

SAFEMED IV NEWSLETTER

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

ISSUE 5 / February 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

JUL - DEC 2020

TOOLS



- 6 | MAKCS
- 6 | Rulecheck

TRAINING COURSES



- 2 | Sessions

PARTICIPANTS



- 40 | Participants



SERVICES

- 705 | CleanSeaNet images delivered
- 315 | Possible oil spills detected



6 | TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

- 4th Project's steering committee meeting
- 23rd & 24th MAB meeting of the Med MoU
- 22nd Committee meeting of the Med MoU
- 17th MARES Expert Working Group (EWG)
- Fellowship at the World Maritime University
- UfM Working Group on Transport Connectivity



SAFEMED IV
Project funded by
the European Union





INTRODUCTION

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, and taking into consideration restrictions in relation to social gathering and travelling in place in our host country Portugal as well as in the EU and the beneficiaries of SAFEMED IV, the Agency adapted its delivery method in relation to technical activities, converting planned activities that were to be hosted either in EMSA premises or in beneficiaries states to an online format.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

The regional technical activities include seminars, workshops and training, contribute to further enhance the technical capacity and skills of the SAFEMED IV participants as well as to foster exchange of knowledge and best practices between the maritime administration officials in the Mediterranean basin. The activities implemented during the second semester of 2020 embraced almost all of the SAFEMED IV technical components.

Component 2

Port State Control

The activities under this component are directed towards the implementation of 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 the PSC officers. In addition, the component aims at further enhancing the coordination and harmonisation between the Med MoU members.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The 2nd Semester of 2020 marked further progress in the facilitation of THETIS-Med as the sole MEDMOU inspection database replacing the existing MEDSIS. THETIS-Med was developed by EMSA within the context of SAFEMED IV, following a request made by the beneficiaries through the MEDMOU Committee meeting. Over the year, EMSA has provided dedicated training to PSCOs from the beneficiaries in order to familiarise them with the various functionalities of THETIS-MED that it is operational since 1 February 2020. In addition, the Agency has positively responded to the request of the MEDMOU Committee to develop a professional development scheme for PSCOs, within the concept of the EMSA Academy, following the approach adopted within the EU domain and the Paris MoU.

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ACTIVITIES

28/7/2020 SAFEMED IV participates to the 23rd MAB meeting of the Med MoU

05/10/2020 SAFEMED IV participates to the 24th MAB meeting of the Med MoU

On the occasion of their 23rd and 24th meetings held on-line, EMSA provided MEDMOU MAB Members with an update of the THETIS-Med as well as on the related training activities held or planned for the last quarter of 2020 and for 2021.

21-22/10/2020 – SAFEMED IV participates to the 22nd Committee meeting of the Med MoU

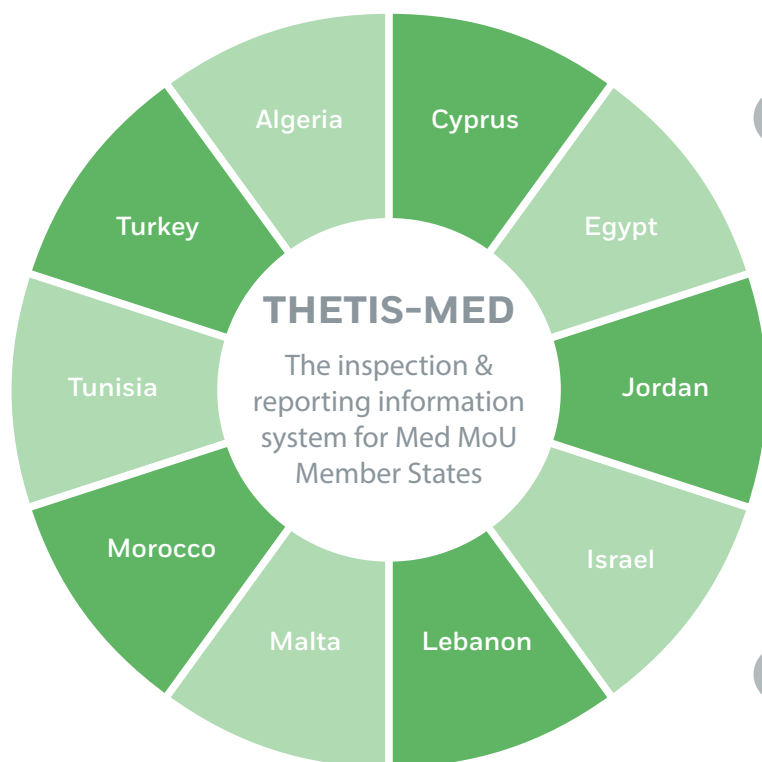
During the 22nd Committee meeting of the Med MoU, EMSA confirmed its commitment in providing THETIS-Med enhancements as agreed and further training sessions in order to familiarise them with the various functionalities of THETIS-MED .

