

# **Tripartite Working Arrangement**

## **Annual Strategic Plan 2025**

### **Introduction**

The Tripartite Working Arrangement (TWA)<sup>1</sup> 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 article<sup>2</sup> 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 2025 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 2025 (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 joint Annual European Coast Guard Event (AECGE) in 2025 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, where possible, the joint participation of the three Agencies in European and international maritime events with coast guard relevance.</li><li>3) To coordinate the cooperation with regional Coast Guard Functions Fora.</li><li>4) To coordinate the implementation of the adopted interagency communication plan for 2025.</li><li>5) To continue the “Greening Award initiative” and present the awards during the EMSA chairmanship of the TWA in 2026.</li><li>6) To implement and contribute to the common actions as required in the updated European Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) and its Action Plan.</li></ol>
Timeline:	2025

**Information sharing**

The following specific projects shall be implemented:

<b>Project A:</b>	<b>Sharing of data across Coast Guard Functions</b>
Objective and tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Building on the Workshop with MS held in 2024, the following will be undertaken:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Integrate MS feedback as appropriate in an updated pdf version of the MDC.</li> <li>b. Update the business requirements of the interactive version of the MDC.</li> <li>c. Update the MDC FAQs as appropriate.</li> <li>d. Update the repository of use cases for identifying opportunities for enhancing the sharing of data as appropriate.</li> <li>e. 5) Explore possible additional datasets needed by national authorities per coast guard function.</li> </ol> </li> <li>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), considering legal basis.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	2025
Contribution from Member States authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Provide use cases, to be used to facilitate enhanced sharing of data.</li> <li>2) Identify possible additional datasets to be included</li> </ol>

<b>Project B:</b>	<b>Roadmap addressing how CISE will support information exchange and cooperation between the three Agencies</b>
Objective and tasks:	<p>Building on the Roadmap developed in 2023, TSC1 will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Draft an updated Roadmap for review at the 2025 mid-year TWA Steering Committee meeting.</li> <li>2) Produce Roadmap Implementation Reports by the end of June 2025 and December 2025.</li> <li>3) Draft a standard procedure for the use of CISE in the context of MMOs.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	2025
Contribution from Member States authorities:	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:

<b>Project C:</b>	<b>Map potential common procedures for the sharing of information regarding incident/accident sightings reported to the three Agencies in the scope of their respective mandates.</b>
Objective and tasks:	<p>Building on Project C 2024 and taking into account relevant legal frameworks,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Identify those datasets where inter-Agency sharing of the information would benefit from a common procedure.</li> <li>2) Identify how the abovementioned datasets could be best shared/visualised for the benefit of MS authorities.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	2025
Contribution from Member States authorities:	As project focus inter-Agency, not applicable to MS

### Capacity building

The following specific projects shall be implemented:

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<b>Project: E</b>	<b>Cross-sector training and capacity building</b>
Objective and tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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"> <li>a. Search and Rescue;</li> <li>b. Maritime Surveillance.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2) Based on the survey conducted in 2024 to the stakeholder communities of the three Agencies implement activities related to the outcome.</li> <li>3) Explore the possibility to offer joint cross-sectoral training to at least one third country, or support the organisation of an online workshop to relevant coast guard Fora with third countries, by developing or implementing, as appropriate joint cross-sector training events or awareness sessions.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	Full year 2025
Contribution from Member States authorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Member States will benefit from the cross-sector trainings to be organised.</li> <li>2) Where relevant, Member States to participate with their input.</li> </ol>

### **Risk Analysis**

The following specific project shall be implemented:

<b>Project: F</b>	<b>Cross-sector risk analysis</b>
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"> <li>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.</li> <li>2) Organise a workshop on risk analysis and assessment, taking into account the main outcomes and feedback from the workshop organised in 2023 and 2024. The main objectives of the workshop is to foster the exchange of information and best practices between the different communities of the three Agencies.</li> <li>3) Assess the workshop objectives, terms of reference, frequency (be organised on an annual basis or less frequently, for example, every two years) and usefulness for Member States authorities.</li> </ol>
Timeline:	Full year 2025
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:

<b>Project: G</b>	<b>Multipurpose Maritime Operations</b>
Objective and tasks:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To further implement MMO(s):               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>b. Keep updated the generic modalities as per lessons learnt and develop a Handbook including practical guidelines and procedures for the implementation of MMOs.</li> <li>c. Based on the evaluations of MMOs implemented in different European sea basins, to possibly organise a workshop for the exchange of best practices.</li> </ol> </li> <li>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"> <li>a. Implement MMO led by Frontex possibly in the Black Sea and in Baltic Sea and/ or in one other European sea basin. Prepare specific modalities in accordance with the generic modalities for MMO and relevant decision of the Steering Committee.</li> <li>b. Implement MMO led by EFCA possibly in the Adriatic Sea and/ or in one other European sea basin. Prepare specific modalities in accordance with the generic modalities for MMO and relevant decision of the Steering Committee.</li> <li>c. Implement MMO led by EMSA in one European sea basin. Prepare specific modalities in accordance with the generic modalities for MMO and relevant decision of the Steering Committee.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Timeline:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 2025 (Multiannual). Possible areas/period of interest to be identified by September 2024 for the endorsement of ASP 2025 by the Steering committee.</li> <li>2) During year 2025.</li> </ol>
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.



<b>Project: H</b>	<b>Mapping of the Agencies' assets deployment in support of Member States</b>
Objective and tasks:	<p>Conducting a mapping of the agencies' assets deployment in support of the MSs using Integrated Maritime Service (IMS).</p> <p>Each Agency to provide regularly updated information of their chartered assets deployed in EU sea basins that are suitable for multipurpose operations.</p>
Timeline:	2025 (multiannual).
Contribution from Member States authorities	N/A

<b>Project: I</b>	<b>Glossary of abbreviations and acronyms commonly used in the framework of TWA</b>
Objective and tasks:	To deliver a common understanding of frequently used terms, concepts, and language in the context of European cooperation on coast guard functions.
Timeline:	2025
Contribution from Member States authorities	N/A