

## DRAFT DECISION 1/2020 OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE UNDER THE TWA

Adopted on 28 May 2020 (Video Conference)

### Annual Strategic Plan 2021

#### Introduction

In 2016, the co-legislator enshrined in the founding regulation of EFCA, EMSA and Frontex a common article mandating the three agencies to cooperate with the aim ***to support national authorities carrying out coast guard functions at national and Union level, and where appropriate at international level.*** The tripartite working arrangement (TWA) established between the three agencies in 2017 defined the modalities of the cooperation, in accordance with the respective mandates and the financial rules applicable to each agency.

Three years have now passed since the TWA entered into force and the Agencies have since been working together and have deepened their cooperation in the five areas defined by the common article (information sharing, surveillance and communication services, capacity building, risk analysis and capacity sharing). The interagency cooperation has become part of the daily work of the three agencies and EFCA, EMSA and Frontex present now the same section in their working programme and respective annual report on coast guard cooperation.

Conscious that cross sector initiatives performed by two or three agencies can benefit a wider number of authorities around EU and beyond, EFCA, EMSA and Frontex are hereby presenting their Annual Strategic Plan for 2021. The current plan centres on concrete projects to be developed during an indicated timeline and were prepared with the idea to have the relevant Member States authorities closely involved.

The projects and tasks of the plan are the result of the discussions between the three agencies on how to best serve the needs for cross sectoral activities, and consider also the feedback of the national authorities received through different fora and channels, such as joint training, national and regional initiatives covering more than one coast guard functions and the ECGFF/EU agencies co-organised events.

The Plan is being submitted for consultation and approval by the respective governing boards of the three agencies. At the time of the preparation and drafting of the Plan, Europe and the World were being affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, with a global health crisis and related travel restrictions. The implementation of the Plan may therefore be conditioned by the persistence of this global health crisis during 2021.

### Priorities for 2021 (outline)

#### Horizontal

Objective:	To further promote European cooperation with national authorities on coast guard functions at EU level.
Tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To hold the annual joint European Coast Guard event under the coordination of EFCA (as chair of the TWA), in line with the experience gained at the previous annual events, while enhancing interaction between participants.</li> <li>2) To ensure the joint participation of the agencies in European and international maritime events with coast guard relevance.</li> <li>3) To produce a set of communication tools (brochures, videos etc.) promoting EU inter-agency Cooperation.</li> <li>4) To coordinate the cooperation with regional Coast Guard Functions Fora.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	All year 2021

### Information sharing

The following specific projects shall be implemented:

<b>Project: A</b>	<b>Maintain and update Maritime Data Catalogue</b>
Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To ensure the relevance of the Catalogue and associated datasheets by maintaining its quality and incorporating updates and additions as appropriate.</li> <li>2) Increase the awareness of the datatypes available via the three Agencies by:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Publishing the Catalogue on each of the Agencies' websites as well as links from ECGFF website.</li> <li>2. Exploring the inclusion of the Catalogue in Handbook on EU Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Timeline:	2021
Contribution from Member State authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide feedback on the scope and quality of the Overview.</li> <li>2. Agreement to link from ECGFF website to Agency websites.</li> <li>3. Promote awareness of the Maritime Data Catalogue across the national Coast Guard Function Communities as a living document.</li> </ol>
<b>Project: B</b>	<b>Foster the sharing of different datatypes across Coast Guard Function / User Communities</b>
Objective:	<p>Increase the cross-Coast Guard Function availability of data for both operational and assessment scenarios. Using the Catalogue and associated mapping of data sharing "gaps", the following will be undertaken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Foster awareness of the different datasets available via the different Agencies by holding a dedicated session at the (Inter-Agency) Annual Coast Guard Event with MS.</li> <li>2. Foster "hands on" understanding of the operational usage of different information sources through interagency participation with Member States within the framework of the annual ECGFF exercise (either table top or at sea).</li> </ol>
Timeline:	2021
Contribution from Member States authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participation of MS in Annual Coast Guard Event &amp; ECGFF workshop/exercise.</li> </ol>

### **Surveillance and communication services**

The following specific projects shall be implemented:

<b>Project: C</b>	<b>Enhance synergies with respect to the current and future provision of earth observation services in support to Coast Guard Functions in MS.</b>
Objective:	Assess the existing portfolio and its exploitation to identify new requirements, synergies and redundancies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Questionnaire to MS on their current experience and potential improvements expectations.</li> <li>2. Dedicated brainstorming session with MS experts to map their expectations regarding longer term surveillance scenarios. For efficiency considerations, the session could be held in the margins of the Annual Coast Guard Event or ECGFF meetings.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	2021
Contribution from Member State authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participation in Questionnaire.</li> <li>2. Participation in in Annual Coast Guard Event and/or ECGFF meeting.</li> </ol>