BILATERAL ACTIVITIES

14-15/12/2020 – Training on THETIS-Med for Morocco

On 14 and 15 December 2020 EMSA's staff delivered a virtual training on THETIS-Med for PSCOs from the Moroccan maritime administration. Overall, 16 participants attended the course. The 2-day training provided the participants with an overview of the system in order to make them familiar with THETIS-Med's functionalities and features. These include the management of the MS office and ports scheme as well as MS users such as Portal (EMSA IDM) and local configuration (THETIS user config), inspection details (validation, modification, and ban), the internal notifications and publishing documents in THETIS-MED. The training focused also on the revision of the tasks of the National Administration.

The database is a step ahead toward the harmonisation of standards and procedures amongst regional memoranda on Port State Control.



1

Exchanging data



SafeSeaNet, IMO & Recognised Organisations exchange information with THETIS

2

Targeting ships



Ships are continuously profiled according to their particulars and inspection records

3

Enforcing the law



Inspections are conducted to check compliance with the relevant legal obligations

4

Sharing data online



Information is made public to increase transparency & promote quality shipping

5

THETIS Ecosystem



THETIS-Med is part of the THETIS ecosystem which include reporting of CO₂ emissions, Ship Recycling, Sulphur content of marine fuels amongst other.

Component 3

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, maritime pollution preparedness and response by allowing data exchange, enhanced overall picture of the maritime traffic, thus improving maritime domain awareness). It will enable the individual States to forecast 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

The major achievement under the Component “Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Information Systems” has been the provision to project’s beneficiaries and riparian EU Member States of the Mediterranean and Black Sea with the opportunity to share their maritime traffic information on reciprocal basis thus improving regional cooperation on maritime traffic information. This is the second of a 3-phase approach which should be finalised with the involvement of the project’s beneficiaries in SafeSeaNet.

Phase 1: Exchange of T-AIS data between the SAFEMED IV countries which have signed the Service Level Agreement with EMSA and the Italian Coast Guard as manager of the SafeSeaNet (SSN) Mediterranean AIS Regional Server (MAREΣ);

Phase 2: Exchange of T-AIS data amongst SAFEMED IV Beneficiaries, BCSEA Beneficiaries and EU Member States participating in MAREΣ ;

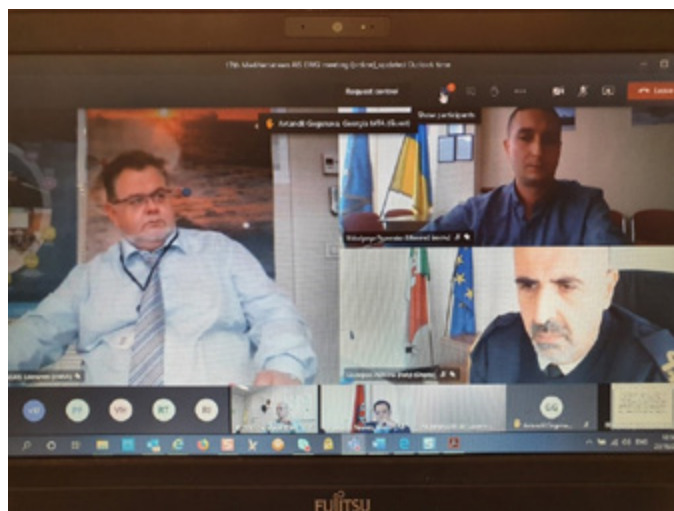
Phase 3: Involvement of SAFEMED IV Beneficiaries in SSN.

