

# SAFEMED V NEWSLETTER

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

ISSUE 1 / July 2023

## INTRODUCTION TO SAFEMED V

SAFEMED V began on 01 April 2022 and will end on 31 March 2028. It is now in its second year of implementation. It is the successor project to SAFEMED IV.

The aim of the SAFEMED V project is to provide technical assistance and develop cooperation in the fields of maritime safety and security and protection of pollution from ships between EU and Mediterranean partners. SAFEMED V encompasses the following beneficiary and Mediterranean partner countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia. Under SAFEMED V, activities like technical assistance, access to tools and core curricula developed by the EMSA Academy, and training and learning are linked to EMSA's 5 strategic priorities: sustainability, safety, security, simplification, and surveillance.



SAFEMED V  
Project funded by  
the European Union



## SAFEMED V AT A GLANCE

APR 2022 - JUNE 2023

### TOOLS



**358** | ELearning – MaKCs users

**300** | Rulecheck – Flag State and Port State users

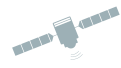
**142** | THETIS-Med - users

### TRAINING COURSES AND EVENTS



**12** | Sessions

### SERVICES



**84** | CleanSeaNet users

**1739** | CleanSeaNet images delivered

**20** | MAR-CIS users

**74** | Sharing T-AIS Information users

### PARTICIPANTS TO COURSES AND EVENTS



**164** | Participants



Capacity building is supported through training and tailored activities aimed at the maritime administrations of the beneficiary countries with the aim of strengthening their capabilities to meet the standards of international maritime conventions:

- Assistance in preparing the IMSAS carried out by IMO
- Support in the ratification, transposition, implementation and enforcement of International Conventions
- Provision of studies on the adequacy of Port Reception Facilities, the development of LNG facilities or the assessment of coverage of the T-AIS network in the country
- Development of procedures for defining and monitoring Flag State performance
- Development of procedures for establishing a professional development scheme for certain roles (like Flag State Inspectors or Port State Control Officers)
- Support in developing the Maritime Strategy as requested in the III Code

Together with training and activities, a portfolio of tools (RuleCheck, MaKCs, THETIS-Med, CSN, MAR-CIS) is also offered to beneficiary countries. This portfolio helps to: improve the knowledge of International Conventions and associated Codes, IMO resolutions and Circulars; procedures of the Med MoU Memorandum; reporting PSC inspections; as well as improving the beneficiaries' pollution monitoring and response also including in the case of chemical products.

