

BCSEA PROJECT NEWSLETTER

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

ISSUE 5 / September 2021

INTRODUCTION TO BCSEA

Since January 2017, EMSA has been implementing the project Maritime safety, security and marine environmental protection in the Black and Caspian Sea Regions, funded by the European Commission (DG NEAR) and commonly known as BCSEA. This project aims at fostering regional cooperation among Black and Caspian Sea riparian states, while at the same time providing technical assistance to enhance maritime safety, pollution prevention, security and labour conditions on board ships.

BCSEA PROJECT AT A GLANCE

JAN - JUN 2021

TOOLS



39 | Rulecheck – New users

40 | MAKCS – New users

18 | Mar-CIS – New users

TRAINING COURSES



13 | Sessions

PARTICIPANTS



135 | Participants



SERVICES

645 | CleanSeaNet images delivered

689 | Possible oil spills detected



2 | TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

- Study on Port Reception Facilities in Ukraine
- Gap Analysis for the Republic of Moldova



BCSEA
Project funded by
the European Union





INTRODUCTION

BCSEA is now into its final year of implementation, during which EMSA intensified its efforts to execute the project's action plan despite the challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Activities were adapted, taking travel restrictions into account, thus allowing the beneficiaries to access online training and other technical assistance services. This rapid adaptation resulted in a marked increase in the number of training sessions and participants and ensured the full use of the Agency's capacity for technical assistance activities.

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REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Regional activities in the first half of 2021 encompassed most of the project's technical components and primarily consisted of training sessions aimed at enhancing the technical capacity of the BCSEA beneficiaries by improving the knowledge and skills of their staff, while continuing to foster the exchange of knowledge and best practices between the maritime administration officials in the two sea basins.

Component 1: Flag State Implementation

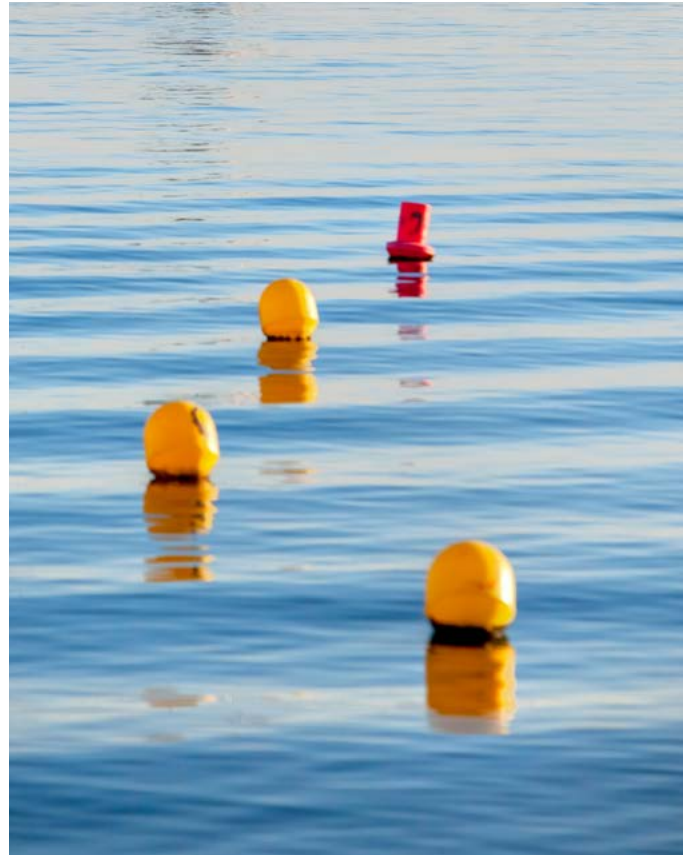
The activities under this component are aimed at supporting the beneficiaries' maritime administrations in implementing and enforcing international maritime legislation and establishing the required national procedures to this end. The main objective is to enable the beneficiaries to effectively perform their obligations as Flag States and to exercise their jurisdiction in accordance with relevant legal instruments. This is pivotal to achieving to the overall goal of the project to improve maritime safety, security, and marine pollution prevention.

ACTIVITIES

19-23/04/2021 – Regional training on the ISM Code and auditing techniques

The course focused on safety management systems and the International Safety Management (ISM) Code; the general requirements, types and scopes of flag state audits; the conduct of Flag State audits in the office environment and on board ships, including the preparation and planning and following-up the audit; the formalities and reporting procedures concerning flag state audits; the implementation of corrective or preventive actions; the certification process; and the role and qualifications of flag state auditors.

Furthermore, instruction on effective auditing techniques was provided and the most common audit scenarios were discussed and simulated using case studies and group exercises.



The training was delivered virtually and altogether 12 participants from Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine attended.



