

## EMSA-LED MULTIPURPOSE MARITIME OPERATION LAUNCHED

A Multipurpose Maritime Operation, led by EMSA in cooperation with the maritime authorities of Belgium and France and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), is underway in La Manche and the southern section of the North Sea. The operation aims to support the maritime authorities of Belgium and France across a variety of coast guard functions and has been launched on their request. Until 13 September 2024, EMSA will provide enhanced support for maritime safety, search and rescue, maritime surveillance, environmental protection and maritime accident and disaster response, together with EFCA in the area of fisheries inspection and control. Throughout the operation, EMSA's Integrated Maritime Services will provide a live maritime picture of all vessels passing through what is one of the world's busiest regions, supplemented by algorithms for detecting vessel movement patterns and facilitated by a dedicated operations centre in EMSA's Lisbon headquarters. Participating Member States will also be able to request satellite imagery from EMSA's CleanSeaNet oil spill monitoring and pollution detection service, which provides night and day coverage of maritime areas through synthetic aperture radar (SAR) satellite images. This service can be complemented by optical satellite images from Copernicus Maritime Surveillance. EMSA is also providing a regional deployment of its remotely piloted aircraft service (RPAS), capable of operating in the airspace of both participating countries, and operating from the Gris-Nez Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in the Pas-de-Calais Department of France. In addition, EMSA's Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) service will also be deployed to support underwater surveys. A Multipurpose Maritime Operation (MMO) is a coordinated activity in a specific maritime area and for a defined period of implementation, aimed at supporting national authorities carrying out coast guard functions at national, Union, and international levels. MMOs involve at least two coast guard functions falling under the mandate of multiple agencies and can be launched upon request from Member States or EFCA, EMSA, or Frontex.



EMSA's Executive Director, Maja Markovčić Kostelac, joins representatives of participating authorities in the MMO opening ceremony, including the French Secretariat General of the Sea; La Manche and North Sea Maritime Préfecture; and the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the Belgian Agency for Maritime and Coastal Services; the Agency for Agriculture and Fisheries; the Scientific Service MUMM (Institute of Natural Sciences); and the Directorate-General for the Environment (Federal Public Service). Photo (c) French Navy

## EMSA RPAS DEPLOYMENT IN THE NORTH SEA WITH THE ROYAL DANISH NAVY AND IN THE BALTIC ON A REGIONAL MISSION

EMSA has begun a four-month remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) service in the North Sea, supporting the Royal Danish Navy and Danish Customs. The service uses a new Hybrid Quadcopter with fixed wing and vertical take-off and landing capabilities; the first time this model has been deployed in an EMSA RPAS operation. The RPAS service is delivered by EMSA through the contractor Nordic Unmanned AS, operating an Aerosonde Hybrid Quadcopter that has both fixed wing, enabling it to cover long distances, and four propellers, providing it with Vertical Take-off and Landing (VTOL) capabilities. During its deployment, the RPAS will carry out maritime surveillance tasks in the busy waters around the north coast of Denmark. Environmental monitoring is a key aspect of this service. The RPAS can provide information on potential oil spills and discharges at sea, complementing the CleanSeaNet satellite-based oil spill and vessel detection service provided by EMSA. This RPAS model can take off and land vertically, like a helicopter, but has the same range as the fixed wing version. With more than seven hours of endurance and a radio range of 140km along the coastline, based on a ground relay station, it can carry out extensive maritime surveillance to support the Royal Danish Navy. At the same time, the regional EMSA RPAS service in the Baltic Sea region has once again begun to support maritime safety and security across the area. The service started in April and information from the flights is being shared between participating authorities in Estonia, Finland and Latvia.



The RPAS deployed in Denmark has infrared and optical cameras and is also equipped with an embedded automatic maritime scanning sensor.

## COMMON CORE CURRICULUM: SULPHUR INSPECTORS

Twenty-five participants from 17 EU Member States, Iceland, and Norway and six participants from four beneficiary countries to the IPA/ENP projects have successfully completed the common Core Curriculum for Sulphur Inspectors developed by EMSA within the context of the EMSA Academy. The Curriculum is organized in three phases with eight units, covering a wide spectrum of learning areas such as general legal and technical requirements, pre-boarding information analysis, on-board fuel-based methods and abatement methods, sampling process, tools & equipment, reporting and logging, data management and health and safety requirements. It was delivered in a blended mode from 15 February to 28 April 2024. Participants followed an asynchronous part covering the above-mentioned areas with three live sessions and the use of the Virtual Reality Environment for Ship Inspections (VRESI) for ship familiarisation purposes. The content of the course included also a three day in-person session at EMSA's premises in Lisbon. During the three days, participants had the opportunity to go through specific case studies, reporting exercise into THETIS-EU database and collective work into groups. This curriculum is designed to develop the necessary individual competencies for carrying out duties associated with the inspection of ships for compliance with the international and EU instruments regarding the limits of sulphur in marine fuels (MARPOL Annex VI and the EU Sulphur Directive). It aims to provide learners with the opportunity to increase the knowledge, skills and attributes required to carry out inspections professionally, efficiently, and effectively and to the required standards established by law and benchmarked industry practice. It is an ISO 29993:2017 certified learning service outside formal education developed by the EMSA Academy and it is delivered on the Maritime Knowledge Centre (MaKCs), the eLearning Platform of the Agency.