ACTIVITIES

27/10/2020 – 17th MARES Expert Working Group (EWG)

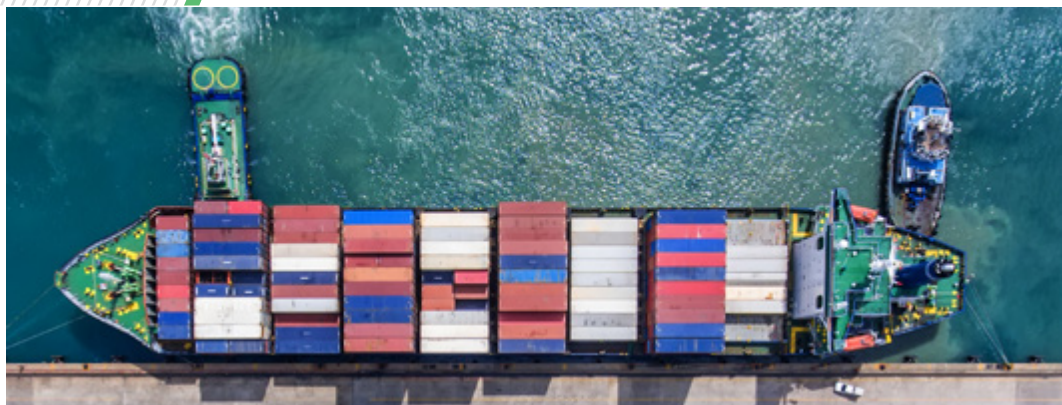
The beneficiary countries of the EU-funded BCSEA and SAFEMED IV Projects which are participating to the pilot project on sharing AIS information, namely Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia for the SAFEMED IV project, attended the 17th MARES Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting which was held on-line on 27 October 2020.

The meeting was an opportunity to share considerations on the quantity and quality of data shared by the States participating in MARES with focus on technical solutions to reduce corrupted messages and critical downtimes. EMSA representatives emphasized the importance that Morocco and Tunisia give their green light to the participation to the Phase 2 of the pilot project. Participating EU Member States were informed of the latest ENP Projects’ developments and actions planned. Sharing AIS information between EU and non-EU Member States is a tangible example of cooperation adding value to the maritime traffic monitoring in the Mediterranean region.



27/10/2020 – 17th MARES Expert Working Group (EWG)

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Component 4

Protection of the marine environment

The activities under this component focus on three main objectives:

- raising awareness on the need to accede the international conventions to which the Beneficiaries are still not a Party with particular emphasis on MARPOL Annex VI;
- supporting the full implementation of the international conventions related to the protection of the marine environment to beneficiaries are Parties. Where agreed with the relevant Beneficiary support will be provided to approximate the national legislation to the EU acquis;
- providing t the beneficiaries with operational support to ensure protection of the marine environmental.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Under this component, project's beneficiaries have been provided with technical assistance aiming to improve their technical knowledge on the implementation and enforcement of the international instruments and EU legislation related to environmental aspects. During 2020, special emphasis was given to the assessment of the adequacy of port reception facilities in selected ports, aiming at enabling the beneficiaries to align the capacity of their facilities to the minimum requirements of the international legislation.

BILATERAL ACTIVITIES

09-10/9/2020 Training on environmental legislation for the Jordan Maritime Commission

This live-broadcasting training on environmental legislation was held on 9-10 September 2020.

Overall, 15 participants from the Jordan Maritime Commission attended the course. The 2-day training aimed at providing an overview of the international conventions and EU legislation on marine environmental protection from pollution caused by maritime operations and maritime accidents.

The areas covered were air emissions from ships and greenhouse gases, ships recycling, Ballast Water Management convention, anti-fouling legislation and liability and compensation for maritime pollution.



09-10/9/2020 - Training on environmental legislation for the Jordan Maritime Commission

OTHER BILATERAL ACTIONS AND COMMUNICATION

Bilateral actions are the mean by which the technical support provided by the SAFEMED IV project is tailor-made to meet specific needs of every beneficiary and to complement the regional actions and the regional dimension which remains the main aspect of the project.

ACHIEVEMENTS

One of the main objectives of the EU funded SAFEMED IV project is to make sure that all beneficiary countries abide by the provisions of the III Code of the International Maritime Organisation. Therefore, support has been provided as relevant to prepare the Maritime Administrations to undergo IMSAS audit, to prepare Corrective Action Plans (CAP) after the IMSAS audit, to draft Professional Development Scheme for ships inspectors and to draft procedures for monitoring the performance of fleets and recognised organisations.

