

SAFEMED IV NEWSLETTER

Marine safety, security and
marine environmental protection
in the Mediterranean Sea regions

ISSUE 6 / September 2021



INTRODUCTION TO SAFEMED

Since March 2017, EMSA has been implementing the EuroMed Maritime Safety project, funded by the European Commission (DG NEAR) and commonly known as SAFEMED IV. This project aims at fostering regional cooperation among Mediterranean riparian states, while at the same time providing technical assistance to enhance maritime safety, pollution prevention, security and labour conditions on board ships.

SAFEMED IV AT A GLANCE

JAN-JUN 2021

TOOLS



8 | Mar-CIS – New users

TRAINING COURSES



11 | Sessions

PARTICIPANTS



140 | Participants



SERVICES

812 | CleanSeaNet images delivered

232 | Possible oil spills detected



5 | TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

- Maritime Strategy for Morocco
- 25th MAB meeting of the Med MoU
 - Gap analysis for Lebanon
- Professional development scheme for ship's inspector for Morocco
- Review and update of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Jordan



SAFEMED IV
Project funded by
the European Union





INTRODUCTION

SAFEMED IV is now into its final year of implementation, during which EMSA intensified its efforts to execute the project's action plan despite the challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Activities were adapted, taking travel restrictions into account, thus allowing the beneficiaries to access online training and other technical assistance services. This rapid adaptation resulted in a marked increase in the number of training sessions and participants and ensured the full use of the Agency's capacity for technical assistance activities.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Regional activities in the 1st half of 2021 encompassed five of the project's technical components and primarily consisted of training sessions aimed at enhancing the technical capacity of the SAFEMED IV beneficiaries by improving the knowledge and skills of their personnel, while continuing to foster the exchange of knowledge and best practices between the maritime administration officials in the Mediterranean Basin.

Component 1: Flag State Implementation

The activities under this component aim to support the beneficiaries' maritime administrations in implementing and enforcing international maritime legislation and in this context, establishing the required national procedures. The main objective is to enable the beneficiaries to effectively

perform their obligations as Flag States and to exercise their jurisdiction in accordance with THE relevant legal instruments. This is pivotal to achieving the overall goal of the project: to improve maritime safety, security and marine pollution prevention.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The training sessions provided during the first half of 2021 to Flag State officials increased their capacity to carry out technical audits as well as receiving them. This has become increasingly important as beneficiaries seek to gain the expertise required to independently carry out safety management (ISM) audits while also preparing themselves to be audited by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as part of the Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS).

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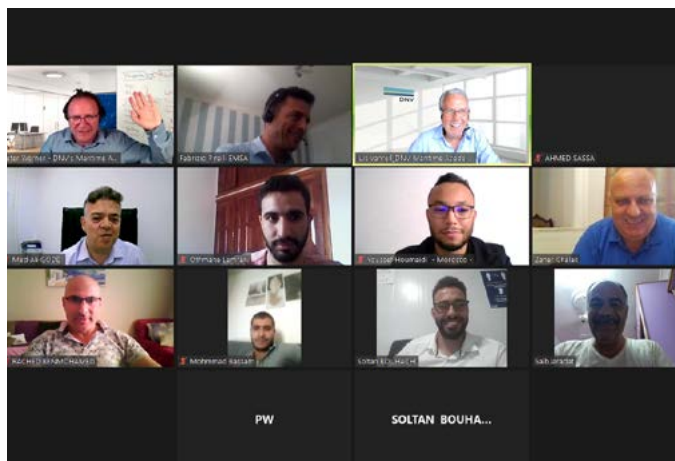
ACTIVITIES

17-21/05/2021 – Regional training on the ISM Code and auditing techniques

The course focused on: safety management systems and the International Safety Management (ISM) Code; the general requirements, types and scopes of Flag State audits; the conduct of Flag State audits in the office environment and on board ships, including the preparation and planning and follow up of the audit; the formalities and reporting procedures concerning flag state audits; the implementation of corrective or preventive actions; the certification process; and the role and qualifications of flag state auditors.

