

## **Tripartite Working Arrangement**

### **Annual Strategic Plan 2022**

#### **Introduction**

Four years after the signature of the first Tripartite Working Arrangement (TWA), the three Agencies took a significant step towards strengthening the European cooperation on coast guard functions by signing on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 a new working arrangement for an indefinite period, aimed at defining modalities of the cooperation of Frontex, EMSA and EFCA, to support national competent authorities for different coast guard functions. The interagency cooperation has become part of the daily work of the three agencies and EFCA, EMSA and Frontex present now the same section on coast guard cooperation in their respective Single Programming Document and annual report.

EFCA, EMSA and Frontex are maintaining and deepening the cooperation in the five areas defined by the common article of the respective founding regulations (information sharing, surveillance and communication services, capacity building, risk analysis and capacity sharing) to further support the national authorities carrying out coast guard functions in various domains.

Conscious that projects and cross sector initiatives performed by the agencies can benefit a wider number of national authorities around EU and beyond, as well as taking into account some lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, EFCA, EMSA and Frontex are presenting their Annual Strategic Plan (ASP) for 2022 in the next pages. The current plan focuses on concrete projects to be developed during an indicated timeline, by adopting a multiannual-oriented approach towards the planned activities and with the intention of having the relevant Member States authorities closely involved in its implementation.

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 Coast Guard Fora and channels, such as joint trainings, national and regional initiatives covering more than one coast guard functions and the ECGFF/EU agencies co-organised events.

Finally, taking into account the lessons learned resulting from the COVID crisis, it is worth mentioning that the implementation of specific projects foreseen under this ASP may be conditioned by the development of the pandemic throughout 2022.

### Priorities for 2022 (outline)

#### Horizontal

Objective:	To further promote the interagency cooperation with national authorities on coast guard functions at EU and international level.
Tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) To hold the annual joint Annual European Coast Guard Event (AECGE) under the coordination of Frontex (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:	2022

**Information sharing**

The following specific projects shall be implemented:

<b>Project: A</b>	<b>Maintenance/dissemination of the Maritime Data Catalogue and fostering the sharing of different datatypes across Coast Guard Function / User Communities</b>
Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ensure the relevance of the Maritime Data Catalogue and associated datasheets by maintaining its quality and incorporating updates/additions as appropriate, following feedback from the Member States and EU Agencies gathered in 2021.</li> <li>2) Create an interactive online version of the Maritime Data Catalogue, including assessing the preparation of links to the points of contact for requesting access to data.</li> <li>3) Assess the feasibility of publishing a public version of the Maritime Data Catalogue.</li> <li>4) Share the Maritime Data Catalogue with the CISE Transition project.</li> <li>5) Hold a dedicated session at the (Inter-Agency) Annual European Coast Guard Event/relevant event with Member States which fosters awareness and utilisation of the different datasets available via the different Agencies.</li> <li>6) Consider potential interagency participation with Member States within, for example, the framework of the annual ECGFF exercise (either tabletop or at sea) to foster “hands on” understanding of the operational usage of different information sources.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	2022
Contribution from Member State authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Provide input on potential improvements to the Maritime Data Catalogue.</li> <li>2) Provide points of contact for authorising data access.</li> <li>3) Consultation on data elements that could be made available publicly.</li> <li>4) Participation of Member States in the Annual European Coast Guard Event &amp; relevant workshop/exercise.</li> </ol>

**Surveillance and communication services**

The following specific projects shall be implemented:

<b>Project: B</b>	<b>Development of a roadmap to implement satellite-based services identified by the Member States in support of Coast Guard Functions</b>
Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Organise a workshop to discuss with Member States the prioritisation of potential improvements and high-level user requirements of earth observation/satellite-based services identified in the 2021 questionnaire.</li> <li>2) Prepare a report on the priorities of Member States and propose a roadmap for potential implementation of the requirements identified.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	2022
Contribution from Member State authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Provide feedback on what requirements should be prioritised.</li> </ol>

<b>Project: C</b>	<b>Strengthen sharing of data from surveillance assets between EFCA, FRONTEX and EMSA.</b>
Objectives:	<p>Assess the existing surveillance data portfolio and its exploitation to identify new requirements, synergies and redundancies related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Share manned aircraft/RPAS and other video streams/data centre capabilities among Agencies and with MS aerial operations.</li> <li>2) Integrate 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:	2021-2022
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>