Furthermore, within the context of the project, EMSA offered a fellowship at the World Maritime University to staff of maritime administration from the beneficiaries to enable them to attend the 14 months Master of Science in Maritime Affairs in the field of Maritime Law & Policy and Maritime Safety and Environmental Administration.

The SAFEMED IV project, in cooperation with the relevant National Authorities, is currently supporting Libya and Morocco in drafting the maritime strategy according to III Code. The activity with Libya is run in cooperation with the EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya).

ACTIVITIES

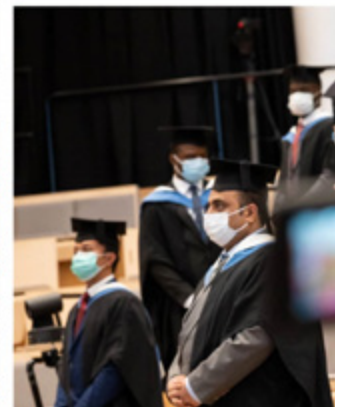
Component 8

Bilateral activities

31-01/11/2020 Two students have completed a 14 months Master of Science in Maritime Affairs in the field of Maritime Law & Policy and Maritime Safety and

[Environmental Administration at the World Maritime University](#). The students were sponsored through fellowship offered by EMSA to staff of maritime administration from the beneficiaries.

The Class of 2020 has graduated from the Malmö Master of Science in Maritime Affairs programme over 31 October and 1 November 2020 at the World Maritime University (WMU). Amongst them, 2 students from the SAFEMED IV project have graduated as part of the ENP Maritime Scholarship. The sponsorship of higher education in officials of EMSA's beneficiary countries Maritime Administration is a key aspect in ensuring proper implementation, enforcement, and understanding of the International Maritime Convention, as well as a pathway to foster maritime safety, security and pollution prevention and response. The graduation of the ENP students is an additional step towards EMSA's commitment of building capacity and providing robust technical assistance to the ENP beneficiary countries.



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Component 9

Communication

05/11/2020 4th SAFEMED IV Steering Committee meeting.

The 4th SAFEMED IV Steering Committee was successfully organised on a virtual mode on 5 November 2020. The meeting is of paramount importance to ensure a high level of cooperation and coordination between the project's beneficiary countries, EMSA, European Commission and all other entities involved in the Mediterranean basin. 14 participants from the project's Beneficiary Countries, namely Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Morocco and Tunisia attended the meeting. In addition, the Chair, representatives from the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Memorandum of Understanding on PSC (MED MoU) and from the Information Centre (CIMED) participated as observers. DG MOVE and DG MARE also attended and presented their respective goals and initiatives.

EMSA presented the activities conducted from September 2019 to October 2020 with a specific focus on the actions performed in each of the technical components: Flag State, Port State, VTMIS, Protection of marine environment, Human element in maritime safety and Maritime security, Security, Bilateral Activities and Communication. Emphasis was put on the launch of THETIS-Med the new database for MEDMOU which was made available in February 2020. EMSA ensured that despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Project, the Agency will continue in its effort to deliver high-quality technical and training activities shifting to distant learning and live broadcasting.

New activities which include gap analysis of the existing maritime legislation and support for transposition of IMO

conventions and the support to develop and implement QMSs for maritime administrations were presented as available options for beneficiaries during the last year of implementation of the project. Attending beneficiaries presented their priorities and expectations for the timeframe 2020-2021, thus contributing to the Action Plan that was endorsed by the Steering Committee.



05/11/2020 - 4th SAFEMED IV Steering Committee meeting.

02/12/2020 - SAFEMED IV project at UfM Working Group on Transport Connectivity

On 2 December 2020, EMSA and SAFEMED IV beneficiaries participated to the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Working Group on Transport Connectivity held online. EMSA made an update on the activities carried out within the context of the SAFEMED IV project and provided views and inputs on the latest evaluation report on the progress made in the implementation of the objectives set in the Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP) 2014-2020. The meeting was also the opportunity for sharing recommendations on the priority guidelines for the next RTAP which will cover the years 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 bringing together national, European and international stakeholders with the aim of raising safety, security and protection of maritime environment standards.

Participant countries: **Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, 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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