

ANNUAL OVERVIEW OF MARINE CASUALTIES AND INCIDENTS REPORT

The latest edition of the Annual Overview of Marine Casualties and Incidents, [now available to download here](#), shows that 2022 was a positive year in terms of the reduction or stabilisation of many accident indicators, such as the number of occurrences, ships lost, fatalities or injuries. In 2022, 2,510 marine casualties and incidents were reported, representing a reduction of 182 marine casualties and incidents in comparison with the year 2021 and 84 marine casualties and incidents in comparison with the year 2020. Overall, the total number of marine casualties and incidents reported in the period from 2014 to 2022 was 23,814 with an annual average of 2,646. The number of casualties and incidents in 2022 is 5.1% under the annual average and under the average of 2,670 occurrences before the pandemic. Moreover, after a peak of 106 very serious casualties reported in 2018 and a total of 75 in 2019, the number of very serious marine casualties was 51 in 2020, 58 in 2021 and 44 in 2022, confirming the reduction in the trend. In 2022, the total number of ships involved in marine casualties and incidents was 2,701, decreasing 212 ships in comparison with 2021 and 94 ships in 2020. This decreasing trend applies to cargo ships and fishing vessels. The Overview presents statistics on marine casualties and incidents which involved ships flying the flag of one of the EU Member States, occurred within EU Member States' territorial sea or internal waters as defined in UNCLOS, or involved substantial interests of EU Member States, as reported by Member States in the EU database for maritime incidents EMCIP (European Marine Casualty Information Platform).



Photo credit: PKBWM/SMAIC (Poland)

2023 MARITIME CYBERSECURITY CONFERENCE HELD AT EMSA

On 26 October, EMSA organised and hosted the 2023 EMSA Maritime Cybersecurity Conference. As was highlighted by our Executive Director, Ms Maja Markovčič Kostelac, during the opening of the Conference: "Cybersecurity is no longer an emerging concern for the maritime sector; it has firmly established itself as a core risk." Participants had the chance to hear from high level speakers representing the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), classification societies, the insurance sector, academic institutions and research institutes, maritime administrations, and maritime cybersecurity competence centres. The topics covered included the effectiveness of regulation in enhancing cybersecurity in shipping; cybersecurity in shipping and supply chains, present and future; enhancing cross-collaboration; and workforce training. EMSA will continue to provide the platform to exchange best practices and ensure cross-sectoral cooperation on cybersecurity for the maritime cluster and to promote cross-collaboration with the European Commission, EU agencies and industry stakeholders, through a variety of cyber specific activities in the years to come.



100 participants attended the event, held at EMSA's headquarters

CORE SKILLS COURSE FOR MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE COORDINATORS AT EMSA

This month, 14 participants from eight Member States, along with 19 participants from nine beneficiary countries of the SAFEMED V and BCSEA II projects, have successfully completed the Core skills course for the Maritime Search and Rescue Coordinators 2023 – SAR 2023-2 developed by EMSA. Participants followed 11 units for two consecutive weeks in an online form (synchronous and asynchronous) with a one-and-a-half-day session held in EMSA's premises involving all participants from EU Member States. The course ended with a closing online assessment. SAR 2023-2 is aimed at people who already have a practical knowledge of Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) operations from a coordination and control standpoint. The learning service is designed and developed to support participants with the necessary tools to perform coordinating duties in organisations involved in maritime SAR. Its aim is to provide the necessary basic knowledge to Maritime Search and Rescue operators to enable them to carry out maritime SAR procedures at coordination level, in line with international requirements. The SAR 2023-2 is an ISO 29993:2017 certified learning service outside formal education developed by the EMSA Academy and it is delivered on the Maritime Knowledge Centre (MaKCs), the eLearning Platform of the Agency.

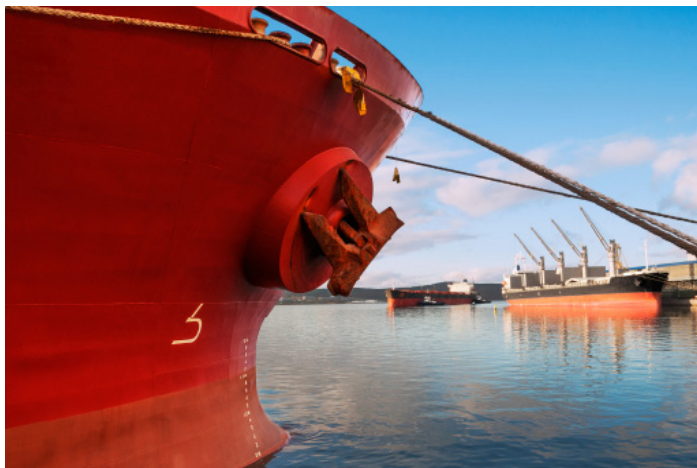


SAR training course participants at EMSA

NEW VERSION OF RULECHECK DEPLOYED AND NOW AVAILABLE

Version 16.1 of RuleCheck was deployed by EMSA on the 13th of October. This new version of the repository of maritime legislation includes all International and EU Maritime legislation in their up-to-date form. It also incorporates the latest editions of Port State Control documentation from the Paris, Mediterranean and Black Sea MoUs, and it provides a series of functionalities (like the Check Deficiencies, MyshipEU, FSI, TreeView, etc.). Through these latest updates, it continues to support, as a decision-making tool, the day to day work of Port State Control Officers around the globe. It also supports

Flag State inspectors, Safety Investigators, and other officials in the maritime administrations of EU Member States and the beneficiary countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy. In addition, this new version has been enriched with a consolidated User Manual, enabling it to further support users on how to best use and apply the various functionalities of the tool. RuleCheck is part of EMSA's comprehensive capacity building portfolio and is also available in mobile version (for both Android and iOS).



