



REGIONAL ACTIONS

EMSA is providing technical seminars, workshops and training courses to BCSEA beneficiary countries and working to forge fruitful exchanges between their maritime administration officials and EU Member States.



FLAG STATE IMPLEMENTATION

The activities under this component support the beneficiaries' maritime administrations in the implementation and enforcement of international legislation and development of national procedures. The activities conducted help the beneficiary countries to effectively fulfil their obligations and to exercise Flag State jurisdiction in accordance with the relevant instruments. This contributes to the project's overall objective of improving levels of maritime safety, security and marine pollution prevention.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The training session for Flag State inspectors was held at EMSA premises in Lisbon. It offered project beneficiaries structural training to comply with the relevant provisions of the III Code. The course covered simulated inspections on board ships, starting from the master's office and continuing to other areas such as the bridge, deck, engine room, and cargo and passenger areas, among others.

ACTIVITIES

21-24/5/2019 – Training for Flag State Inspectors.



21-24/5/2019 – Participants in the Training for Flag State Inspectors



VESSEL TRAFFIC MONITORING AND INFORMATICS SYSTEMS

Enhancing the capacity to monitor maritime traffic along the coastline also has the benefit of enhancing national capacity in the area of Port State Control and maritime pollution preparedness and response. Data exchange between coastal states of the same region enables the individual states to assess dangers and risks, and to be in a position to know the situation outside the areas of responsibility of specific VTS and to carry out risk analysis.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Beneficiary countries were trained on Advanced Traffic Management, operation and maintenance of the VTS equipment, VTS legislation, administrative functions and at emergency incidents response in accordance with the guidelines set out in the IALA (International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities) V-103/2 model course.

ACTIVITIES

6-17/5/2019 – Training for VTS Supervisors



27/8-5/9/2018 - Participants in the Training for Vessel Traffic System Operators in Turku, Finland

HUMAN ELEMENT

The human element is an important factor in maritime safety. It is a complex multi-dimensional issue that affects maritime safety, security and marine environmental protection involving the entire spectrum of human activities performed by ships' crews, shore-based management, regulatory bodies and others. Some 80% of maritime accidents can be attributed in some way to human element failures. The project will address the human element with the aim to continue achieving an effective enhancement of the maritime safety standards.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Training on MLC for the beneficiaries focused on the key aspects of the implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006. The training included discussions of the provisions for conditions of employment, hours of work and rest, payment and wages, accommodation, recreational facilities, occupation safety and health, among other various areas.

ACTIVITIES

30-31/01/2019 – Training on MLC, 2006 implementation



30-31/1/2019 – Participants in the Training on the Implementation of Maritime Labour Convention in EMSA, Lisbon, Portugal

PORT STATE CONTROL

The activities under this component are directed towards the further improvement of the technical requirements, criteria and standards applicable in the BSMoU through practical training for the PSC officers and further enhancing the coordination and harmonisation between the BSMoU members.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The overall objective of the training event for the Port State Control Officers was to incentivise a harmonised approach to PSC activities in the Caspian Sea region through the uniform and correct understanding and application of the relevant international legislation and the IMO procedures on PSC in particular.

Tailor made seminars in line with the BS MoU PSC procedures for Black Sea MoU Port State Control Officers were also delivered with the aim of contributing to harmonised understanding and application of these procedures during the PSC inspections in the ports of the BS MoU members.

Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) from beneficiaries were also provided with access to RuleCheck and eLearning platform.

ACTIVITIES

27-28/2/2019 – Training on PSC for Caspian Sea countries

26-29/3/2019 – Seminar for Black Sea MoU PSCOs



26-29/3/2019 - Participants in the Black Sea MoU PSCOs

PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The activities under this component focus on two main matters:

- Raising awareness on the need of the beneficiaries to accede to and implement those international conventions to which they are still not parties, to fully implement those to which they are already parties, and to enact legislation with approximation to the EU acquis and to provide them with the necessary technical assistance and support in the process;
- To provide the beneficiaries with operational support in the area of marine environmental protection.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Under the EU funded BCSEA, the Oil Spill Pollution Response Seminar and Exercise was organised with the support of the Bulgarian Maritime Administration and the oil tankers Galaxy Eco and Amalthia in Varna, Bulgaria.

The exercise focused first on a theoretical part on EMSA oil spill pollution response and prevention services and on Bulgarian Maritime Administration experience in oil spills preparedness and response. Then, second, on a practical part where the vessels' crew showed the pollution response equipment on a board as well as the mini laboratory equipment for measuring the dynamic viscosity, density and flashpoint of non-homogenous materials such as fuels, residual oils etc. There were also demonstrations of the deployments of booms as well as the recovery of the simulated oil spill and the dispersant spraying system.

Beneficiary countries were trained on the process of setting up a system for granting a Place of Refuge, requesting and granting of PoR with a highlight on the information gathering, risk assessment and decision-making. The existing mechanisms for financial security, liability and compensation for ship-related pollution incidents in relation to Places of Refuge were also discussed. The training was organised by EMSA with the support of Transport Malta Maritime, Ardent Global and International Group of P&I Clubs.

