

Tripartite Working Arrangement

Annual Strategic Plan 2024

Introduction

The Tripartite Working Arrangement (TWA)¹ between the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) defines the modalities of the cooperation between the three Agencies. The aim is to support national competent authorities in the implementation of coast guard functions cross-sector and cross-border activities. 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.

As a result, EFCA, EMSA and Frontex are maintaining and deepening the cooperation in the five areas defined by the common article² in 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.

Being aware that projects and cross sector initiatives performed by the three Agencies can benefit a wider number of national authorities around EU and beyond EFCA, EMSA and Frontex are presenting their Annual Strategic Plan (ASP) for 2024 as set out in the next pages. The current plan focuses on concrete projects to be developed within an indicated timeline, by adopting a multiannual 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 dialogue between the three Agencies on how to best serve the needs for cross sectoral activities, taking into account the feedback of the national authorities received through the Annual European Coast Guard Event, the different Coast Guard Fora and channels, such as joint trainings, national and regional initiatives covering more than one coast guard functions and the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF)/European agencies co-organised workshops.

¹ Tripartite Working Arrangement between the EFCA, EMSA and Frontex signed on 18 March 2021.

² Regulation (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 on the European Fisheries Control Agency (OJ 83, 25.3.2019, p18), Regulation (EU) 2016/1625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 June 2016 amending Regulation (EC) 2002/1406 of 27 June of 2002 establishing a European Maritime Safety Agency (OJ 251, 16.9.2016, p.77), Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1052/2013 and (EU) 2016/162 (OJ L 295, 14.11.2019, p1).

Priorities for 2024 (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">1) To hold the joint Annual European Coast Guard Event (AECGE) in 2024 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.2) To ensure the joint participation of the three Agencies in European and international maritime events with coast guard relevance.3) To coordinate the cooperation with regional Coast Guard Functions Fora.4) To coordinate the implementation of the adopted interagency communication plan for 2024.5) To implement the “Greening Award initiative” and present the awards at the AECGE, with EMSA acting as the secretariat of the Award 2023-2024.6) To contribute as required to the updated European Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) and its Action Plan.
Timeline:	2024

Information sharing

The following specific projects shall be implemented:

Project A:	Sharing of data across Coast Guard Functions
Objective and tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Workshop with MS concerning: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Accessing maritime data in support of coast guard functions and further sharing of maritime information between national authorities. b. Eliciting further operational use cases relevant to Member States regarding opportunities for enhancing the sharing of data. 2) To promote and increase the use of automated/AI based tools (e.g. ABMs, anomaly detection services, etc) in support of coast guard functions. 3) Evolve as appropriate the Maritime Data Catalogue to show which datasets could be accessible to the national authorities per coast guard function. Support the availability of the current Catalogue, in both electronic and online interactive formats, in a secure area of the TWA Portal. 4) Maintain a repository of use cases raised by Member States, for identifying opportunities for enhancing the sharing of data. 5) Explore possible additional datasets needed by national authorities per coast guard function.
Timeline:	2024
Contribution from Member States authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Participation in workshop 2) Input to updates and new additions to the Catalogue. Provide feedback on material and presentation format of the Catalogue and associated FAQs in both electronic and online interactive formats. 3) Provide use cases, to be used to facilitate enhanced sharing of data. 4) Identify possible additional datasets

Project B:	Roadmap addressing how CISE will support information exchange and cooperation between the three Agencies
Objective and tasks:	Building on the Roadmap developed in 2023 which addressed how CISE will gradually support information exchange and cooperation between the three Agencies, while considering other information/data exchange systems already in place, TSC1 will: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Produce a 5-month Report covering the period January-May 2024 by the end of June 2024.2) Produce an 11 Month Report covering the period January-November 2024 by the end of December 2024.
Timeline:	2024
Contribution from Member States authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Provide feedback on progress made regarding the implementation of the Roadmap when presented at relevant fora.

Surveillance and communication services

The following specific projects shall be implemented:

Project C:	Mapping of information on incident/accident sightings reported to the three Agencies in the scope of their respective mandates.
Objective and tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Map the various types of accidents/incidents, reported to the three Agencies, e.g. SafeSeaNet incidents, activations of emergency support mechanisms by the 3 Agencies, EUROSUR incidents.2) Analyse the usefulness of the additional information on accidents/incidents to individual Agencies and the possibilities of sharing in line with the legal basis of each.3) Brainstorming session with the Member States to present findings and gather feedback.
Timeline:	2024
Contribution from Member States authorities:	Contribution to brainstorming session and provision of feedback on TSC1's findings.