Furthermore, instruction on effective auditing techniques was provided and the most common audit scenarios were discussed and simulated using case studies and group exercises.

The training was delivered virtually and all together 10 participants from Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia attended.

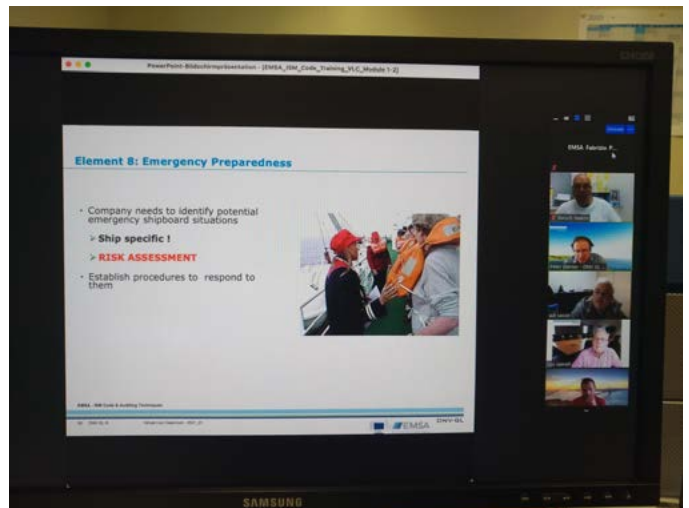


17-21/05/2021 – Regional training on the ISM Code and auditing techniques

BILATERAL ACTIVITIES

01-05/02/2021 – Training on the ISM Code and auditing techniques for Israel

A separate training session on the ISM Code and auditing techniques was provided for the staff of the maritime administration of Israel on the country's request as a bilateral action on Port State Control.



01-05/02/2021 – Training on the ISM Code and auditing techniques for Israel

21-25/06/2021 – Joint training with the BCSEA project on preparation for IMSAS for Morocco and Turkmenistan

As Morocco is preparing itself to undergo an IMSAS audit, the Agency organised a five-day online training session to acquaint the staff of the Moroccan maritime administration with the detailed audit process. The course encompassed the provisions of the III Code as the audit standard, together with a thorough examination of the framework and procedures of the audit scheme. Different phases of the audit were explained and simulated using group exercises and case studies.

The training was also attended by representatives of the maritime administration of Turkmenistan as part of the BCSEA project, since the country is currently in the process of implementing the CAP (Corrective Action Plan) following the IMSAS audit held in 2019.

Component 2: Port State Control

The activities under this component are directed towards the implementation of the relevant enforcement provisions foreseen by the international conventions for the control of foreign ships along with the technical requirements, criteria and standards adopted by the Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Mediterranean Region (Med MoU) through practical training for port state control officers (PSCOs). In addition, the component aims at further enhancing the coordination and harmonisation amongst the Med MoU members.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Following the successful introduction of THETIS-Med, a version of the database in use in the Paris MoU region, EMSA has implemented its commitment to raise the competence of Med MoU PSCOs through dedicated training sessions for the appropriate use of the tool, enabling them to make full use of the system's functionalities. Achieving familiarity with the new system is increasingly important as additional technical features and enhancements for the database are already under development.

ACTIVITIES

09-10/02/2021 – Regional training on THETIS-Med

The objective of both regional and bilateral trainings on THETIS-Med is the familiarisation of Med MoU PSCOs

with the new system by providing a complete overview of the platform and its functionalities, including access control, data exchange and local configuration. PSCOs are instructed on entering inspection details (reporting), supervisors on how the reports can be modified or validated, national coordinators on how the different roles can be attributed and the bans validated. Internal notifications and inspection results published on the public website are additional features of THETIS-Med.