EMSA TAKES PART IN OPERATION BREEZE IN BULGARIA

EMSA participated in the operational exercise Breeze 2023 held in the vicinity of Varna, Bulgaria and organised by the Bulgarian Navy together with the Bulgarian Maritime Administration. The stand-by oil spill recovery vessel, Galaxy Eco, based in Varna and shown below, was mobilised for the operation. The vessel simulated oil spill recovery using sweeping arms and deployed the onboard RPAS to observe the response operations around the ship. EMSA also mobilised the Current Buster 4 recovery system from its Equipment Assistance Service (EAS) stockpile in Varna. Although the system was deployed at sea and towed towards the exercise location, due to the unfavourable weather conditions its participation was later cancelled by the organisers.

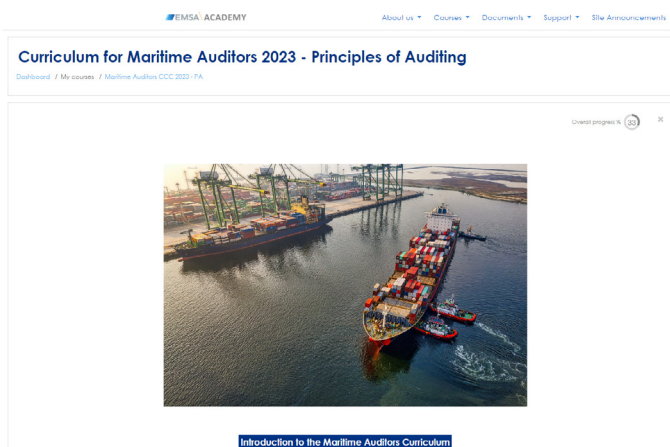


COMMON CORE CURRICULUM FOR MARITIME AUDITORS IS NOW LIVE

The European Maritime Safety Agency, within the context of the EMSA Academy, has developed, and is delivering as from October, the Common Core Curriculum for Maritime Auditors (CCCMA). The course runs for six consecutive weeks in an online form (synchronous and asynchronous) and will be completed with a two day in-person session in EMSA's premises, as well as a final online assessment. CCCMA is aimed at individuals who are, or who intend to become, Maritime Auditors dealing with the International Safety Management Code or the International Ship and Port Facility Code or both. The course is designed and developed to provide participants with the necessary individual competencies for carrying out duties associated with audits of Safety Management Systems (shipboard and shore-based) and to verify ship and port facility security systems in the context of the ISPS Code and Regulation (EC) n. 725/2004. It aims to provide learners with the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to carry out maritime safety/security audits/verifications professionally, efficiently, and effectively and to the required standards established by law and benchmarked industry practices. The Curriculum is structured in three learning areas: Principles of Auditing; Maritime Safety Management; and Maritime Security Management. Most of the learning activities are asynchronous (non-real time), allowing participants to complete the different Units at their own pace and convenience. However, at regular intervals, participants will have the opportunity to meet and interact online as well as in person during the last session with the relevant EMSA subject matter experts. 42 participants from 18 Member States, Iceland and Norway have enrolled in the CCCMA course. The CCCMA is an ISO 29993:2017 certified learning service outside formal education developed and delivered by the EMSA Academy and it is delivered on the Maritime Knowledge Centre (MaKCs), the eLearning Platform of the Agency.

ANOTHER STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AI APPLICATIONS IN IMS

EMSA continues its journey towards implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications under the vessel traffic monitoring and information system (VTMIS) and the integrated maritime services (IMS). The first, new, AI supported pilot service has just been launched and should allow EU Member State users to better understand the intended port calls of ships within European waters or bound for European ports. Based on data analysis it was found that some ships overlook recommendations on the reporting of the Automated Information System (AIS) destination port. For that reason, the IMS cloud solution uses the Natural language processing (NLP) AI algorithms to translate the free text AIS-reported 'destinations' into standardized UNECE location codes, improving accuracy of the reporting. The service has been launched to address the concrete IMS use case scenario and will evolve to support the monitoring of the SafeSeaNet reporting obligations and will form a database of continuous voyage-related events within Automated Behaviour Monitoring (ABM) IMS and operational analytics, consequently improving vessel position predictability, statistics, and innovation. This development was supported and co-financed by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) under cooperation with EMSA.



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VACANCIES: Project Officer for the FuelEU Maritime Regulation (FGIV) (16/11/23); Project Officer for Earth Observation Services to Frontex (FGIV) (16/11/23); Project Officer for Port State Control and Ship Safety (SNE) (08/01/24); See website for more.

PROCUREMENT: Study investigating the safety of hydrogen as fuel on ships (04/12/2023); Consultancy services for the EMSA ICT helpdesk (10/01/2024); See website for more.