ACTIVITIES

12-14/6/2019 – Oil Pollution Response Exercise (Varna, Bulgaria)

19-20/6/2019 – Training on Places of Refuge and TTE



12-14/6/2019 – Oil Pollution Response Exercise (Bulgaria)

BILATERAL ACTIONS

Beneficiary countries have different characteristics. The length of their coastline, the size and composition of their fleets, their maritime industry and their administrations, the number of seafarers, and the number of international conventions on maritime safety ratified and implemented vary considerably from country to country.

For this reason, they can have different priorities which are identified during an inception phase which includes an interactive dialogue. As a result, bilateral actions are set to address the needs taking into account their relevance in achieving the goals of the TRAS and the commitment of each beneficiary to implement the reforms supported by the project.

These actions are identified by analysing the outcome of the regional actions implemented, as well as on the basis of specific requests coming from the beneficiaries. All identified needs are evaluated from a technical viewpoint by EMSA before being submitted for approval to the Contracting Authority together with an indication of the budget to be allocated.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Maritime Administration of Moldova was supported in establishing procedures for the recognition and monitoring of recognised organisations to act on their behalf under the IMO mandatory instruments.

The State Maritime Administration of Azerbaijan was trained on the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 and on Accident Investigation, both training sessions were held in Baku. The training contributed to further develop the accident investigation and inspection capabilities of the country.

Under the BCSEA Project, EMSA organised training in Kiev on the IMO Code and EU Directive on Accident Investigation to develop the capabilities of the Ukrainian authorities.

A tutoring project on PSC for container vessels for the Port State Control Inspectors of the Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia was also carried out in the first half of 2019. Through the Project, EMSA supported a preparatory audit of the Georgian Seafarers Training and Certification system for compliance with the STCW Convention 1978 carried out by external experts in Batumi. The objective of the event was the verification of compliance of activities of the Georgian maritime authority related to the establishment of standards for training, monitoring of education, assessment of competence, issue and revalidation of certificates for competency and certificates for proficiency.

As a part of the bilateral component of the BCSEA Project, EMSA participated as an observer in the IMO Member State Audit Scheme carried out in Turkmenistan to explore areas of technical support that could be provided to the Maritime Administration of Turkmenistan in order to address those audit findings falling within the components of the BCSEA Project for a rapid and appropriate closing of the relevant gaps.

ACTIVITIES

- 11-14/2/2019 – Moldova:** Establishing procedures for Recognition and Monitoring of ROs
- 20-22/2/2019 – Azerbaijan:** Training on MLC, 2006
- 9-10/4/2019 – Ukraine:** Training on IMO Code and EU Directive on AI
- 9-11/4/2019 – Georgia:** Tutoring Project on PSC (container vessels)
- 16-18/4/2019 – Georgia:** Preparatory Audit under STCW
- 3-4/6/2019 – Azerbaijan:** Sharing best practices on AI
- 17-24/6/2019 – Turkmenistan:** Observer at Audit under IMSAS



9-11/4/2019 – Tutoring Project on PSC (container vessels) in Batumi, Georgia



20-22/2/2019 – Azerbaijan Training on MLC, 2006



ON-BOARD TALKS

with Nicolae Malic – Principal Consultant, Head of Naval Transport Division of Republic of Moldova



How is the BCSEA Project improving international relations and cooperation with your neighbour countries?

The BCSEA Project plays a great role in enhancing the institutional capacities of the national authorities dealing with maritime policy, both at the central and

secondary level. In the regional context, with our neighbours, we rely on the knowledge and experience we get from EMSA and try to adopt and implement a common understanding and approach when dealing with different issues in maritime shipping, back in our country.

How important are the tools (RuleCheck, MaKCs, etc.) provided by EMSA to your country?

I consider these tools very useful in the daily work. An inspector can easily access International and European Union legislation which applies to a specific ship. On the other hand, having the opportunity to learn and complete at a distance some mandatory courses as per the national professional development scheme, facilitates a lot the efforts of an administration to maintain and develop the competence of its personnel.

How did maritime safety improve in your country with the BCSEA project?

First of all, with EMSA's support, we drafted new legislation and we are in the process of promoting these normative acts in the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

Secondly, we have already started discussions with the project officers to organise and perform common practical audits with EMSA's specialists for the low performing Recognised Organisations, which act on behalf of the Republic of Moldova.

What can be improved/modified in the BCSEA Project?

As a focal point from the Republic of Moldova, I discuss a lot with my colleagues who attend EMSA's events which are very well structured. The lecturers have huge experience and share it with professionalism. In many cases, in practice, things and processes may look different and I think that the combined theoretical and practical exercises are the best way to raise the standards of the maritime administrations in the BCSEA region and on board of the ships flying the flags of our countries.