03/03/2021 – SAFEMED IV participates in the 25th MAB meeting of the Med MoU

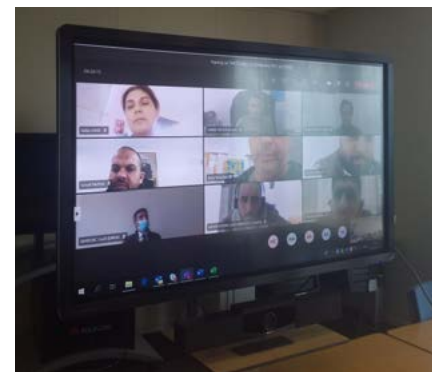
As part of its recurrent activities, EMSA briefed the Med MoU MAB on its activities regarding the transition to and further development of THETIS-Med as well as the state of play regarding other pertinent SAFEMED IV actions.

Particularly, EMSA reported that all Med MoU members have now received training on THETIS-Med and EMSA will provide system enhancements like the Mobile Client and an additional database for statistics (Bi-Tool) before the end of 2021. Most importantly, the transition phase with two operational databases will also end and as of 1 January 2022 THETIS-Med will be the only database in use in the Med MoU region.

The MAB noted, with appreciation, the information provided, and the progress made by EMSA.



09-10/02/2021 – Regional training on THETIS-Med for Israel and Tunisia



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BILATERAL ACTIVITIES

23-24/02/2021 – Training on THETIS-Med for Tunisia

22-23/03/2021 – Training on THETIS-Med for Algeria

07-08/04/2021 – Training on THETIS-Med for Egypt

The virtual training sessions directed at specific beneficiaries followed the regional course held at the beginning of February and 18, 15 and nine participants attended from Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt, respectively.



23-24/02/2021 – Training on THETIS-Med for Tunisia



22-23/03/2021 – Training on THETIS-Med for Algeria



07-08/04/2021 – Training on THETIS-Med for Egypt

Component 3: Vessel traffic monitoring and information systems

The establishment of a regional VTMISS in the Mediterranean Sea has the potential to greatly supplement and enhance the national capacities for vessel traffic monitoring, PSC and maritime pollution preparedness and response. Seamless data exchange allows for a clearer overview of the maritime traffic in the region, thus improving situational awareness. It will enable individual states to forecast dangers and manage the ensuing risks in a much wider setting than a single VTS area.

ACHIEVEMENTS

SAFEMED IV has laid the groundwork for the completion of the 3-phase approach which will be finalised with the involvement of the project's beneficiaries in SafeSeaNet. This final phase will be facilitated by the exchange of T-AIS data amongst the SAFEMED IV countries that have signed the Service Level Agreement with EMSA and

the Italian Coast Guard as manager of the SafeSeaNet (SSN) Mediterranean AIS Regional Server (MAREΣ), as well as the exchange of T-AIS data amongst SAFEMED IV beneficiaries, BCSEA beneficiaries and EU Member States participating in MAREΣ, both of which have already taken place.

BILATERAL ACTIVITIES

25/05/2021 – 9th SSN/LRIT Group Meeting

The meeting was held virtually with the participation of DG MOVE and was chaired by EMSA. Since Tunisia meets the conditions for third countries to participate in the EU LRIT Data Centre, upon request of that country a technical expert from the relevant branch of that administration was invited and attended the event. Agenda items included the LRIT data quality report, the roadmap towards future developments and the display of LRIT data in the SEG interface.

Component 4: Protection of the marine environment

The activities under this component focus on three main objectives:

- raising awareness of the beneficiaries on the need to accede to and implement those international conventions to which they are still not a party, with a particular emphasis on MARPOL Annex VI, and to enact legislation in line with the EU acquis, where appropriate;
- supporting supporting the beneficiaries in the transposition of the aforementioned international legal instruments;
- providing providing the beneficiaries with operational support in the area of marine environmental protection.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Throughout the project, EMSA has been able to use the SAFEMED IV framework to provide direct technical assistance along with relevant training to the beneficiaries in the form of CleanSeaNet (CSN) images for responding to potential oil spill incidents. Israel and Lebanon are the latest beneficiaries of this service, having agreed to the relevant conditions of use.