Albena Kaitina | Peter Werner - DNV's Maritime | Luis vanrell | Vadim Pavalachi (MD)

Why ISM ?

Herald of Free Enterprise, 1987

Amoco Cadiz, 1978

Estonia: <https://youtu.be/lyqkWZL0ZI>
<https://youtu.be/YmX8seNKVQo>

Component 2: Port State Control

The activities under this component are directed towards the practical training and provision of EMSA tools in support of port state control (PSC) for port state control officers (PSCOs) in the project area, as well as the implementation of the technical requirements, criteria and standards adopted by the Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Black Sea Region (BS MoU). In addition, the component aims at further enhancing coordination and harmonisation between the BS MoU members and Caspian Sea countries.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The training tools provided by EMSA to the BCSEA beneficiaries to date have had a significant effect on improving the competence and working practices of the region's PSCOs, leading to increased cooperation between the BS MoU members and paving the way for the conclusion of a similar agreement between the Caspian Sea countries.



ACTIVITIES

17-18/06/2021 – Regional training on awareness on Port State Control

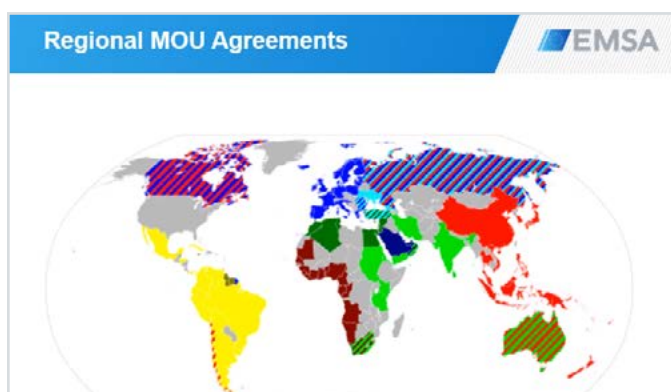
The objective of the course was to acquaint the participants with the international legal framework and underlying principles, as well as the operational procedures for port state control. Theoretical knowledge was reinforced during practical exercises and group discussion.

The training was delivered virtually and altogether 12 participants from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan attended.

18-20/05/2021 – Regional training on the BS MoU

The tailor-made seminar examined the conduct of port state control in the context of the BS MoU and the relevant inspection manual. EMSA PSC tools RuleCheck and MaKCs were also made available to the participants to simulate the operational inspection environment.

Altogether, 13 participants from Georgia, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine and attended the virtual training session.



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Component 7

BILATERAL ACTIVITIES

The project's beneficiaries belong to two different regions around the Black and Caspian seas and there are many differences between them in terms of maritime traditions, the consistency of their fleets and their national interests in maritime transport. Bilateral actions are the means by which the technical support provided within the BCSEA framework is tailored to the needs of specific beneficiaries, complementing the regional actions and international cooperation that make up the core of the project.

ACTIVITIES

30/06-01/07/2021 – Training on MARPOL Annex VI for Georgia

This training was delivered to Georgian officials with the aim of assisting the beneficiary in both the transposition and the implementation of the provisions of Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention. The learning objectives focussed on the obligations of the flag and port state in ensuring compliance with the Convention and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through appropriate legislative, certification, inspection and enforcement measures.

Seven participants attended the virtual session consisting of presentations and case studies.

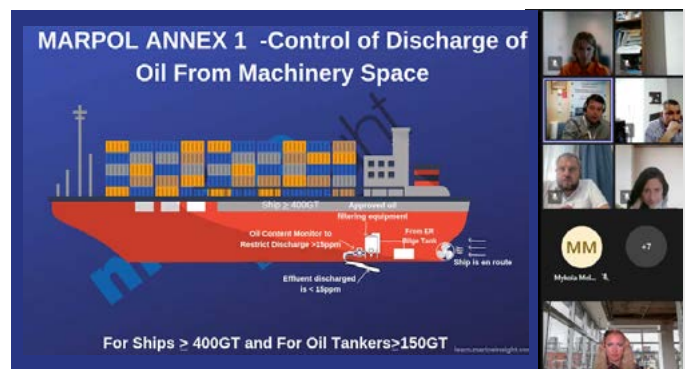
23-24/06/2021 – Training on MARPOL Annex I, V, VI and the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships for Moldova and Ukraine

