

Conclusions of the SAFEMED IV 2nd Project Steering Committee Meeting

10-11 October, Aqaba

The SAFEMED IV Project 2nd Steering Committee Meeting was held on 10-11 October 2018 in Aqaba, Jordan, and it was kindly hosted by the Jordan Maritime Commission (JMC).

The meeting was attended by various participants from the Project's Beneficiary countries (BCs), namely from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Palestine and Tunisia. No participants from Israel and Morocco attended to the meeting. In addition, representatives from the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Memorandum of Understanding on PSC (MED MoU), the IMO/REMPEC, CETMO and the UfM participated in the Meeting as observers. The MCGFF secretariat was invited but could not participate in the meeting due to other commitments.

The opening session was delivered by the JMC. The Commission welcomed the participants and all entities involved in the 2nd Steering Committee. During the opening speech, the Director General of JMC highlighted the importance of the SAFEMED initiatives in the area of safety, security and pollution prevention and response and welcomed the efforts made by EMSA and the beneficiary countries in ensuring the smooth development of the project's activities. EMSA thanked JMC for the availability, for the organisation, for the logistic and for taking care of hosting the event in Aqaba. EMSA also emphasised the need for commitment, cooperation and participation from the beneficiaries for the fulfilment of the very ambitious objectives of the project and it stressed the need for improved communication between Focal Points and the SAFEMED IV Project management. The World Maritime University also assisted to the opening ceremony and delivered a short introductory speech. The opening ceremony was concluded with an exchange of gifts.

After that, EMSA presented the activities conducted from October 2017 to October 2018 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, MCGFF, Bilateral Activities and Communication.

Amongst the activities conducted in the first year of implementation, EMSA focused on the importance of developing a set of structural training which, together with the support of the e-learning platform MaCKs, may eventually be included in the National Professional Development Scheme (NPDS) of the BCs. The development of THETIS-Med for Port State Control Officers of the Med MoU was presented as well as its main functionalities. In addition, the Agency emphasised the importance of conducting bilateral activities such as the Preparatory IMSAS Audits conducted in Lebanon and Algeria. During the presentation, it was clarified how all the in-the-country activities greatly enhance the cooperation between the Agency and the Maritime Administrations involved. Given the positive results obtained in terms of cooperation and collaboration after such initiatives, EMSA proposed launching a set of Exploratory missions in all BCs for 2019. This way, the project management expects to increase the level of communication with all actors involved in the

implementation of the project (as well as all entities involved via a set of awareness seminars) but also to cater the needs in terms of training and/or activities which can be included in the long-term planification of the project. Lastly, EMSA drew the attention on the lessons learnt which include, but are not limited to, the need of developing a new set of practical trainings, the increasing of bilateral activities, etc.

Aside from these activities, the project management outlined two new activities which will be executed in 2019. The first of the two entails the provision of AIS stations among those BCs which have applied to the call of interest. The second regards the possibility of conducting studies on the (in)-adequacy of Port Reception Facilities and Waste Reception Handling Plan in the BCs which request such type of support.

After that, the BCs presented a set of **priorities** and **expectations** for bilateral and regional activities for the timeframe 2019-2021. In this regard EMSA reminded the constraints represented by the financial resources available and the technical expertise accessible in-house. It was noted the importance of having PSC Seminars for the CIC campaign of 2019.

In the afternoon, EMSA presented the revised action plans with the new actions to be approved. The new THETIS-Med, the development of an e-learning module on Maritime English, the possibility of funding fellowships for the Master in Maritime Affairs at the World Maritime University, the launching of Exploratory missions in all beneficiary countries (exception is made for those BCs which underwent a preparatory IMSAS audit), were presented among other activities. With regard to the Exploratory Missions, an agenda of the mission will be agreed with the involved country in advance. Egypt emphasised the need for technical assistance in several areas. It was established that targeted bilateral activities will be agreed upon during the planned Exploratory Mission in the country.

EMSA stressed the importance of tools such as RuleCheck and MaKCs, reminding to all BCs that such tools are accessible to all staff of the Maritime Administration. EMSA encouraged beneficiaries to increase the number of users. Under this respect it was emphasised the importance of using effectively and continuously the tools in order to ensure the added value for the beneficiaries. The new e-learning module on Maritime English with subtitles in Arabic, for example, will cover specific aspects of a Port State Control in order to give the users the core elements to familiarise with the appropriate taxonomy for ship inspections.

Would the tender be successful, EMSA thoroughly explained the process for the selection of the candidates to the Master in Maritime Affairs at the World Maritime University which will follow a strict selection procedure agreed with the University.

The provision of appropriate feedback after having received a CleanSeaNet alert by the BCs to EMSA was newly stressed to the Steering Committee participants. To date, only 3 BCs have signed the Condition of Use. Lebanon and Libya informed EMSA that they will commit to sign the Condition of Use in the short term.

EMSA reminded the BCS that the action plan is a live document which can be revised upon specific requests by the BCS focal points and agreement by the contracting authority.

New areas for training were suggested by some beneficiaries, such as assistance for the STCW, BMW Convention, Search & Rescue, Maritime Law and IMO Conventions, amongst others.

Following the endorsement of the plan of technical actions for 2019, EMSA will develop a work plan, including an accurate timeline for the various actions to be undertaken. The Workplan for the implementation of the actions will be available by the end of October 2018 on the EMSA website.

The necessity of working together for the future implementation of the Work plan was emphasised by all participants.

Annexes

Agenda of the meeting

List of participants

Plan of technical actions

Presentations