# SAFEMED V

## NEWSLETTER

### SUSTAINABILITY

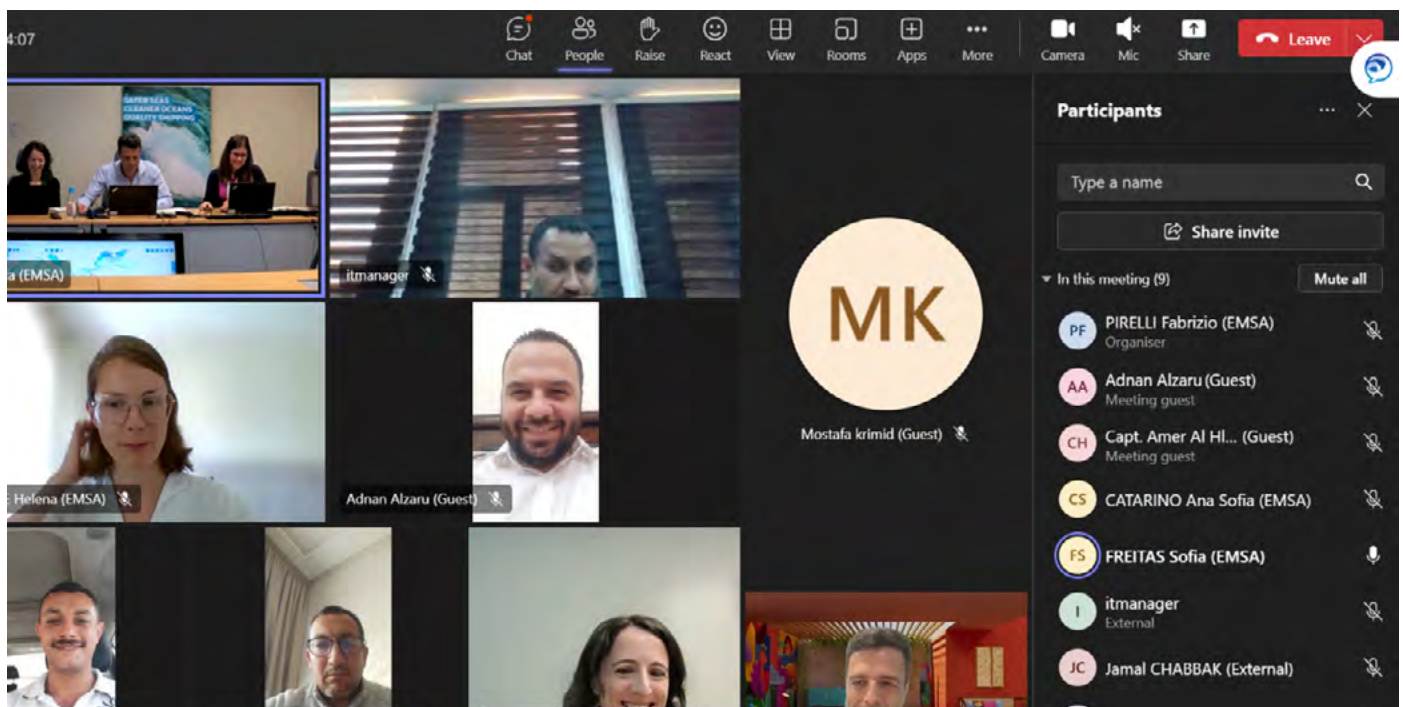
The aim of the SAFEMED V project under this component is to provide technical assistance and concrete actions to close the gap between beneficiaries and EU Member States in the field of pollution prevention and response, in order to meet EU environmental policy goals. In this context, the designation of the Mediterranean Sea as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides, formalised at the 79th session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in December 2022, is a significant milestone for the project. Promoting the establishment of the so-called Med-ECA has long been one of the main objectives of the SAFEMED projects, with the recent designation having the potential to open new avenues of supporting Mediterranean countries as they face this new challenge.

### TRAINING

30 – 31/05/2023 – CleanSeaNet Awareness Session for Duty Officers - 6 participants

On 30 and 31 May 2023, EMSA organised a virtual training session on CleanSeaNet (CSN) and an informative session on the MARine Chemical Information Sheets (MAR-CIS). The “CleanSeaNet Awareness Session for Duty Officers from SAFEMED project” hosted six participants from Morocco, Libya, and Jordan.

The aim of the training was to provide the designated users of CSN and MAR-CIS from the beneficiaries with practical instructions on the functionalities of the platform on which the CSN images are available. It also supplied them with information on MAR-CIS, enabling them to get the best result from the tools and services provided within the context of SAFEMED V.



CleanSeaNet Awareness Session for Duty Officers



## **SAFETY**

Safety is a key component of the SAFEMED V project. With technical assistance, access to tools, and training, the project seeks to assist beneficiary countries with key safety-related challenges, thus contributing to a more robust maritime safety culture across the entire Mediterranean Sea area.

The ultimate goal is to improve the performance of the ships flying the flag of the beneficiary countries, allowing them to attain Paris MoU white list status. Gaps in the transposition of the relevant international instruments into national legislation, including the appropriate implementation and enforcement, will be addressed through the project. Equally, SAFEMED V aids in all phases of the IMO Member States Audit Scheme (IMSAS). This includes preparatory training sessions to familiarise beneficiaries with the procedures and practices of IMSAS. It also covers preparatory audits to identify potential non-conformities which can then be rectified. Additionally, the Action offers support to prepare and implement the Corrective Action Plan to be submitted to IMO to address the findings and observations detected during the actual IMSAS audits.

Additionally, the project seeks to achieve harmonisation between the Paris MoU and Med MoU inspection regimes, through exchange of best practices between the two MoUs, including the alignment of the databases for reporting PSC inspections.

## **SUPPORT IN THE PREPARATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF IMO MEMBER STATE AUDIT SCHEME (IMSAS)**

05-08/12/2022 -Preparatory IMSAS to Israel

A preparatory audit was conducted by a team composed by two EMSA staff and an external expert upon request of the maritime administration of Israel. Staff of the Israeli administration both at managerial and operational level were involved in the activity conducted as per IMO procedure of the Resolution A.1067(28). The action identified some potential weak points to be addressed before the actual IMSAS carried out by the IMO auditing team. The auditors also highlighted the possibility, upon request, for Israel to receive support through the SAFEMED V project to develop and implement corrective actions.