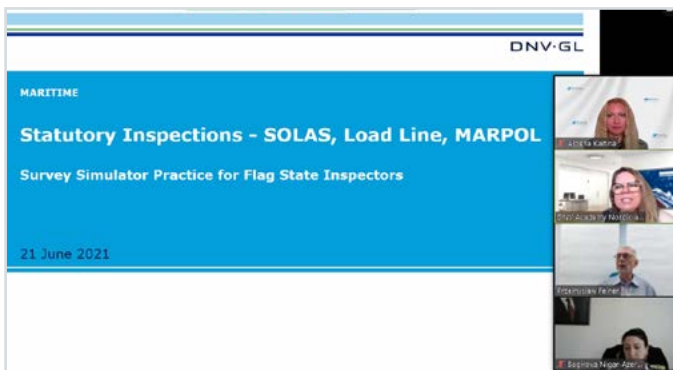
The training was delivered to officials with the aim of assisting the beneficiaries in both the transposition and the implementation of the provisions of the Annexes I, V and VI of the MARPOL Convention as well as the AFS Convention. The learning objectives focused on the obligations of the flag and port state in ensuring compliance with the Conventions through appropriate legislative, certification, inspection and enforcement measures.

Ten participants attended the virtual training session.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Recent achievements include the completion of an exceptional number of training sessions, as well as the delivery of operational and strategic documentation to beneficiaries. The latter pave the way for further actions that can help the respective beneficiary countries (Moldova, Ukraine) better achieve compliance with international maritime legislation.





21-25/06/2021 – Training on Flag State Inspections for Azerbaijan

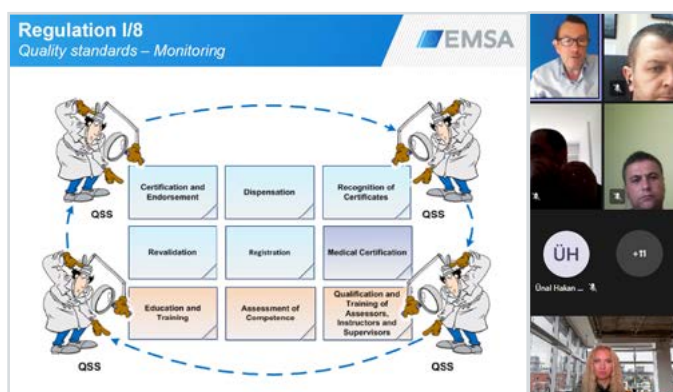
The training on statutory inspections under the provisions of the SOLAS, Load Line and MARPOL Conventions was delivered by a contractor and covered the entire statutory certification process. A survey simulator tool was also used to practice inspecting specific vessel types.

14 participants attended the virtual training session.

21-25/06/2021 – Joint training on preparation for IMSAS for Turkmenistan and Morocco

As Turkmenistan is currently in the process of implementing the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) following the IMSAS audit held in 2019, the Agency organised a 5-day online training session to reacquaint the staff of the Turkmenistan maritime administration with the detailed audit process. The course encompassed the provisions of the III Code as the audit standard together with a thorough examination of the framework and procedures of the audit scheme. Different phases of the audit were explained and simulated using group exercises and case studies. The proper preparation and implementation of the CAP was emphasised. 5 representatives from the Turkmenistan administration took part in the course.

The training was also attended by five representatives of the maritime administration of Morocco as part of the SAFEMED IV project since the country is preparing to host an IMSAS audit.



21-22/06/2021 – Advanced training on the STCW Convention and Code for Turkey

This advanced training was directed at officials with existing knowledge of the STCW Convention and Code, and largely had the aim of reinforcing their understanding of quality standards, monitoring, course approval, on-board training, assessment of competence and certification procedures.

14 participants attended the virtual training session.

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31/05-03/06/2021 – Training on marine accident investigation for Kazakhstan

The course explained the characteristics of accident investigation bodies and provided a general overview of the purpose and key principles of marine accident investigations, including investigation stages, principles, and good practices.

Five participants attended the virtual training session.



25-27/05/2021 – Training on main principles of Search and Rescue (SAR) for Kazakhstan

The training aimed to provide an overview of the international legal framework pertaining to Search and Rescue (SAR), the various levels of coordination, the concept of planning and coordination of SAR operations and the technologies available. The theoretical knowledge was reinforced using case studies and illustrated by best practices and lessons learnt by both the lecturers as well as the participants.

Five participants attended the virtual training session.



27-28/04/2021 – Training on the implementation and enforcement of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 for Turkey

The course was delivered within the context of Turkey moving towards the ratification of the MLC Convention and covered the structure, scope, and definitions of the Convention along with the obligations of flag and port States and industry actors.

