

## EMSA OFFERS ENHANCED MARITIME AWARENESS FOR OPERATIONS IN SOMALIA AND LIBYA THROUGH AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH EU NAVAL MISSIONS

EMSA is supporting EU Naval Force operations – Atalanta and Irini – following the signature of two cooperation agreements with EU NAVFOR-Somalia (Operation Atalanta) on the one hand and EUNAVFOR MED (Operation Irini) on the other. Operation Atalanta targets counter piracy and the protection of vulnerable vessels and humanitarian shipments off the coast of Somalia, while Operation Irini seeks to enforce the UN arms embargo on Libya and in doing so contribute to the country's peace process. By cooperating with EMSA in the areas of maritime security and surveillance, multiple sources of ship specific information and positional data can be combined to enhance maritime awareness for the EU Naval Force in places of particularly high risk and sensitivity. The [support provided by EMSA](#) comes in the context of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy.



This form of cooperation is a great example of how the Agency is serving maritime security and enforcement communities worldwide.



Maritime traffic off the Horn of Africa as displayed on EMSA's Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) platform.

## INNOVATIVE COURSE ON THE TRAINING, EXAMINATION AND CERTIFICATION OF SEAFARERS COMMENCES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE BCSEA PROJECT

Within the framework of the EU-funded project "Maritime safety, security, and marine environmental protection in the Black and Caspian Sea Regions" (BCSEA project), an innovative course under the title "Training on Assessment, Examination and Certification of Seafarers" will run for six weeks until the end of March for 20 participants from Georgia and Ukraine. The course is a combination of synchronous (live) online sessions – with a duration of up to four hours – and asynchronous (self-study) sessions with an expected time investment of up to three hours per day, delivered on [EMSA's MaKCs platform](#). The course has been developed under the EMSA Academy, using the expertise available within EMSA and the Academy's toolbox. The overall objective of this course is to provide knowledge and skills to administer, supervise and monitor training and assessment of competence in accordance with the provisions of Section A-I/6 of the STCW Code. The course entails assessments and participants upon successful completion will be awarded with a certificate confirming achievement of the intended learning outcomes, participation, and demonstration of knowledge and specific skills. The course falls under Component 5 - Human Element in maritime safety of the BC SEA Project and aims at further fostering the implementation of the STCW Convention by the beneficiaries and enhancing the monitoring of Maritime Education and Training Institutions.



## JUST PUBLISHED: EMSA ACADEMY CATALOGUE OF COURSES

EMSA has just published the catalogue of courses offered to national authorities under the framework of the EMSA Academy. This document sets out the various programmes that form the basis of EMSA's routine training activities. It describes those courses which are offered to the national authorities of EU Member States, Norway and Iceland, Enlargement and European Neighbouring Countries, even if these are not necessarily held every year. While the majority of training activities are organised on a regular basis, EMSA also occasionally provides ad hoc courses to cover very specific needs of maritime administrations at a particular time.



## EMSA ACADEMY 2022 COURSE CATALOGUE

The overall goal of EMSA training is to build capacity at national level, foster cooperation and share best practices.

## USE OF RPAS IN MARITIME SURVEILLANCE HEADLINE TOPIC OF EUROPEAN COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS FORUM WORKSHOP

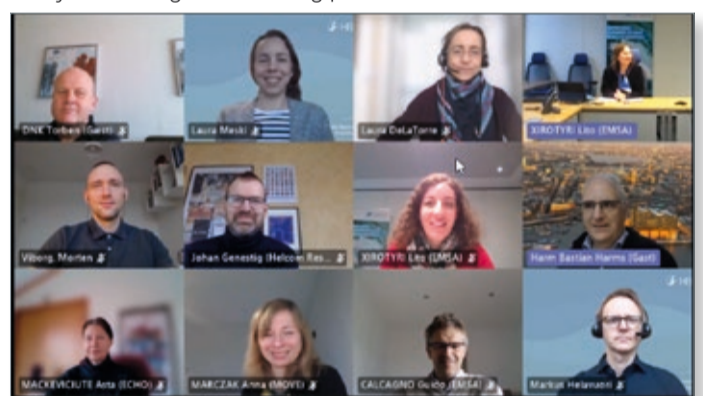
EMSA hosted the European Coast Guard Functions Forum Workshop on the use of RPAS in Maritime Surveillance, held under the Presidency of Croatia, on 15-16 February. The workshop gathered 150 representatives – both virtually and in person – from 23 coastal states, four EU agencies (EASA, EFCA, FRONTEX, and EMSA) as well as the European Space Agency (ESA), the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC (N)) and the European Commission, DG MOVE and DG HOME. The level of participation reflected the high level of interest in this topic which is of importance to the day-to-day surveillance activities of member state authorities. The workshop provided an opportunity to hear from member states with experience in using RPAS for maritime surveillance purposes, as well as from EU agencies/ bodies, and industry. Presentations were given by: Estonia, which is active in regional maritime surveillance activities with Finland and Latvia; France, which is deploying RPAS for emissions monitoring and in doing so supporting port state control authorities; and, Spain, which laid out the various operational scenarios in which RPAS have been used so far. Participants also heard from EMSA on the opportunities presented by the growing portfolio of [RPAS services](#) being rolled out. This portfolio is continually being adapted to reflect the newest technologies, focusing on the ones most useful to member state users. The third ECGFF workshop is expected to take place in Croatia in April 2022.



Workshop participants highlighted 'real time exchange of information with shore' as one of the key strengths of using RPAS for maritime surveillance

## INTER-SECRETARIAT COOPERATION FORUM MEETS TO DISCUSS POLLUTION PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ISSUES

Pollution prevention and response was the topic of discussions at the virtually held Inter-Secretariat meeting between Regional Agreements, the European Commission and EMSA on 15-16 February. Approximately 30 participants gathered from the secretariats of the various Regional Sea Conventions and Regional Agreements in Europe, relevant European Commission services (DG ECHO, DG MOVE, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, JRC) and EMSA. These annually held meetings provide a unique forum for exchanging information, sharing good practice and providing inter-regional updates on ongoing work and on topics of common interest in the field of oil and HNS marine pollution prevention, preparedness and response. The meeting was held online and addressed regional updates and work on MARPOL Annex VI emissions monitoring, the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the review of the Ship-Source Pollution Directive, presented new initiatives such as the EU Emissions Trading System and the FuelEU Maritime, as well as the 1st EU MODEX exercise on marine pollution, and enabled discussions on regional risk analysis and regional funding priorities.



## DISCOVER HOW EMSA'S INTEGRATED MARITIME SERVICES SUPPORT SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

EMSA recently published a short overview of the [Search and Rescue toolbox](#) available to national authorities through the Agency's Integrated Maritime Services. The comprehensive maritime traffic picture provided by the IMS allows for efficient monitoring of SAR activities, marking distress situations and search and rescue assets. When an emergency or incident occurs, national authorities have access to a SAR toolbox which allows them to monitor SAR patterns and mobilised assets using the integrated track functionalities. The toolbox also strengthens preparedness as it gives access to EU maritime authority contacts and early warnings for potentially dangerous situations through the algorithms provided by Automated Behaviour Monitoring alerts. IMS interfaces also link to Earth Observation imageries, products and services to offer a comprehensive maritime traffic picture.



EMSA offers support to national authorities enabling an efficient monitoring of SAR activities.

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

**VACANCIES:** Project Officer for Visits and Inspections - SNE (10/6/2022); Project Officer for Sustainability - SNE (7/4/22). See website for more.

**PROCUREMENT:** Standby oil spill recovery vessels - Atlantic North (21/3/2022). See website for more.