Preparatory IMSAS to Israel December 2022

# SAFEMED V

## NEWSLETTER

07-09/02/2023 – Preparatory training sessions for IMSAS to Egypt – 38 participants

28/02-02/03/2023 – Preparatory training sessions for IMSAS to Morocco – 17 participants

IMSAS training courses to Egypt and Morocco in preparation for 2024 audits as a part of a broader technical assistance package on IMSAS were successfully delivered.

The Egyptian training session was conducted online through the EMSA Academy framework, while the Moroccan training session was carried out in Casablanca. Both training sessions were a combination of lectures and practical exercises and achieved the goal to prepare the two beneficiaries (Egypt and Morocco) for the actual audits by the IMO and its follow-up activities, including the preparation and implementation of the corrective action plan.

The two training sessions and the preparatory IMSAS enhanced the familiarisation of the staff of the maritime administration with the structure and the content of the III Code and the procedures for IMSAS.

The sessions - raising awareness on the role and responsibilities of the IMO Member States as Contracting Government, Flag, Coastal and Port State supported the two beneficiaries to effectively prepare the audit by IMO.

22-23/11/2022 - Training on THETIS-Med and related EMSA tools and services for the Moroccan maritime administration - 22 participants

09-11/05/2023 - Training on THETIS-Med and related EMSA tools and services for the Algerian maritime administration – 21 participants

Training sessions on THETIS-Med and related EMSA tools and services were delivered in Morocco at the Merchant Marine Headquarters in Casablanca and in Algeria at the “Ecole Nationale Supérieure Maritime” in Bou Ismaïl. Participants included port state control (PSC) officers as well as national data administrators who benefitted from the practical exercises carried out on the THETIS-Med training platform and the demonstration of how EMSA tools and services can enhance PSC activities.

The objective of the training sessions was to familiarise the participants with the THETIS-Med ship inspection information system and to demonstrate the use of related EMSA tools and services, including the Jasper business intelligence tool, the RuleCheck repository of maritime legislation, and the MaKCs e-learning platform.



IMSAS training courses to Egypt in preparation for 2024 audits



Training on THETIS-Med and related EMSA tools and services for the Algerian maritime administration

22-23/02/2023 – Training on Port State Control (theoretical part) to Libya – 18 participants

23-25/05/2023 - Practical session on Port State Control for 5 Libyan PSCOs (Italy)

Following the theoretical part of training on Port State Control which was held online in February, five PSCOs from Libya attended the practical session on Port State Control organized with the support of the Italian Coast Guard in two Italian ports, Genoa (3 participants) and Gioia Tauro (2 participants).

Libya is not a member of any regional agreement on PSC. The theoretical session provided staff from the relevant Libyan maritime authority with information on the legislation and scope of the Port State Control with the aim of supporting the development of an effective national PSC organisation. The practical session provided sharing of best practices between the Italian and Libyan PSCOs aimed to support these latest to develop an efficient and consistent approach to the Port State control Inspections.



Practical session on PSC



Practical session on PSC

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3-5/5/2023 Training course on Business Intelligence tool for National Administrators and Statisticians of Mediterranean MoU's countries – 12 participants