Also, more recently, access has been granted to the Marine Chemical Information Sheets (MAR-CIS) that provide concise information on hazardous and noxious substances, including their physical and chemical properties, handling and emergency spill response procedures and maritime transport requirements for safe carriage at sea. Developed by EMSA, these datasheets have the potential to assist the competent authorities during the initial stage of the response to pollution incidents involving such substances.

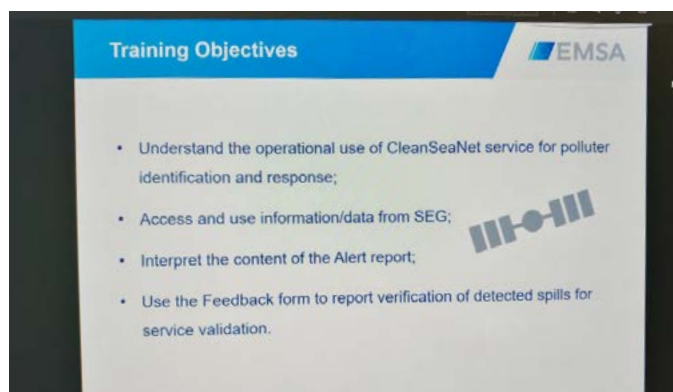
ACTIVITIES

26-27/01/2021 – Regional training on CleanSeaNet

The training was aimed at duty officers and other SafeSeaNet ecosystem graphical user interface (SEG) operators of national administrations that had previously signed the conditions of use for CleanSeaNet services provided by EMSA and were already registered in the SEG.

The overall objective of this type of training is to provide practical instruction on the functionalities of the SEG platform on which the satellite images for detecting and identifying potential polluters are available. The participants are taught how to use the CleanSeaNet for polluter identification and response; access and use specific information/data from the SEG; interpret the content of the alert reports; and use the feedback form to report verification of detected spills for service validation.

Altogether, 12 participants from Jordan, Libya and Morocco attended the virtual training session.



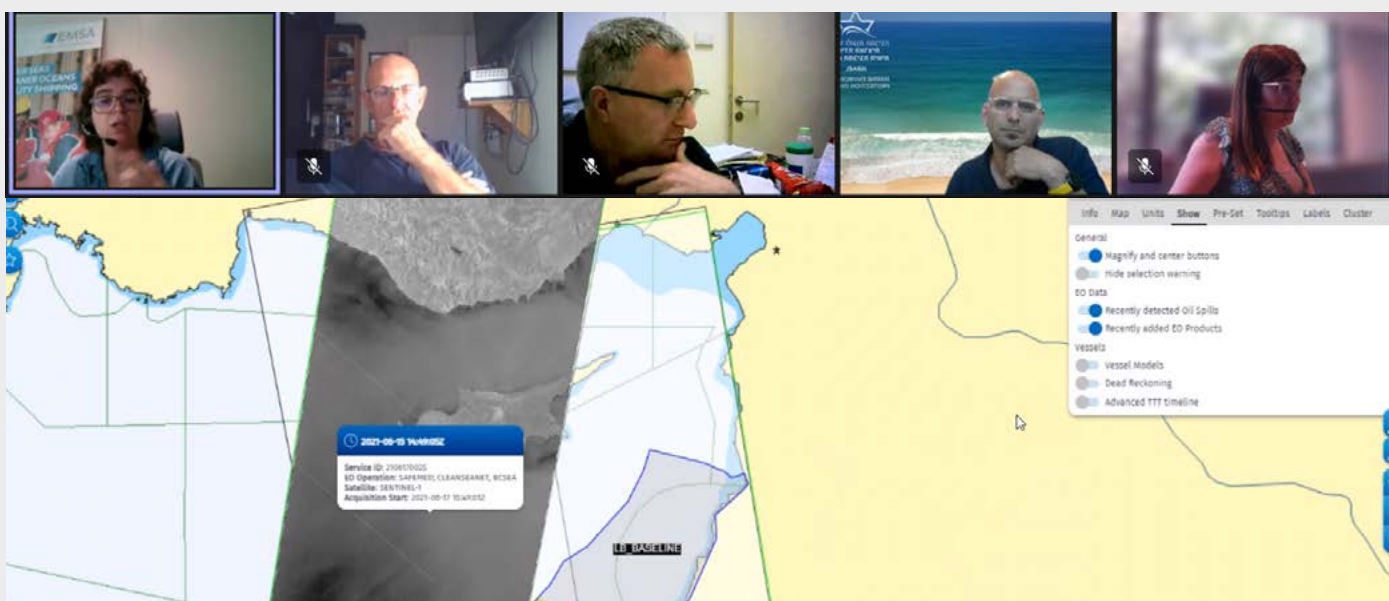
26-27/01/2021 – Regional training on CleanSeaNet

