

SAFEMED IV NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 / July 2019

maritime safety, security and marine
environmental protection in the
mediterranean sea regions



REGIONAL ACTIONS

The regional technical activities organised by the Agency, which include seminars, workshops and training, amongst others, contribute to further enhance the technical capacity and skills of the SAFEMED IV participants as well as to foster a fruitful exchange of knowledge between the maritime administration officials in the Mediterranean basin.

TOOLS 

124
MAKCS

162
RULECHECK



SERVICES

442
CLEANSEANET
IMAGES DELIVERED

134
POSSIBLE OIL
SPILLS DETECTED

TRAINING COURSES 

7
SESSIONS

PARTICIPANTS 

134



 TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

15.5
TECHNICAL MEETINGS
OIL SPILL POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISES
PREPARATORY IMSAS AUDITS
TECHNICAL SUPPORT



SAFEMED IV
Project funded by
the European Union





FLAG STATE IMPLEMENTATION

The activities under this component aim at supporting the beneficiaries' maritime administrations to implement and enforce international legislation and to establish national procedures on the matter. The main objective is to enable the beneficiary countries to effectively perform their obligations, and to exercise an effective flag state jurisdiction in accordance with relevant instruments, thereby contributing to the overall objective of the project to improve maritime safety, security and marine pollution prevention.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The training session for Flag State inspectors was held at EMSA premises in Lisbon to continue to provide the projects beneficiaries with structural training to comply with the relevant provisions of the III Code. The course covered simulated inspections on board ships, starting from master's office and continuing to other areas such as the bridge, deck, engine room and cargo and passenger areas, among others.

The course for Accident Investigation was held at EMSA premises in Lisbon. The course introduced all relevant stages in the process of conducting a marine casualty safety investigation as well as the relevant principles and tools to support the assessment of an accident site. This included the collection of physical evidence, conducting witness interviews, analysing human factors and underlying conditions, preparing safety recommendations and following and dealing with investigation reports according to the European Directive 2009/18/EC and the IMO's Casualty Investigation Code.

ACTIVITIES

18-22/2/2019 – Training for Flag State Inspectors

1-5/4/2019 – Training on Core Skills for Accident Investigators



18-22/2/2019 – Participants in the Training for Flag State Inspectors

PORT STATE CONTROL

The activities under this component are directed towards the implementation of the technical requirements, criteria and standards applicable in the Med MoU through practical training for the PSC officers. In addition, the component aims at further enhancing the coordination and harmonisation between the Med MoU members.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Tailor made seminars were delivered for PSCOs for inspectors of the Med MoU. Such seminars support the Med MoU Secretariat and its professional development scheme. Moreover, EMSA started the development of the new information system for the Med MoU. Thetis-Med will be operation from 1 January 2020.

ACTIVITIES

18-21/6/2019 – Med MoU PSC Seminar



18-22/2/2019 – Participants in the Training for Flag State Inspectors

PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The activities under this component focus on two main matters:

- Raising awareness on the need of the beneficiaries to accede to and implement relevant international conventions to which they are still not party, to fully implement those to which they are already party, and to enact legislation bringing them closer to EU acquis and to provide them with the necessary technical assistance and support in the process.
- To provide the beneficiaries with operational support in the area of marine environmental protection.

ACHIEVEMENTS

With the support of EMSA, the European Commission (Directorate-General for Environment) organised a workshop on the Sulphur Regulation aimed at raising awareness for the upcoming 0.50% sulphur requirement as of 2020 and consistent implementation in the IMO framework both by EU and non-EU riparian states.

The experience shared by HELCOM and the Netherlands for the SECA in the Baltic Sea in terms of reduction of emissions and positive impact on health and the encouraging results of the feasibility studies presented by REMPEC, IAASA and France reinforced by the message about readiness by the industry is leading to a slow but steady change of perception towards the benefits rather than the costs of an ECA.

EMSA also organised a follow-up meeting to discuss the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea as an Emissions Control Area (ECA) after a request made by the European Commission (Directorate-General for Environment). A generalised support towards the goal of the designation of SOx ECA in the Mediterranean Sea in its entirety was the overall outcome of the meeting.

EMSA, with the assistance of REMPEC, will continue to support the respective beneficiary countries of the SAFEMED IV for the ratification of MARPOL Annex VI.