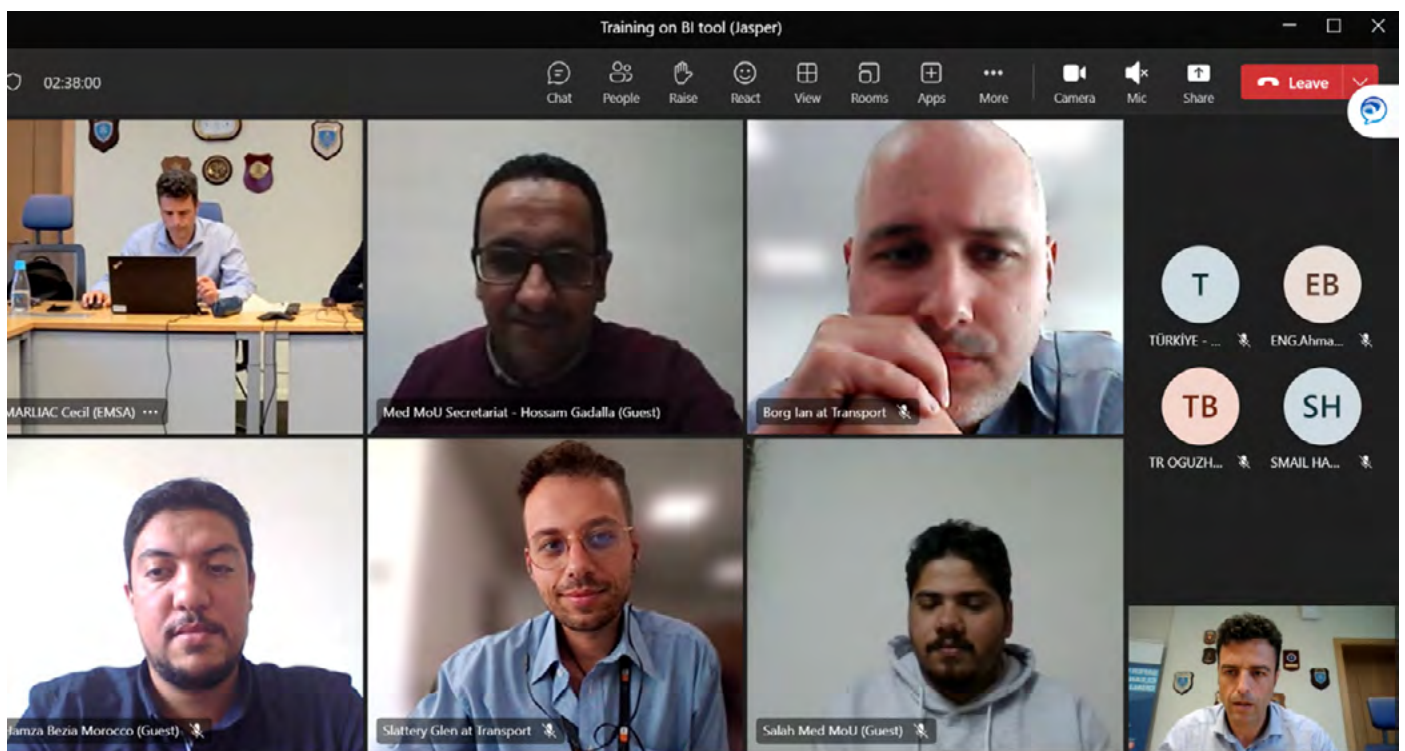
EMSA staff delivered a virtual training on the Business Intelligence tool (BI Tool) for National Administrators and Statisticians of Mediterranean MoU's countries.

The BI tool is a software which allows the users to create queries and export statistics for THETIS-Med, the database for reporting the MedMoU PSC inspections. The tool is a powerful instrument enabling detailed analysis of the PSC activities and identify trends, patterns, and areas of improvement. The practical demonstration of the tool's functionalities together with the exercises presented made the participants able to use the system in a fruitful way.

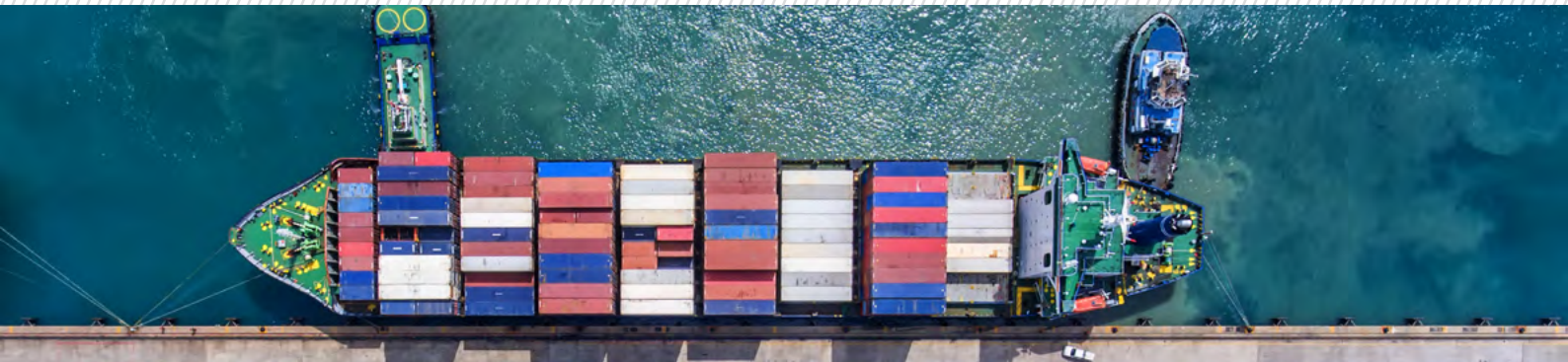
16-25/5/2023 Training on ISM Code auditing provided for the SAFEMED V Project's beneficiaries