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BILATERAL ACTIVITIES

15/06/2021 – Training on CleanSeaNet for Israel

Due to significant interest from the beneficiary, a separate training session on CleanSeaNet and the practical use of the SEG user interface was organised for Israel. Five participants attended the virtual training session.



Component 5: Human Element in maritime safety

The human element is a complex multi-dimensional issue that affects maritime safety, security and marine environmental protection, involving the entire spectrum of human activities performed by ships' crews, shore-based personnel, regulatory bodies and others. It is recognised as a key element in the safety of life on board ships and as a contributing factor to most of the casualties in the shipping sector. Accordingly, the SAFEMED IV project addresses the human element with a view to enhancing industry standards in the broadest terms.

ACHIEVEMENTS

To date, the project's heavy focus on training activities has greatly contributed to the enhancement of the human element in the beneficiary countries, both on an operational and administrative level. The range of available training and professional development schemes

within the framework of SAFEMED IV has also expanded considerably, allowing for further headway to be made in the foreseeable future. At the same time, EMSA has continued to promote the advancement of seafarers' rights and the living and working conditions on board ships.

24-26/03/2021 – Regional training on the main principles of Search and Rescue

The training was organised in collaboration with the Italian Coast Guard with the objective of providing an overview of the international legal framework pertaining to Search and Rescue (SAR), the various levels of coordination, the concept of planning and coordination of SAR operations and the technologies available. The theoretical knowledge was reinforced using case studies and illustrated by best practices and lessons learnt by both the lecturers as well as the participants.

Altogether, 14 participants from Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya and Morocco attended the virtual training session.

OTHER BILATERAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNICATION

Component 8: Bilateral activities

Bilateral actions are the means by which the technical support provided within the SAFEMED IV framework is tailored to the needs of specific beneficiaries, complementing the regional actions and international cooperation that make up the core of the project.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Recent achievements include the provision of training as well as the delivery of operational and strategic documentation to beneficiaries. The latter paved the way for further actions that can help the respective beneficiary countries (Lebanon, Morocco) to better achieve compliance with the III Code and other applicable international maritime legislation.

ACTIVITIES

Gap Analysis for Lebanon

The Gap Analysis for Lebanon was carried out by an external contractor as part of a framework contract for the provision of services in support of the Transposition, Implementation and Enforcement following the Ratification of International Conventions – TIE(R). It includes a full synopsis of the country's current situation regarding compliance with international legal instruments and provides a road map for bridging the identified gaps. This is of paramount importance in the transition from the current state in terms of proper implementation to a future state which should ensure the ability to effectively promulgate laws and provide the legal basis for their enforcement, including the associated investigative and penal processes.



Professional Development Scheme for Morocco

At the request of the Moroccan administration, EMSA prepared the minimum criteria, the syllabus of competence and a documented professional development scheme (PDS) for flag state inspectors and port state control officers in accordance with the III Code and applicable national legislation.