ACTIVITIES

13-14/2/2019 – Workshop on the limits of Sulphur Emissions, Horizon 2020

14-18/5/2019 – ECA Meeting in the margins of MEPC74

11-13/6/2019 – 13th Focal Points Meeting of REMPEC

12-13/12/2018 – SAFEMED IV Seminar on Civil Liability in the Maritime Domain



13-14/2/2019 – Participants in the Workshop on the limits of Sulphur Emissions, Horizon 2020

VESSEL TRAFFIC MONITORING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The establishment of a regional VTMS in the Mediterranean Sea regions greatly supplements and enhances the national capacity for vessel traffic monitoring, PSC, and maritime pollution preparedness and response by allowing data exchange and thereby creating a better overall picture of maritime traffic (improving maritime domain awareness). It will enable the individual states to anticipate the dangers and the risks, to be in a position of knowing the circumstances outside the areas of responsibility of specific VTSs and to perform risk analysis.

ACHIEVEMENTS

To support at improving the technical capabilities as well as on-the-job skills of the maritime administration of the beneficiary countries and their staff, VTS operators of the beneficiary countries were trained on the basic principles of vessel traffic services, the services that a VTS can provide to shipping and the resources and means of providing those services, according to the IALA Recommendation V-103 guidelines.

ACTIVITIES

1-10/4/2019 – Training for VTS operators



1-10/4/2019 – Participants in the Training for VTS Operators



HUMAN ELEMENT

The human element is an important factor in maritime safety. It is a complex multi-dimensional issue that affects maritime safety, security and marine environmental protection involving the entire spectrum of human activities performed by ship crews, shore-based management, regulatory bodies and others. 80% of maritime accidents can be attributed in some way to human element failures. The project will address the human element with the aim of achieving an effective enhancement of maritime safety standards.

ACHIEVEMENTS

With the collaboration of the Italian Coast Guard, a seminar on Search and Rescue was organised in order to provide an overview of the international legal framework pertaining to Search and Rescue, the various level of coordination, the notion of planning and coordination of SAR operations and the technologies available.

The training for Inspectors on the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006 covered the necessary knowledge and skills on the inspection process to guarantee fair labour conditions for seafarers.

ACTIVITIES

28-29/3/2019 – Training on Search and Rescue (SAR)

25-26/6/2019 – Training for MLC Inspectors



25-26/6/2019 – Participants in the Training for MLC Inspectors

MEDITERRANEAN COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS FORUM

Under this task, support will be provided to the MCGFF to pursue its objectives to enhance cooperation and information sharing among member states and third countries in their efforts to detect, monitor, deter and intercept transnational maritime threats to global safety, security, economy and environment.

ACHIEVEMENTS

On 12-13 June 2019, the MCGFF secretariat organised the plenary conference on the oil spill response, maritime surveillance, illegal immigration and cooperation for the control of fishing in the Mediterranean Sea in Casablanca, Morocco with the support of the secretariat members of France and Morocco, representatives of DG MARE, EFCA and Frontex.

The definition of options to develop maritime security awareness mechanisms, the promotion of cooperation, dialogue and training activities in the region, and the study of the possibility of sharing maritime information with other countries was the overall outcome of the conference.

All MCGFF states also had the opportunity to participate in the “30 Days at Sea” operation through the sharing of national experiences acquired in operational activities to combat marine pollution

The two-day interagency workshop on maritime safety, marine environment protection and cooperation on pollution response, maritime surveillance and illegal fishing will occur in the 1st semester of 2020.

ACTIVITIES

29/1/2019 – 1st MCGFF Secretariat Meeting 2019

2/4/2019 – 2nd MCGFF Secretariat Meeting 2019

12-13/6/2019 – **Casablanca**: MCGFF 2019 Plenary Conference



29/1/2019 – Participants in the 1st MCGFF Secretariat Meeting 2019

COMMUNICATION

This component, through newsletters and the publication of all material and news about the project on the EMSA website and other relevant websites as indicated by the contracting authority, ensures the required publicity and visibility to the project and the achieved results.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Various communication actions have been implemented: the SAFEMED newsletter for 2018 has been published, a newsletter on SAFEMED activities will be published every 6 months, a video about the project is being prepared.

The achievements of the SAFEMED IV projects in the past months were also presented in the UfM regional platform on transport connectivity and working groups on maritime transport in Barcelona, Spain.

ACTIVITIES

11-13/6/2019 – **Barcelona**: UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity and its Working Groups



11-13/6/2019 – Participants in the UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity and its Working Groups in Barcelona, Spain



Training course for accident investigators



BILATERAL ACTIONS

Bilateral actions are the means through which we give tailor-made assistance to the project beneficiaries and support them in the implementation of the internal maritime regulatory framework. Support has been provided where appropriate to prepare the Maritime Administrations to undergo IMSAS audit, to prepare Corrective Action Plans (CAP) for IMSAS audit, to draft Professional Development Scheme for ships inspectors, to draft procedures for monitoring the performance of fleets and recognised organisations, among others. All bilateral actions provide structural support to the beneficiaries and lay the foundation for a stronger cooperation with the EU.