An online training session was provided in May to Beneficiaries' staff dealing with the International Safety Management (ISM) Code

The course aimed to familiarise participants with the ISM Code and enhanced their skills as auditors through the demonstration of different types of audits and practical auditing techniques.



Training course on Business Intelligence tool for National Administrators and Statisticians of Mediterranean MoU's countries



## TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

### GAP Analysis

From October 2022 to January 2023 gap analyses for Morocco, Algeria and Libya were conducted to obtain a solid overview of the national legal systems and define the status of transposition of international conventions to national law, as well as to register relevant administrative acts (e.g., national provisions, procedures, guidelines) supporting the implementation and enforcement of the international conventions).

The gap analysis is key to identifying gaps and bottlenecks in the national system and for drafting a plan, agreed with the beneficiaries, to approximate their national legislation to international and EU maritime acquis when applicable.

### Assessment of the Lebanese system for education and certification of seafarers according to STCW Conventions

Addressing a specific request of the Lebanese maritime administration, an evaluation of the certification system in Lebanon in line with the requirements of Regulation I/8.2 of the STCW Convention was conducted.

The assessment covered the activities performed by relevant departments of Directorate-General of Land and Maritime Transport (DGLMT), Maritime Sciences and Technology Institute (MARSATI) and International Maritime Academy (IMA). The assessment identified potential non-conformities and areas of improvement in relation with the STCW Convention and Code providing Lebanon with the opportunity to develop and implement the appropriate corrective actions also with the support of the SAFEMED V project.

## SECURITY

EMSA offers a structured maritime security assistance package to the beneficiary countries, incorporating first and foremost the assessment of existing measures and the analysis of past capacity building activities, to determine further actions in consultation with relevant parties. Special emphasis is devoted to the distinctive features of the EU maritime security legislation and aims, as far as feasible, to the approximation of standards. Access to best practices and lessons learnt from implementation activities in the EU Member States is one of the long-term goals of the project.

In this area EMSA drafted an interim guidance on maritime security in October 2022 to ensure a level playing field on the matter for all the beneficiaries that will represent the basis for further activities. Additional technical activities and training sessions in area of security that will follow are:

- Training sessions on the ISPS Code and ship and port facility security
- Training sessions on cyber security
- Assessment of national maritime security organisation.
- Guidance on international best practices.

The main goal of such activities within the context of the project is to achieve measurable progress in maritime security in beneficiary countries.



# SAFEMED V NEWSLETTER



## SIMPLIFICATION

Under the scope of Simplification, the main goal of the project is to provide support to the Beneficiary countries in digitalisation as main precondition for modernisation of maritime transport. In parallel, Simplification also includes a portfolio of tools to speed-up all processes related to the activities of the Maritime Administrations like RuleCkeck, MaKCs, THETIS-Med.

THETIS-Med is a database for reporting PSC inspections in the Mediterranean MoU. THETIS-Med modernizes the way ships are targeted for PSC, it simplifies the recording and online availability of inspections reports, and it further aligns the Med MoU procedures and modus operandi to the one of the Paris MoU by increasing cooperation between EMSA, the EU Member States and the SAFEMED V Mediterranean beneficiary countries.

EMSA is continuously enhancing the system ensuring that it is updated, aligned with the Med MoU latest procedures and to the amendments of the IMO and ILO Conventions.

Simplification is also achieved through the interlinkages with other tools, like RuleCheck, that can be easily consulted from the THETIS-Med system. RuleCheck is a decision support tool developed by EMSA that contains an up- to-date repository of International Conventions, resolutions and circulars, EU Maritime legislation, Med MoU procedures and deficiency codes.

MaKCs (Maritime Knowledge Centres) is an e-learning platform which contains courses available in asynchronous mode only or blended with synchronous activities allowing the learners to strengthen their knowledge in the most common tasks performed by a maritime administration.