## FOCAL POINTS OF THE CONSULTATIVE NETWORK ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEET AT EMSA

The Focal Points of the Consultative Network on Technical Assistance (CNTA) gathered at EMSA in April in hybrid format. Delegates were provided with an update on the activities of the EMSA Academy in 2023 and the positive feedback received from participants, which was confirmed at the meeting. The learning services offered by EMSA were recognised to be of added value, and fully integrated in the efforts at national level to ensure the continuous upskilling of personnel, as part of common efforts to foster national capacity. The core part of the meeting was the identification of possible learning services for 2025, based on the needs expressed by the Member States and the Training Need Analysis performed by the EMSA Academy. This exercise reflected both the existing services already offered as part of the Agency's course catalogue as well as possible new services to be developed, focusing mainly on issues related to the green transition and the new legislation entering into force in the EU for the maritime domain, for the specific job profiles falling within the remit of the Agency. The meeting was characterised by lively and interactive discussions and resulted in a proposal for learning services for 2025, which will be submitted to the EMSA Administrative Board for consideration at its June meeting and subsequent inclusion in the Agency's work programme for 2025.



CNTA focal points gather at EMSA for their 2024 meeting

## COMMON CORE CURRICULUM: FLAG STATE INSPECTORS

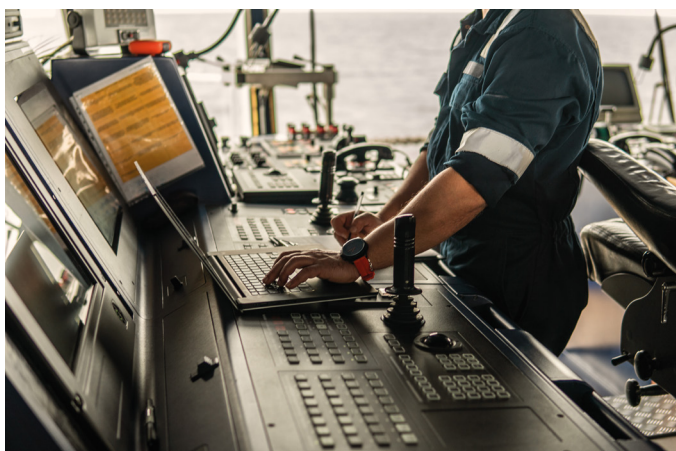
Forty-one participants from 17 EU Member States, Iceland, and Norway and five participants from four IPA/ENP project beneficiary countries, have successfully completed the Common Core Curriculum for Flag State Inspectors developed by EMSA within the context of the EMSA Academy. The Curriculum is organized in four phases including twelve units and an in-person session, covering a wide spectrum of learning areas such as Law, policies, rules – Ship's features, Inspection & Survey – Stability – Manning – Safety of crew – Communication and People management/leadership – Reporting – Health & Safety at work. It was delivered in a blended mode from 15 January to 28 April 2024. Participants had the opportunity to

go through an asynchronous and live synchronous environment with self-study, group discussions and quizzes. On 23 April participants attended an in-person session at EMSA's premises in Lisbon which focused on practical case studies covering ship areas.



## ENHANCED MARITIME PICTURE VIA IMS – 2024 BASIC COURSE FOR IMS USERS

The 2024 Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) Course for Basic Users, jointly designed by the EMSA Academy and the EMSA IMS business team, has been launched. This course provides participants with the necessary competencies in carrying out basic duties associated with usage of the Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) applications, for obtaining an enhanced maritime picture. This second edition of the online, basic course mixing synchronous and asynchronous activities aims to support various Member State authorities within the Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Information System (VTMIS). The staff will be introduced to IMS, while the existing, occasional IMS/SEG users have access to excellent 'refresher' materials.



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**PROCUREMENT:** Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) auditing services: deadline extended (17/05/2024); RPAS Services for Emissions Monitoring: Lot 1: RPAS for Emissions Monitoring with medium range; Lot 2: Lightweight RPAS for Emissions Monitoring (18/06/2024); Sale of oil pollution response equipment (19/06/2024); PContract to implement additional modules for the New Earth Observation Data Centre including maintenance and operations activities (29/05/2024). See website for more.