

Meeting: 8th SSN / LRIT Group Meeting

Place and date: Lisbon, 21 October 2020

Agenda item: SSN v5 Interface Working Group - draft proposals

Document number: SSN/LRIT 8.4.2

Submitted by EMSA

Summary	This document presents the progress report of the work of the working group for the definition of the technical specifications for the SafeSeaNet version 5 interface.
Action to be taken	As per paragraph 5.
Related documents	n.a.

1 Background

The 7th HLSG meeting (held via VC on 2-3 July 2020), agreed to establish a working group for the definition of the technical specifications for the SafeSeaNet Version 5 (SSN v5) interface with the objective to draft the detailed technical documentation for SSN v5 under the coordination of EMSA.

The following Member States (MS) indicated their intention to participate in the working group: Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

2 Scope of SSN v5

The scope of SSN v5 was agreed by the HLSG and it covers the changes that derive from the:

- Exchange of information on persons sailing on board passenger ships for search and rescue purposes as required by Directive 98/41/EC as amended by Directive (EU) 2017/2109.
- Exchange of information from the revised advance waste notification and the waste delivery receipt, and the subsequent transmission to THETIS-EU to support the inspection database on port reception facilities, as required by Directive (EU) 2019/883.
- Proposals for improving Incident Reporting from the Incident Report Working Group.

According to Directive 98/41/EC, SSN v5 will support the exchange of personal information. Additional security measures will need to be put in place in order to secure the data exchanges at both central and national levels in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 (EU DPR). The results of the "Security and Interoperability Solutions Study," which was completed in April 2020, will be used to define the security measures to be applied in SSN v5.

The following two changes had been agreed by the SSN/LRIT group and submitted to the HLSG for their implementation in SSN v4. However, the HLSG decided to postpone their implementation because of the impact on some MSs' national systems. It is now proposed to include them in the scope of SSN v5:

- Phase out of Ship AIS Notifications (i.e. usage of the streaming interface only).

The streaming interface is used by all MSs to provide AIS information to the central SSN system, while some MSs (currently only Germany) also use the XML message-based mechanism (Ship AIS Notifications) to provide the same information. Maintaining the XML message-based mechanism in addition to the streaming interface adds no operational value and causes unnecessary data flows.

- Phase out of the "proprietary" XML interface (i.e. usage of SOAP protocol only).

The SSN "proprietary" XML interface was initially set-up in 2004 when SSN v1 was developed. Following the upgrade to SSN v2 in 2009, the SSN system was aligned with industry best practices and offers a SOAP interface in addition to the "proprietary" XML interface. In addition, the SOAP version will be upgraded to v1.2.

According to the schedule approved by the HLSG, SSN v5 will be available in the Production environment in December 2021.

3 Current Status

The working group carried out its tasks in accordance with the agreed terms of reference. The work was organised as follows:

- By correspondence (September 2020)

The draft System Requirements Specifications and XML Reference Guide documents were distributed for the consideration of the working group on 7 September 2020. The draft Security Guidelines was distributed on 16 September.

- Meeting (22 September 2020, videoconference)

The draft System Requirements Specifications, XML Messaging Reference Guide and Security Guidelines with the comments received from the participants were reviewed in detail during a meeting and each comment was addressed.

- By correspondence and meeting (October-November 2020)

The working group will continue reviewing the draft documentation by correspondence, including the MS Commissioning Test Plan and the SSN webservice document.

4 Documentation for SSN v5 interface

The draft System Requirements Specifications for SSN v5 are provided in Annex I, the draft XML Messaging Reference Guide in Annex II, the draft SSN Web services document in Annex III, the draft MS Commissioning Tests Plan in Annex IV and the draft Security Guidelines in Annex V.

In the draft XML Messaging Reference Guide, all changes compared to the current version v4.02 are indicated.

The documents still include open issues and some comments still to be addressed by the working group. The SSN Web services document and the MS Commissioning Tests Plan have not yet been reviewed by the working group.

SSN v5 will offer a backward compatibility with SSN v4 messages during a transition period where both SSN v4 and SSN v5 messages will be in place. A detailed document presenting how such backward compatibility will be addressed will be presented at the next SSN Group meeting.

5 Next steps

The technical documentation will be finalised at the next meeting of the working group (planned for mid-November 2020) to address the additional comments received from the SSN Group and close the open issues that were identified.

Following this meeting, the final draft versions will be submitted to the SSN Group by email for validation.

The SSN technical documentation will be submitted to the HLSG for final endorsement at its meeting of December 2020.

6 Actions required

The Member States are invited to:

- provide their comments to the SSN technical documentation provided in annex **by 30 October 2020**; and
- note that the final drafts will be submitted by email to the SSN Group in November 2020 for validation, before being submitted to the HLSG for endorsement.

Attachments:

Annex I: System Requirements Specifications for SSN v5

Annex II: Draft XML Messaging Reference Guide v5.0

Annex III: Draft SSN Web services document v2.0

Annex IV: Draft Member State Commissioning Tests Plan and Report v3.0

Annex V: Draft SSN Security Guidelines v3.0