the European Union's decentralised agencies. Based in Lisbon, the Agency's mission is to ensure a high level of maritime safety, maritime security, prevention of and response to pollution from ships, as well as response to marine pollution from oil and gas installations. The overall purpose is to promote a safe, clean and economically viable maritime sector in the EU.

## SAFEMED IV PROJECT

EMSA is implementing a project for technical assistance bringing together national, European and international stakeholders with the aim of raising safety, security and protection of marine environment standards.

Participant countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia

### Project contacts

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[emsa.europa.eu/implementation-tasks/training-a-cooperation/safemed-iv.html](https://emsa.europa.eu/implementation-tasks/training-a-cooperation/safemed-iv.html)

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