<b>Project: D</b>	<b>Strengthen sharing of data from surveillance assets between EFCA, FRONTEX and EMSA.</b>
Objective:	Assess the existing surveillance data portfolio and its exploitation to identify new requirements, synergies and redundancies related to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sharing manned aircraft/RPAS and other video streams/data centre capabilities among Agencies and with MS aerial operations.</li> <li>2. Integrating AIS collected during all Agency airborne and vessel-based surveillance missions into EMSA systems for consumption by end users of the 3 Agencies' services.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	2021-22
Contribution from Member State authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Benefit from improvements in AIS data coverage subject to access rights.</li> </ol>

### **Capacity building**

The following specific projects shall be implemented:

<b>Project: E</b>	<b>Handbook on European Cooperation on Coast guard Functions</b>
Objective:	To further develop and update the Handbook on European Cooperation on Coast guard Functions. Tasks: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue developing as needed the content of the Handbook, in coordination with the European Commission.</li> <li>2. Facilitate Member States in the regular update of the individual country factsheets.</li> <li>3. Making accessible to Member States an electronic version of the Handbook.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	Full year 2021 (multiannual, follow up work from 2020)
Contribution from Member States authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feedback on further developments and adjustments needed for the current version of the Handbook.</li> <li>2. Update of country factsheets.</li> </ol>

<b>Project: F</b>	<b>Cross-sector training and capacity building</b>
Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To offer joint cross-sectoral training to Member State national authorities: Task: To develop or implement as adequate joint cross-sector training for items such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maritime safety related: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Search and Rescue (MRCC),</li> <li>• Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) and Integrated Maritime Services (IMS),</li> <li>• Fishing vessels safety/fisheries control rules,</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Maritime Surveillance related.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2) To foster a coast guard exchange programme and to promote the Coast Guard Sectoral Qualifications Framework (SQF). Tasks: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To prepare, after feasibility analysis, a staff exchange programme for Member States authorities on cross-sectoral training activities including training and on the job exchanges.</li> <li>2. To raise awareness and promote the exchange of experience on the implementation of the voluntary Coast Guard SQF at national and at EU level.</li> <li>3) To update the mapping of Training activities in Third Countries offered by each Agency.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Timeline:	Full year 2021 (multiannual, follow up work from 2020)
Contribution from Member States authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Member States authorities to participate in the identification of needs, offer training and on the job exchanges opportunities.</li> <li>2. Member States authorities to cooperate on the promotion and, as adequate, implementation of the voluntary Coast Guard SQF.</li> </ol>

### **Risk Analysis**

The following specific project shall be implemented:

<b>Project: G</b>	<b>Cross-sector risk analysis</b>
Objectives:	1) To support Member States authorities carrying out coast guard functions on cross-sector risk analysis needs:  Task: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To assess and address the Member States needs raised through a consultation or a dedicated survey.</li> <li>2. Following point the previous point, to combine cross-sectoral risk analysis product(s) and develop related methodologies, and deliver a common report for specific areas and/or sea basins starting in the Mediterranean Sea (e.g. Straits of Sicily) or in other sea basins.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	Objective 1 by April 2021.
Contribution from Member States authorities:	1. Feedback on new cross-sector risk analysis needs.

### **Capacity sharing**

The following specific project shall be implemented:

<b>Project: H</b>	<b>Multipurpose Maritime Operations</b>
Objectives:	1) To develop guidelines for multipurpose maritime operations (MMO) implemented by the EU agencies based on the common understanding of MMO concept and the related existing regimes including relevant legal frameworks (taking benefit of current operational outcomes).  2) To identify areas (period of interest) for testing the implementation of such MMO taking benefit of the cross-sector risk analysis performed under the TSC2 project, taking into consideration the availability of multipurpose capacities of the three Agencies, in those areas in such period and asking for MSs needs through a dedicated consultation.  3) To implement MMO in the European sea basin, upon MS' request.
Timeline:	- Guidelines to be discussed during AECGE 2021 and further presented to the SC. - Possible areas/period of interest to be identified by October 2021.
Contribution from Member States authorities:	Through AECGE, dedicated survey and feedback from MS involved in previous MMO.