

EMSA IPA-ENP NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 / February 2025



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WELCOME

Welcome to a new edition of the EMSA IPA-ENP newsletter. Here you will find news and updates on the three technical assistance projects managed by EMSA, which span 21 countries and thousands of kilometres of coastline, from the Atlantic to the eastern shores of the Caspian Sea.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

THROUGH THE BCSEA II, SAFEMED V, AND IPA III PROJECTS, EMSA DELIVERS A SERIES OF ACTIONS ACROSS FIVE PRIORITY AREAS: SUSTAINABILITY, SAFETY, SECURITY, SIMPLIFICATION AND SURVEILLANCE IN THE MARITIME DOMAIN. THE ACTIONS TAKE THE FORM OF TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES, TRAINING ACTIVITIES, AND THE PROVISION OF TOOLS AND SERVICES.

BCSEA II Project: Strengthening environmental resilience and maritime safety for Black & Caspian Sea riparian states

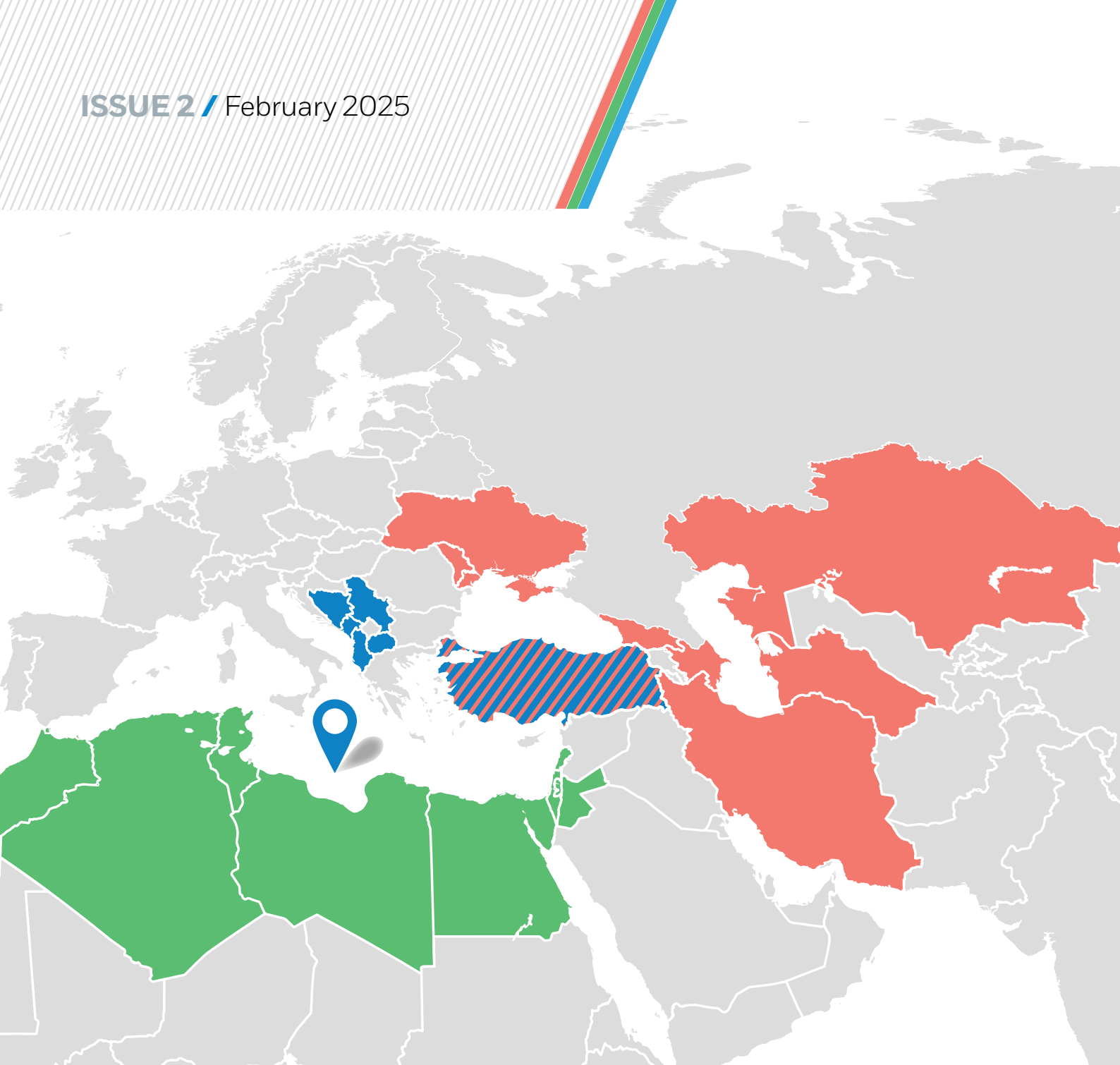
The BCSEA project is financed by DG NEAR under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The project's beneficiary countries are Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Ukraine, Türkiye, and Turkmenistan. The project runs for 48 months, from 1 October 2022 to 31 September 2026. It has a budget of EUR 3 500 000. The second year of implementation followed the Action Plan 2024 endorsed by the BCSEA II 2nd Steering Committee Meeting (SCM). Although the ongoing conflict makes it difficult for Ukraine to integrate the technical assistance provided and finalise the actions, significant advances were made towards achieving the project's goals, particularly with Moldova, which is being widely supported in transposing both international maritime conventions and the EU maritime acquis into the national legislative system.

