

BOOSTING TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN THE EU'S ENLARGEMENT COUNTRIES

The first activity to be held under the new grant contract between EMSA and the European Commission (DG NEAR) got underway on 3 May in Lisbon. The event was attended by representatives from the European Commission, EMSA and the Enlargement Countries themselves (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey). The participants were introduced to the various capacity building activities in the pipeline and the related tools. Representatives of the beneficiary countries shared their views and needs, and gave status updates on EU legislation in the process or scheduled to be transposed into national legislation. Based on the discussions held, participants agreed on and then endorsed the priority actions to be taken as part of this new project. The backdrop for the project, the signed grant agreement, is designed to boost the technical expertise of the Enlargement Countries, thereby strengthening their ability to fulfil existing and future obligations in the fields of maritime safety, security and pollution prevention.



PORT STATE CONTROL - CARIBBEAN MOU, INDIAN OCEAN MOU AND IMO VISIT EMSA

In the margins of the Paris MoU committee meeting, EMSA welcomed representatives of the Caribbean MoU, the Indian Ocean MoU, IMO and European Commission to the premises in Lisbon. The visit was the opportunity for the agency to provide an update on the next deliberations by the Administrative Board on possible access to EMSA's **RuleCheck ship inspection support tool** for the Port State Control officers from the Caribbean and Indian Ocean MoU regions. It was also the opportunity to share how EMSA's **eLearning platform, MaKCs**, is being increasingly used within these regions and how it is attracting greater interest from PSC officers. The two MoU representatives thanked EMSA for extending access to these valuable tools which help enhance the knowledge and competencies of PSC officers and contribute to the harmonised implementation of PSC procedures across the world. The IMO representative acknowledged the importance of sharing EMSA tools beyond the EU domain and suggested further talks between IMO, EMSA and the European Commission in order to promote these tools to other MoUs as well as to discuss areas in which EMSA could further support IMO work in the area of Port State Control.



INTEGRATED MARITIME SERVICES FOR MEMBER STATES - TRAINING IN ROMANIA

The Romanian Naval Authority in Constanta hosted a national information and training session on Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) on 18-19 April. The two-day event brought together more than 30 attendees. They represented different national authorities including Vessel Traffic Services, Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres, Harbourmaster offices, Coast Guard, Customs and Navy. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the IMS service and the new **SafeSeaNet Graphical User Interface (SEG)**. EMSA demonstrated the available services which provide a combination of maritime data from different vessel reporting systems, Earth Observation satellite products including the **Copernicus maritime surveillance service** and met-ocean information as well as advanced Automated Behaviour Monitoring tools. The added value of bringing together a variety of different data sources to complement existing data information systems was showcased and linked to actual operational activities.



EU AGENCIES MEET ON FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN COAST GUARD

On 11-12 April 2018, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) hosted the first European Annual Coast Guard event which took place in La Toja, Spain. It was co-organised by Frontex, EFCA and EMSA and brought together more than 120 participants from member state national authorities responsible for the various coast guard functions, the three EU agencies and the European Commission. The event provided participants with the opportunity to give some insight into the activities relevant to the five areas of interagency cooperation: information sharing to improve maritime situational awareness to facilitate operations at sea; maritime surveillance and communication services; capacity building such as training and risk assessment strategies, and the sharing of capacity in the form of multipurpose operations. The discussions provided the three agencies with valuable feedback on the current cooperation activities and input for the planning of possible joint actions to be incorporated into the Annual Strategic Plan for 2019.



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VACANCIES: MSS Officer with IT background (deadline: 21/5/2018); Traineeships for Autumn 2018 (deadline: 24/5/2018); Project Officer for pollution response services (deadline: 11/6/2018)

PROCUREMENT: Provision of SATCOM services for RPAS (deadline: 21/5/2018); Contracts for RPAS VTOL services for emissions monitoring and maritime surveillance (deadline: 18/6/2018); see website for more.