Capacity building

The following specific projects shall be implemented:

Project: D	Practical Handbook on European cooperation on coast guard functions and Coast Guard qualifications Network
Objective and tasks:	<p>Strengthen the cooperation between the European coast guard function authorities in further developing the practical handbook¹ and in selected capacity building activities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To support the implementation of the project “Implementation of the results of the Coast Guard qualifications Network and the Practical Handbook on European cooperation on coast guard functions”² through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Using the existing databases in the Agencies for keeping the handbook updated in the online platform avoiding any double reporting from Member States. b. To maintain and update the coast guard training network and follow up with the on-the-job exchange opportunities. c. Promoting the Sectoral Qualifications Framework for Coast Guard Functions (SQF), among others, through a dedicated awareness session on SQF for Coast Guard functions. 2) To manage and maintain an online platform and define the generic contents to be included to reflect the existing areas of cooperation and to host the most important ASPs projects’ deliverables, involving the 3 Technical Subcommittees (TSC). 3) To coordinate the collection of content proposals for the online platform related to the TWA.
Timeline:	2024 – 2026
Contribution from Member States authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Feedback related to the implementation of the online platform for the Handbook. 2) Feedback on possible further developments of the Handbook. 3) Update of country factsheets. 4) Member States authorities to participate in the identification of training needs, offer training and on-the-job exchange opportunities. 5) Member States authorities to cooperate on the promotion and, as relevant, implementation of the Sectoral Qualifications Framework for Coast Guard Functions (SQF).

¹ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2021/1222 of 20 July 2021 establishing a ‘Practical Handbook’ on European cooperation on coast guard functions, OJ L 268, 27.7.2021, p. 3–18

² Contribution Agreement attributed to EFCA through Commission Implementing Decision of 4.6.2021 on the financing of the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2021, C(2021) 3870 final.

Project: E	Cross-sector training and capacity building
Objective and tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Offer joint cross-sectoral training to Member State national authorities by developing or implementing, as appropriate, joint cross-sector training events or awareness sessions for items such as (based on needs assessment): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Search and Rescue; b. Maritime Surveillance; 2) Launch a new survey to the stakeholder communities of the three Agencies to get feedback on needs and possible joint training or awareness sessions to be jointly developed by the three Agencies. The survey should take into account: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the new training delivery capabilities after the pandemic, and b. the possibility for each Agency to deliver tailored training or information sessions to the communities of the other Agencies, without simultaneously targeting all communities. 3) Explore the possibility to offer joint cross-sectoral training to at least one third country by developing or implementing, as appropriate joint cross-sector training events or awareness sessions.
Timeline:	Full year 2024
Contribution from Member States authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Member States will benefit from the cross-sector trainings to be organised. 2) Where relevant, Member States to participate with their input.

Risk Analysis

The following specific project shall be implemented:

Project: F	Cross-sector risk analysis
Objective and tasks:	<p>Provide support to Member States authorities carrying out coast guard functions on cross-sector risk analysis/assessments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continue to provide cross sectorial risk analysis/assessment products to be used in different European sea basins and deliver a common report on specific areas and/or sea basins in coordination with the TSC3 MMO project. 2) Organise a workshop on risk analysis and assessment, taking into account the main outcomes and feedback from the workshop organised in 2023. One of the main objectives of the workshop is to raise awareness about the different frameworks and foster the exchange of information and best practices between the different communities of the three Agencies
Timeline:	Full year 2024
Contribution from Member States authorities:	The tasks outlined above are related with the outcome of the survey done in 2021 and the workshop conducted in 2023. Member States will contribute to the planned workshop.

Capacity sharing

The following specific project shall be implemented:

Project: G	Multipurpose Maritime Operations
Objective and tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To further implement MMO(s): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify potential areas and periods of interest for the implementation of MMOs in N+1, taking into consideration the availability of multipurpose capacities of the three Agencies, in those areas in such periods as well as operational activities already in place. b. Keep updated the generic modalities as per lessons learnt. c. Based on the evaluations of MMOs implemented in different European sea basins, to organise a workshop for the exchange best practices. 2) To implement the MMO(s) agreed by TWA Steering Committee in the European sea basin, upon MS's or Agencies' request and in line with the generic modalities for MMO. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Implement a MMO possibly in the Black Sea led by Frontex. Prepare specific modalities in accordance with the generic modalities for MMO and relevant decision of the Steering Committee. b. Implement a MMO possibly in the Adriatic Sea led by EFCA. Prepare specific modalities in accordance with the generic modalities for MMO and relevant decision of the Steering Committee. c. Implement a MMO in one European sea basin (TBD) led by EMSA. Prepare specific modalities in accordance with the generic modalities for MMO and relevant decision of the Steering Committee.
Timeline:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Possible areas/period of interest to be identified by September 2024 for the endorsement of ASP 2025 by the Steering committee. 2) During year 2024.
Contribution from Member States authorities:	Member States' feedback on MMO received through the evaluation report. Generic modalities: Through AECGE, gather feedback from MSs involved in previous MMOs.

Project: H	Mapping of the Agencies' assets deployment in support of Member States
Objective and tasks:	Conducting a mapping of the agencies' assets deployment in support of the MSs. Each Agency to provide regularly updated information of their chartered assets deployed in EU sea basins that are suitable for multipurpose operations.
Timeline:	2024 (multiannual).
Contribution from Member States authorities	N/A