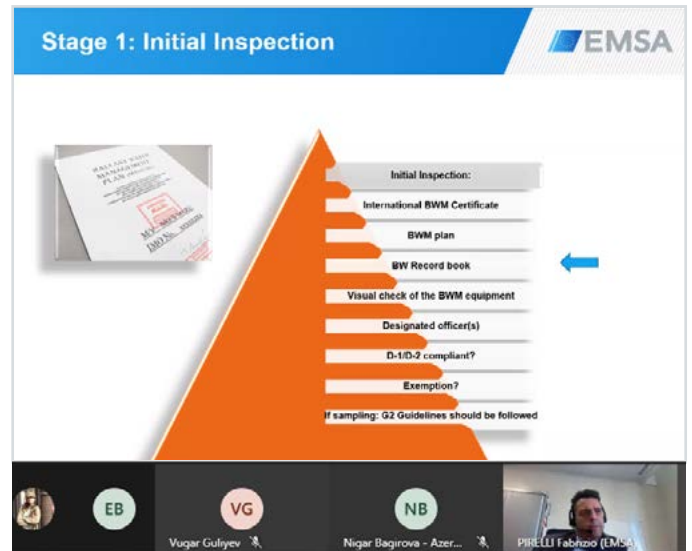
17 participants attended the virtual training session.



2-3/03/2021 – Training on Implementation & Compliance of the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention (BWM) for Azerbaijan

The course explained the regulatory framework for ensuring compliance, monitoring and enforcement of the BWM Convention, ballast water treatment technology, the role of Flag States in implementing the Convention, the obligations of Port States in compliance monitoring, and IMO sampling guidelines.

15 representatives of the Azerbaijani Maritime Administration attended.



11-12/02/2021 – Training on the ISPS Code for Turkmenistan

The course encompassed the international maritime security framework along with the obligations of contracting governments and the specifics of ensuring ship and port facility security pertaining to security assessments and plans, personnel, equipment, drills and exercises and certification requirements, amongst others.

12 participants attended the virtual training session.



BCSEA PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

OTHER BILATERAL ACTIVITIES

ACHIEVEMENTS

[Studies on Port Reception Facilities in Ukraine](#)

The studies were carried out by an external contractor as part of the framework contract to assess the adequacy of the port reception facilities (PRF) in the beneficiary countries on the basis of either one or more ports of an individual country, based on the requirements of international, regional, European Union and national legislation/guidance, as appropriate. The ports of Mykolaiv and Pivdennyi were chosen as a representative sample for Ukraine in this context.

The studies are aimed at mitigating any shortfalls with respect to the PRF and/or the relevant waste reception and handling plans (WRHP) and contain recommendations to this end.

[Gap Analysis for the Republic of Moldova](#)

The Gap Analysis for the Republic of Moldova was carried out by an external contractor as part of the framework contract for the provision of services in support of the Transposition, Implementation and Enforcement following the Ratification of International Conventions – TIE(R). It includes a full synopsis of the country's current situation regarding compliance with international legal instruments and provides a road map for bridging the identified gaps. This is of paramount importance for the transition from the current state in terms of proper implementation to a future state which should ensure the ability to effectively promulgate laws and provide the legal basis for their enforcement, including the associated investigative and penal processes.

[Provision of tools and services](#)

Throughout the project, EMSA has been able to use the BCSEA framework to provide direct technical assistance along with relevant training to the beneficiaries in the form of various tools and services aimed at enhancing

their capacity for monitoring and inspection activities (Terrestrial AIS data sharing, RuleCheck and the eLearning platform Maritime Knowledge Centres – MaKCs); as well as environmental risk management (CleanSeaNet images and MAR-CIS).

Granting access to the Marine Chemical Information Sheets (MAR-CIS) has been the latest development. The datasheets provide concise information on hazardous and noxious substances, including their physical and chemical properties, handling and emergency spill response procedures and maritime transport requirements for safe carriage at sea. Developed by EMSA, they have the potential to assist the competent authorities during the initial stage of the response to pollution incidents involving such substances.

During the reporting period, EMSA modernised its eLearning platform, replacing the existing Learning Content Management System in MaKCs with Moodle. Consequently, as of March 2021, all users have access to a state of the art system that is able to support distance learning in both synchronous and asynchronous mode, registering activities of learners and thus enhancing beneficiaries' access to up to date training material in relation to EU and international maritime legislation.

The participation of Georgia and Ukraine in Phase 2 of the Pilot project on sharing of Terrestrial AIS data continues and they have been sharing, reciprocally, their T-AIS data with the EU Member States and SAFEMED IV beneficiaries that are also participating in the Mediterranean AIS Regional Sever (MAREΣ).



BLACK & CASPIAN 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.

BCSEA PROJECT

As maritime safety, maritime security and protection of the marine environment is a common concern of the EU MS and Non-EU countries bordering the Black and Caspian Sea, EMSA is implementing a project for technical assistance bringing together national, European and international stakeholders with the aim to raise the safety, security and protection of marine environment standards. Beneficiary countries: **Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.**

Project contacts

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emsa.europa.eu/implementation-tasks/training-a-cooperation/traceca-iii.html

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