

SafeSeaNet Workshop no. 19
Agenda item III
22 & 23 May 2013

SSN 19/3/4 (v.1.00)
Lisbon, 16 April 2013

SAFESEANET OPERATIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

SSN System Interface Guide

Submitted by EMSA

<i>Summary</i>	Presents the proposed structure for the new SSN System Interface Guide and the drafting methodology followed by EMSA.
<i>Action to be taken</i>	As per paragraph 4
<i>Related documents</i>	SSN 15/6/1 Roadmap for SSN technical and operational documentation review

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with Annex III of Directive 2002/59/EC, as amended, technical documentation related to SSN, such as standards for data exchange, user manuals, and network security specifications, shall be developed and maintained by the Agency in cooperation with the Member States.

At SSN workshop 15 (May 2011), EMSA presented the roadmap for the review of SSN technical and operational documentation in order to align SSN documentation with the drafting of the IFCD. Within this roadmap, a plan was developed and established for the revision of the SSN documents.

The current structure of the current SSN XML Reference Guide presents several limitations. The main limitation is that it does not cover the specifications for all of the SSN interfaces (only for the XML interface).

The SSN group agreed that a new document entitled the **"SSN system interface guide"** would, in a single document, combine all of the technical specifications and standards related to the interface between the national and central SafeSeaNet systems. It would replace the current XML Interface Reference Guide, the Web Services - Message Service and the AIS National Proxy for SSN technical specifications.

The revision work would be done by EMSA, and subsequently submitted for the approval of the SSN group.

2. DRAFTING METHODOLOGY

EMSA began working on the revision of the document following the recommendation of the SSN group. Within this work, EMSA identified the following elements that should be improved in the new document structure:

- Avoidance of repetition in elements definition and business rules in different parts of the document.
- Avoidance of overlapping of operational and technical requirements. The operational requirements should be limited as far as possible in the proposed new document.
- Improving the description of the business process/logic that impacts the data processing in the SSN system.
- Inclusion of the distinction between the XML simple types and attributes.

With respect to the organisation of the work, EMSA divided the SSN System Interface Guide into three main parts:

Part A: SSN architecture and functional services overview: This will be based on information similar to that in the current XML reference guide (Chapters 1 and 2), and will include a very high level description of the context of the messages. The following main headings will be included:

- SSN global architecture
- Functional services overview
- Definition of the basic processes and actors involved in the processes
- Quality of Service (QoS) and network security principles
- Generic conventions and definitions (e.g. data provider, data requestor, conventions for messages' naming, etc.)

Part B: SSN2MS XML messaging guide: This will be based on the content of the message description as in the current XML message guide (Chapter 3), and will ensure that the information concerning business logic is separated from the technical definitions. It will be structured as follows:

- Data types and attributes definitions for XML-based data exchange

- Shipcall/voyage data exchange
- Incident reports data exchange
- Position data exchange
- Ship particulars exchange

And for each message type:

- Data exchange overview
- Business rules summary, business process diagrams and clarifications of the data processing at SSN central level
- Messages description document (messages format/ structure / business rules applicable at message level)
- Implementation guidelines / Message examples

- XSD files
- Wsdl files

Part C: Streaming interface guide: This will include the description of the messages provided via the streaming interface, together with additional information.

3. PROPOSAL AND PLANNING

Bearing in mind the significant and heavy workload, the following work plan is proposed:

Date	Task	Responsible
May 2013	Agree the overview structure at SSN 19	SSN group
Sep 2013	Distribute first draft of the document (structure and main components)	EMSA
Oct 2013	Feedback from MSs experts on the first draft of the document	SSN group
Nov 2013	Present the revised draft at SSN 20	EMSA
Jan 2014	Additional revision by MSs experts via correspondence	SSN group
Mar 2014	Finalise the draft to be approved at the next SSN WS meeting	EMSA
May 2014	Approve the SSN System Interface Guide at SSN 21	SSN group

The work on drafting the SSN System Interface Guide should be completed in order to be approved by the SSN group at the SSN 21 workshop (May 2014).

4. ACTION REQUIRED

Member States are invited to:

- take note of the work presented, and;
- approve the proposed structure for the new SSN System Interface Guide and the work plan.