ACHIEVEMENTS

EMSA organised training on Port Facility Pollution Contingency Planning and provided a thorough overview on various options for the response to chemical and oil spills for 22 staff members of the Tunisian Maritime Authority.

EMSA met with representatives from the Maritime Administration, Port Administration, Navy, Coast Guard, Customs and the Environmental Agency of Tunisia to gather insight into the various Maritime Administrations of Tunisia in order to prepare a list of bilateral activities which will help the Tunisia to full implement and enforce the provisions of the III Code of the IMO.

EMSA in collaboration with an experienced IMO lead audit carried out a preparatory audit to the Kingdom of Morocco with the objective of supporting the Maritime Administration of Morocco in preparation for the IMO audit.

Algeria's Maritime Administration received support for the development and drafting of procedures for monitoring Recognised Organisations as part of the EU funded project SAFEMED IV according to the III Code and the RO Code.

Tunisia, having recently become a Contracting Government to the European Union Cooperative Data Centre (EU LRIT CDC), attended the Long-Range Identification and Tracking of ships (LRIT) Session of the 5th SSN/LRIT group meeting where LRIT data quality issues and new developments were discussed. The participation of Tunisia in the 5th SSN/LRIT Working Group was sponsored by the EU funded SAFEMED IV project.

ACTIVITIES

12-13/2/2019 – Tunisia: Training on Port Facility Pollution Contingency Planning for the Tunisian Maritime Authority

25-28/2/2019 – Tunisia: Coordination Mission

18-22/3/2019 – Morocco: Preparatory IMSAS Audit

21/5/2019 – Portugal: LRIT Session of the 5th SSN / LRIT Group Meeting

21-22/5/2019 – Algeria: Procedures for Monitoring ROs



EMSA visiting Tunisian Maritime Authority



EMSA auditors visiting Tangier-Med Port

ON-BOARD TALKS

“The Israeli administration of shipping & ports and the Shipping Inspectorate highly regard the training activities provided through the SAFEMED project. Officers of the administration have been actively participating in the seminar organised and sponsored under the SAFEMED programme. The information and knowledge gained by those seminars benefited the daily work of our PSC officers and assisted the implementation of IMO instruments. In addition, interaction with other beneficiary countries had positive aspects.

In the past three years, there has been a rapid change in personnel, with retiring inspectors and the recruitment of five new inspectors who needed intense training. Israel relies on the training provided by the SAFEMED project as the sole provider of training for our inspectors, and therefore values the seminars offered in the programme.

In addition to the training activities mentioned above, our inspectors also make good use of the RuleCheck as well as the Macks e-learning platform. 80% of inspectors participated in the e-learning activity in the past year. Israel is also looking forward to incorporate the new information system that is being developed for PSC under the Med MOU.”

Ch. Eng. Yosef Yohana - Head, Shipping and Ports Inspector from Israel



“The SAFEMED project helped to reintroduce a number of engineers and lawmakers in the maritime authority in Egypt by updating their knowledge and know-how. Also, through the SAFEMED IV project support, the performance of the Egyptian maritime authority in relation to European best practices and standards has improved.

SAFEMED IV created a new instrument to learn about the latest developments of the maritime international setting and how to apply the latest updates and amendments within our national context. Due to the presence of more than 20 ports in Egypt, the provision of training to inspectors on the latest international conventions that have entered into force and their amendments, as well as activities on the implementation of those conventions as flag, coastal and port state represent the most valuable support provided by SAFEMED IV. In addition, the opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices with colleagues from other countries in the region is paramount to ensure the application of common standards. We are grateful to EMSA for allowing us to use services such as RuleCheck and the eLearning platform for inspectors and members of the maritime administration.

Aside from the above, we must not forge the assistance provided to the beneficiary countries to undergo the IMSAS audit from IMO.

In my opinion, I would expect in the future an increase on joint technical workshops among the beneficiary countries of the project and EU member states so as to create a unified and shared vision for the maritime domain in the Mediterranean Sea. This vision should include the development of a common legal frameworks for the implementation of international conventions as well as its participation in the process of developing a unified executive image for the implementation of those conventions.”

Eng. Taki El Deen Mahmoud - Marine Engineer And Naval Architecture from Arab Republic of Egypt





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 bringing together national, European and international stakeholders with the aim of raising safety, security and protection of marine environment standards.

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

Project contacts

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emsa.europa.eu/implementation-tasks/training-a-cooperation/safemed-iv.html

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