Maritime Strategy for Morocco

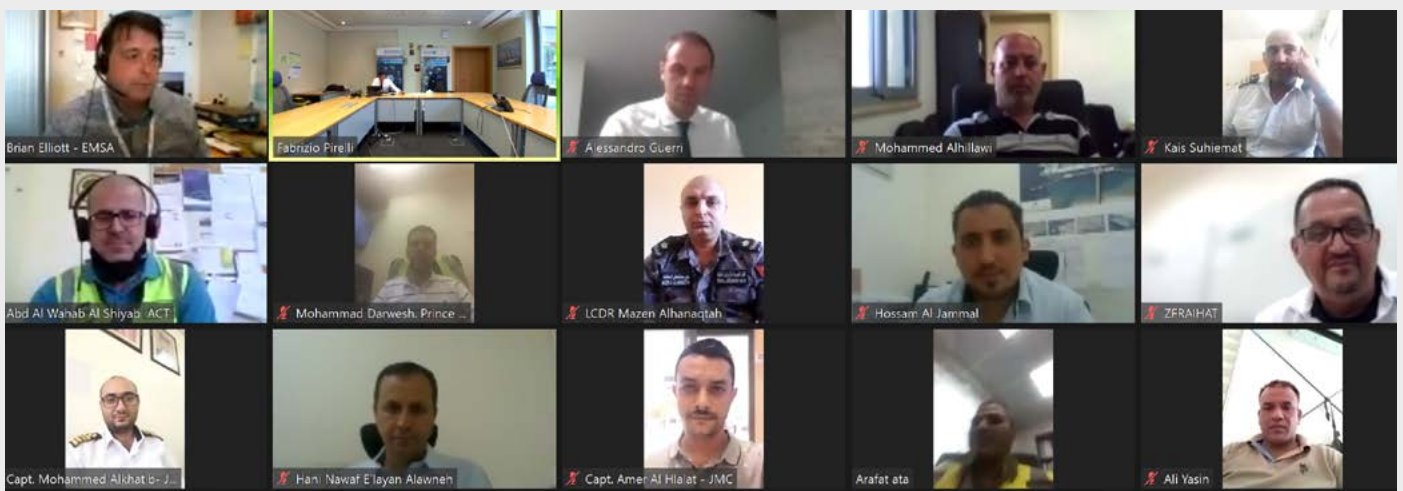
EMSA continued to offer assistance to the maritime authorities of Morocco for completing the country's maritime strategy pursuant to the III Code. The strategy would be a means for Morocco to ensure that its international obligations and responsibilities as flag, coastal and port state are met. The adoption of the strategy would also have relevance in view of the upcoming IMSAS audit in Morocco.

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15-17/06/2021 – Training on the main principles of Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Jordan

The main aspects of the relevant international legislation were presented and practical exercises were carried out by EMSA staff along with thorough overview of different options for responding to chemical and oil spills. The event was complemented with a dedicated session supporting the review of the Jordan National Spill Contingency Plan.

17 participants from the Jordanian entities involved in drafting and implementing the Contingency Plan attended the virtual training session.



Component 9: Communication

31/05-02/06/2021 – SAFEMED IV project at UfM Working Groups on Transport Connectivity

EMSA and SAFEMED IV beneficiaries participated in the latest iteration of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Working Groups on Transport Connectivity, notably the working group on maritime transport and logistics. As during the previous online event held in December 2020, EMSA as the SAFEMED IV coordinator provided an update

on the activities carried out within the framework of the project.

The final version of the Evaluation Report of the Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean region (RTAP) for the period of 2014–2020 was presented by the UfM Co-Presidency and Secretariat and adopted at the joint opening session. The report also contains numerous proposals for the next RTAP (2021–2027).





SAFEMED MEDITERRANEAN SEA PROJECT

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY

The European Maritime Safety Agency is one of the European Union's decentralised agencies. Based in Lisbon, the Agency's mission is to ensure a high level of maritime safety, maritime security, prevention of and response to pollution from ships, as well as response to marine pollution from oil and gas installations. The overall purpose is to promote a safe, clean and economically viable maritime sector in the EU.

SAFEMED IV PROJECT

EMSA is implementing a project for technical assistance in the Mediterranean bringing together national, European and international stakeholders with the aim of raising the standards of maritime safety, security and the protection of maritime environment.

Participant countries: **Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.**

Project contacts

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<http://emsa.europa.eu/we-do/assistance/training/safemed-iv.html>

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