

IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC COMPETENCES FOR SEAFARERS: ALTERNATIVE FUELS AND ENERGY SYSTEMS

EMSA has published a new study (TRAINALTER) aimed at identifying the specific competences and training areas for seafarers as the maritime industry moves towards greater sustainability. The decarbonisation of shipping involves a technology transition towards different potential alternative fuels and energy systems. One of the main challenges that the technology transition entails is the additional training that seafarers on vessels with alternative fuels and systems need to undergo, to ensure the safe and efficient operation and maintenance of these vessels. The existing training and competence standards in the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention and Code do not cover all the specific aspects regarding knowledge, understanding and proficiency (KUP) that seafarers on ships using alternative fuels and systems should have. Therefore, a need for interim guidelines and new standards is necessary to address this gap. The provision of such training also poses practical challenges, such as the shortage of experienced seafarers and instructors, and the current scarcity of ships operating on alternative fuels. Seafarers need to be trained in the appropriate competences to be able to safely operate alternative fuelled vessels. Therefore, the first part of the TRAINALTER study aims to identify and describe specific competences and training areas in terms of knowledge, understanding and proficiency for seafarers to ensure safe operations of ships using alternative fuels and energy systems. The second part of the study aims to identify and justify methods for demonstrating competence and descriptions of training programmes and syllabus for seafarers and instructors. The report is available [to download via EMSA's website](#).



TRAINALTER focuses on identifying the specific competences and training areas for seafarers as the maritime industry moves towards greater sustainability.

FUELEU MARITIME: RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

From 1 January 2025, the FuelEU Maritime Regulation will apply in full. EMSA has been supporting the European Commission in the implementation of FuelEU Maritime with technical expertise and the development and enhancement of the reporting platform, THETIS-MRV. Articles 8 and 9 of the Regulation, which laid out the requirements related to the submission of monitoring plans, have been in force from 31 August 2024. By that point, THETIS-MRV had already been adapted and updated with new developments to enable shipping companies to comply with their reporting obligations. Further THETIS-MRV deployments are scheduled in line with the requirements of the Regulation, including the submission of partial FuelEU emission reports in case of transfers of companies. In addition, together with the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) at the European Commission, EMSA has also developed [a wide range of resources to assist maritime stakeholders with the changes under the Regulation](#). A dedicated helpdesk has also been made available through the email address [fitfor55\(at\)emsa.europa.eu](mailto:fitfor55(at)emsa.europa.eu) and [maritimesupportservices\(at\)emsa.europa.eu](mailto:maritimesupportservices(at)emsa.europa.eu). The resources already made available through EMSA's website include a full series of recorded [webinars](#) (which also include question and answer modules in many cases) regularly updated [questions and answers](#), and [video tutorials](#) on the new developments in THETIS-MRV. Work is continuing to develop more resources, including further webinars organised by EMSA in collaboration with the European Commission, to provide more information for maritime stakeholders on the next steps in the implementation of FuelEU Maritime.



CISE STAKEHOLDER GROUP GATHERS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OPERATIONAL PHASE

The status of information exchange through CISE and current operational needs were the key themes of the 16th CISE Stakeholders Group (CSG) meeting held on 4–5 December 2024. Almost 70 representatives from a variety of national and European maritime authorities gathered in Lisbon and online in the first CSG meeting after the launch of the Operational Phase on 1 July 2024. In her opening remarks, the EMSA Executive Director Ms Maja Markovčić Kostelac welcomed the high level of participation of experts from 18 EU Member States and 7 EU bodies, demonstrating the continued interest in implementing and using the voluntary CISE for maritime information exchange. Ms Markovčić Kostelac praised the effort made by all the stakeholders involved in the previous Transitional Phase, which built the backbone of an operational CISE. The operational readiness of CISE was highlighted by Mr Christos Economou, Deputy Director Maritime Policy and Blue Economy, and Head of Unit Sea Basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security at the European Commission's DG MARE. Mr Economou stressed the need to join efforts to increase common surveillance capabilities in the current challenging maritime security environment. Mr Economou highlighted the latest EU policy developments, including the new Commission, the Ocean Pact, and the priorities of the incoming EU Presidency. He also addressed recent incidents in the Baltic Sea and, outlined the next steps for CISE based on the conclusions from the CISE High-Level Event held on 17 October in Brussels. CISE stakeholders also reported on activities which effectively tested CISE and discussed the status of the CISE Sea Basin approach which aims to foster the use of CISE in specific sea basins around Europe. Stakeholders also heard about the successful technical connection established between the CISE and MARSUR networks, bringing civil and military maritime authorities closer. The next CSG meeting is planned to be held in the second quarter of 2025.



Stakeholders gathered from around the EU to attend the CISE meeting held at EMSA's headquarters.

CORE SKILLS FOR MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE COORDINATORS COURSE AT EMSA

The final phase of the Core skills for Maritime Search and Rescue Coordinators 2024 course was held at EMSA in December. Participants from all over Europe are met in person at EMSA's Lisbon headquarters, after completing the online component of the course. The in-situ learning phase complemented the online phase offered through the MaKCs e-learning platform of the EMSA Academy. Through the training, EMSA experts, as well as Search and Rescue (SAR) specialists from France, Ireland and Italy, guided participants through real-life cases and exercises, thus increasing harmonisation and sharing best practices.



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VACANCIES: National Experts in Professional Training; See website for more.

PROCUREMENT: Study on Alternative Fuels Vehicles (AFVs) Fire Safety on board of ships (03/02/2025); Equipment Assistance Service (EAS) Black Sea (10/02/2025); Study on Autonomous Navigation, Communication, and Connectivity for MASS (03/03/2025); RPAS Services for Multipurpose Maritime Surveillance (12/03/2025); Lightweight RPAS services supporting pollution response and multipurpose maritime surveillance (18/03/2025); LRPAS service for emissions monitoring (24/03/2025). See website for more.