The availability of such tools to all staff of the maritime administration is an important contribution to the enhancement of Flag, Port and Coastal State activities in the beneficiaries.

Further achievements in this area will be the completion of a feasibility study on the Maritime Single Window aiming to map the situation in area of digitalisation in each Beneficiary countries leading, if cost-effective, to the development of adequate solutions for providing the project's beneficiaries with a prototype of Maritime Single Window.

## SURVEILLANCE

The main goal of the SAFEMED V Project in Surveillance is to enhance the traffic monitoring capabilities of the beneficiary countries. The desired outcome is a more precise picture of the ship traffic which can be crucial for short-term reactions in situation such as collision avoidance, Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, oil pollution response. All these activities are based on an analysis of a huge quantity of information in which the maritime picture, considered as the combination of the ships' routes, characteristics and traffic density is one of the key components that, together with weather and sea conditions, allows the operators to plan the appropriate activities.

EMSA is enhancing traffic monitoring capabilities of the beneficiary countries through promoting AIS -information sharing at regional level and the participation of the beneficiaries in SafeSeaNet (SSN) through a thematic pilot project which consists of the following three phases:

**Phase 1:** T-AIS data exchange between the project's beneficiaries – ongoing

**Phase 2:** Exchange of T-AIS data between the beneficiary countries and EU Member States, who agreed to participate in phase-2 of the project - ongoing

**Phase 3:** Involvement of beneficiary countries in SSN. - Launched

## MEETING

25-26/1/2023 - 19th session of the MAREΣ Expert Working Group (EWG) and experts' meeting on T-AIS exchange

Hosted by the Italian Coast Guard, 35 representatives from MAREΣ Members States and observers from the SAFEMED beneficiaries and other projects implemented by EMSA (Black and Caspian Seas and IPA projects) discussed the progress achieved by the MAREΣ community (the AIS server for sharing Terrestrial AIS data) in the Mediterranean area. In addition, an update on the status of national AIS networks and the AIS data exchange among the project beneficiaries and the MAREΣ Members was presented.

The sharing of AIS information between the project beneficiaries and with EU Member States participating in MAREΣ is a solid example of the positive achievements for the Mediterranean region deriving from the cooperation between Mediterranean coastal States. The participation of Jordan, Tunisia, and Morocco to the MAREΣ Expert Working Group (EWG) consolidates and enhances the cooperation in matter related to the maritime traffic surveillance. 74 users from the three participating SAFEMED countries currently have access to the shared AIS Information.



# SAFEMED V

## NEWSLETTER



19th session of the MAREΣ Expert Working Group (EWG) and expert' meeting on T-AIS exchange

### PLANNED ACTIONS

About 40 technical actions shall be planned for 2024, among them a special mention is for the:

#### Support to Scholarships (Masters and PhD)

In order to respond to shortage of experts and highly qualified personnel with the necessary skills and awareness of the international instruments and their implementation and enforcement practices into domestic legislation, EMSA as the implementing body of the SAFEMED project, intends to make Masters and PhDs courses available for the beneficiaries' maritime administration's staff.

Masters and PhDs courses will be delivered by reputable institutions in field of the maritime with main goal to support capacity building and fulfilment of the IMO objectives, meaning safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships in beneficiary countries.

Stay tuned, the recruitments of the candidates will be finalized soon

#### Oil pollution response exercises

A practical oil pollution response exercise is planned to take place in 4th quarter of 2024. The exercise will be organised in cooperation with REMPEC and conducted in one of the EU Member States involving the national means of the host country, EMSA's oil pollution recovery vessels and as far as possible the oil pollution response means of one or more beneficiary countries. The practical exercise will be introduced by a short theoretical session and will run according to a scenario developed in cooperation by EMSA and REMPEC.

A photograph of a stone archway leading to the sea. The arch is made of rough-hewn stone and frames a view of the blue ocean under a clear sky. The foreground is a sandy path leading into the arch.

# 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 V PROJECT

SAFEMED V – Technical assistance which brings together European, national, and international stakeholders with the aim of raising maritime safety, security, and protection of marine environment standards in the Mediterranean basin.

### Project contacts

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<https://emsa.europa.eu/neighbours/safemed-v.html>

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An underwater photograph showing a wave's crest from below, with white foam and greenish water.

[emsa.europa.eu](https://emsa.europa.eu)



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