<b>Project: D</b>	<b>Mapping of information exchange standards between different Coast Guard Communities</b>
<b>Objectives:</b>	<p>Based on the datasets described in the Maritime Data Catalogue and exchanged in EU level systems including CISE, EUROSUR (including Specific Situational Pictures), FIS, IMS and SSN and in an effort to avoid duplication to establish and maintain maritime awareness pictures, TSC1 will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Identify and map standards for maritime information exchange.</li> <li>2) Identify commonalities and variations between standards.</li> </ol>
<b>Timeline:</b>	2022
<b>Contribution from Member State authorities:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Updates to the Maritime Data Catalogue as per contributions from Member States under Project A and impacting on Project D.</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:	Further develop and update the Handbook on European Cooperation on Coast guard Functions (the “Handbook”) as a valuable document and online portal for the Member States authorities.  Tasks: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop and maintain as needed the content of the Handbook, in coordination with the European Commission.</li> <li>2. Cooperate with Member States on the updating of the individual country factsheets.</li> <li>3. Make accessible to Member States an electronic version of the Handbook through an online platform.</li> <li>4.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	2022 – 2025
Contribution from Member States authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feedback related to the implementation of the online portal for the Handbook.</li> <li>2. Feedback on possible further developments of the Handbook.</li> <li>3. Update of country factsheets.</li> </ol>

<b>Project: F</b>	<b>Cross-sector training and capacity building</b>
Objectives and tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Offer joint cross-sectoral training to Member State national authorities:  Task: To develop or implement as relevant joint cross-sector training for items such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Search and Rescue</li> <li>2. Fishing vessels safety/fisheries control rules</li> <li>3. Maritime Surveillance related topics</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 define, after feasibility analysis, a staff exchange programme for Member States authorities on cross-sectoral</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>training activities including training and on the job exchanges.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
Timeline:	2022 (multiannual, follow up work from 2021)
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 and Tasks:	<p>1) Follow up of the survey to identify potential support to Member States authorities carrying out coast guard functions on cross-sector risk analysis/assessments needs:</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assessment of Member States' needs raised through 2021 dedicated survey.</li> <li>2. Following result point 1, to develop potential related cross sectorial risk analysis/assessment methodologies to be used in different European sea basins and deliver a common report for specific areas and/or sea basins in coordination with TSC3 MMO project.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	2022
Contribution from Member States authorities:	1. Feedback on new cross-sector risk analysis needs.



**Capacity sharing**

The following specific projects shall be implemented:

<b>Project: H</b>	<b>Multipurpose Maritime Operations</b>
Objectives:	To implement the MMO(s) agreed by TWA Steering Committee in the European sea basin, upon MS's or Agencies request and following the generic modalities.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Keep updated the generic modalities and prepare specific modalities for multipurpose maritime operations (MMO) implemented by the EU agencies established by the Steering committee.</li> <li>2) Identify potential areas and periods of interest for the implementation of MMO, taking into consideration the availability of multipurpose capacities of the three Agencies, in those areas in such periods, and considering MSs' needs through a dedicated consultation.</li> <li>3) Implement a MMO in the Black Sea in accordance with the general modalities for multipurpose maritime operations (MMO) based on the decision of the Steering committee.</li> <li>4) Assess European Coast Guard Functions Officer's support provided in the frame of MMOs and possible way forward.</li> </ol>
Timeline	2022 Possible areas/period of interest to be identified by June 2022 for the endorsement of the Steering committee for 2023.
Contribution from Member States authorities:	Generic modalities: Through AECGE, dedicated survey and feedback from MSs involved in previous MMO.

<b>Project: I</b>	<b>Mapping of the Agencies' assets deployment in support of Member States</b>
Objectives:	Develop and update a mapping of the agencies' assets deployment in the MSs or for the benefit of operational activities coordinated by agencies
Tasks	1) Each Agency to provide regularly updated information of their assets deployed in EU sea basins.
Timeline:	2022 (Multiannual)
Contribution from Member States authorities	N/A