

## HOW TO APPLY?

EMSA is the Empollex coordinator. Experts wishing to apply for an exchange should fill in the application form which can be found on EMSA's website, along with the Empollex guidelines.

A completed application form should be sent to the expert's national Empollex correspondent who evaluates and coordinates applications at national level. He/she then sends the application to EMSA which, after review and formal approval, will coordinate the exchange in cooperation with the expert and the host centre(s) of expertise.

The Empollex guidelines provide detailed information on the programme and should be reviewed before making an application.

## TESTIMONIALS

Since 2009, 34 experts have participated in the Empollex programme and 15 centres of expertise in nine different countries have hosted visits.

Some testimonials from experts and hosting centres are provided below:

*It is very interesting to see how other organisations work and to know that some problems and experiences are the same in different countries.*

*The exchange was very well organised and I was very well received by the host centre.*

*My expectations and objectives were fully met.*

*It is very interesting to be a hosting centre under the Empollex programme as good practices are shared, experiences and knowledge are exchanged and contacts are established.*

*It is always interesting to have an exchange with a "sister organisation" and we had several fruitful discussions. We would be happy to be a host centre again.*

For more information on the programme please contact the EMSA Empollex coordinator: [empollex@emsa.europa.eu](mailto:empollex@emsa.europa.eu) or visit the EMSA website: [emsa.europa.eu](http://emsa.europa.eu)



# EMPOLLEX PROGRAMME

## MARINE POLLUTION EXPERT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

[emsa.europa.eu](http://emsa.europa.eu)

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## INTRODUCING EMPOLLEX

Marine pollution from ships and from oil and gas installations, including oil pollution and pollution by hazardous and noxious substances (HNS), often needs to be addressed at-sea and within a short time frame. International cooperation is essential during major maritime pollution incidents, as the response operations demand a high level of skills, equipment and coordination.

International cooperation is improved when the experts and organisations involved have knowledge of each other's working practices. This can be facilitated through the EMSA Marine Pollution Expert Exchange Programme (Empollex).

Through Empollex experts from participating states are given the opportunity to visit foreign centres of expertise in order to exchange experiences. During the exchange the experts visit emergency services or other organisations with special expertise in marine pollution preparedness and response, to learn about approaches taken in other countries.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

- Promote exchange of best practice and expertise between national administrations
- Enhance contacts and cooperation between participating states, with a view to improving national preparedness and capabilities for response.



## SCOPE OF PROGRAMME AND AREAS OF EXPERTISE

The Empollex programme focusses on the exchange of experts in the field of at-sea pollution preparedness and response. There are five suggested thematic areas for an Empollex exchange:

### Coordination and incident management

- (inter)national coordination, decision-making, crisis management.

### Technical expertise for response operations

- response to pollution by oil or HNS at sea, aerial and satellite surveillance, response equipment and techniques.

### Contingency and emergency planning

- marine pollution contingency planning, preparedness and response aspects.

### Legal and financial aspects

- law enforcement and prosecution of deliberate marine pollution, claims, cost recovery.

### Scientific and environmental expertise

- environmental impact evaluation, remote sensing, mathematical modelling, monitoring and oil sample analysis.

The typical duration of an exchange is from a few days to one week, depending on the scope of the exchange and the host centre's availability.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Experts working in national administrations of participating states (EU member states, EU candidate countries, and coastal EEA/EFTA countries).

To apply for an exchange, experts must:

- have some experience in marine pollution preparedness and response
- be working in this field for a governmental institution/public administration
- have a clear objective to learn more about specific topics of marine pollution preparedness and response
- have a working knowledge of English and/or the language of the desired host centre of expertise.

## HOW ARE EXCHANGES FINANCED?

EMSA reimburses 75% of the associated costs of the exchange. The remaining 25% is at the expense of the country sending the expert abroad. All costs (flights, hotel, and daily expenses) will be paid up front by the expert and EMSA will subsequently reimburse in accordance with EMSA's Empollex reimbursement rules and the Empollex guidelines.