SAFEMED V Project: EuroMed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships

SAFEMED V is also financed by DG NEAR under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The project's beneficiary countries are Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia. The project runs for 60 months, from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2028. It has a budget of EUR 8 000 000. Although the terrorist attack of 7 October 2023 on Israel and the current security situation made safe travel to beneficiaries in the eastern Mediterranean impossible, the project continued offering tools and services to the beneficiaries. Among other achievements, the first delivery of the Core Common Curriculum for MED MoU Port State Control Officers was finalised, and the maritime administration of Lebanon was supported in enhancing cooperation between national authorities with roles and responsibilities in the implementation and enforcement of the maritime conventions.

IPA III Project: Preparatory measures for the future participation of candidate countries in the European Maritime Safety Agency

The IPA III project is financed by DG NEAR under the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA). The project's beneficiary countries are Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Türkiye. The project runs for 48 months, from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2027. It has a budget of EUR 800 000. All five project beneficiaries were supported with technical actions during 2024, particularly Albania and Türkiye, which were supported in preparing for the IMO audit (IMSAS), and Serbia, which received assistance in assessing the system the country has in place to provide seafarers with certificates of competency according to the STCW Convention.



BCSEA II

- Azerbaijan
- Georgia
- Iran
- Kazakhstan
- Moldova
- Ukraine
- Türkiye
- Turkmenistan

SAFEMED V

- Algeria
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Israel
- Libya
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Palestine
- Tunisia

IPA III

- Albania
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- The Republic of North Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Türkiye

BCSEA II PROJECT

BCSEA II PROJECT 2024

TOOLS

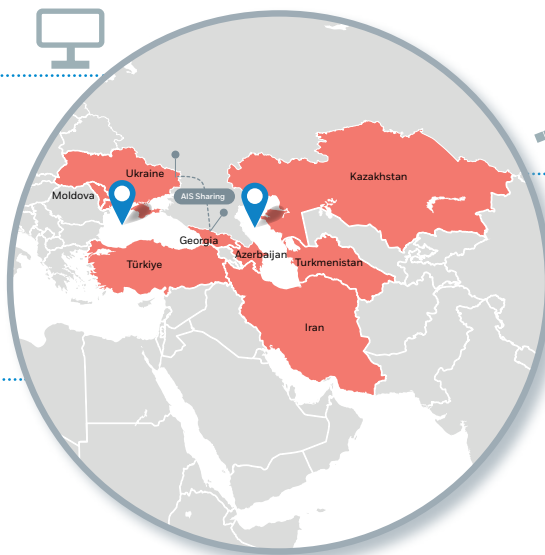
458 | ELearning – MaKCs users

595 | Rulecheck – Flag State and Port State users

TRAINING COURSES & EVENTS

21 | Sessions and events

220 | Participants



SERVICES

166 | CleanSeaNet users

997 | CleanSeaNet images delivered

162 | MAR-CIS users

208 | Sharing T-AIS Information users



Oil Pollution Response equipment donated to the Ukrainian Sea Port Authority



Credits: soleg/Getty Images

BCSEA II PROJECT: HIGHLIGHTS 2024



In June, a staff member of Ukraine's maritime administration successfully completed the Master of Laws (LLM) in International Maritime Law degree programme at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) in Malta with the dissertation "A Legal Analysis of the Freedom of Navigation in Times of Conflict: The example of the Full-Scale Invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine". The graduate of the programme stated that the knowledge and skills acquired during his project-funded studies will significantly contribute to fulfilling his role at the Ministry for Communities, Territories, and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine.



An external expert selected from the EMSA's external expert's database supported the maritime administration of Ukraine in drafting a procedure to improve the Ships' Routing System in the Territorial Sea of Ukraine. After the adoption by the relevant authority, the procedure will contribute to resolving the relevant finding of the latest IMSAS audit by the IMO and enhancing the standards of maritime safety and maritime surveillance in this project beneficiary country.



Moldova was offered support for drafting the national legislation for transposition of applicable international maritime conventions as well as EU maritime legislation. The activity is expected to be finalised in 2025 and will provide this project beneficiary with the opportunity to establish the necessary legal basis to effectively implement and enforce the SOLAS Convention and its Protocols while contributing to the achievement of the goals of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Community and the beneficiary.



Two sets of new naval Fence Booms (800 metres in total) from the EMSA Equipment Assistance Service (EAS) stockpile located in Varna, Bulgaria, were donated to the Ukrainian Sea Port Authority (USPA) to enhance its capability to combat potential oil spills. The need for this equipment is accentuated by the presence in the Kherson Sea Port of two vessels already sunken and three others in critical condition. The equipment was transported by EMSA to Odessa, Ukraine, and successfully delivered on 6 June 2024.



Master of Law in International Maritime Law, attended at IMLI in Malta by Mr. Mykola Panchyshyn, a member of the Ukrainian Maritime Administration

SAFEMED V PROJECT

SAFEMED V PROJECT: 2024

TOOLS

429 | ELearning – MaKCs users

361 | Rulecheck – Flag State and Port State users

308 | THETIS-Med - users

TRAINING COURSES & EVENTS

22 | Sessions and events

252 | Participants



SERVICES

95 | CleanSeaNet users

2109 | CleanSeaNet images delivered

17 | MAR-CIS users

78 | Sharing T-AIS Information users



3rd Steering Committee meeting of the SAFEMED V Project

SAFEMED V PROJECT: HIGHLIGHTS 2024



The Common Core Curriculum for Med MoU PSCOs was designed in cooperation with the Med MoU Secretariat and was the follow-up to the approval of the training policy for PSCOs by the Med MoU Steering Committee. The first delivery of this curriculum course was organised within the context of the project and took place in hybrid mode from 23 September to 4 December 2024 with the participation of 35 PSCOs from the Med MoU members..



To pave the way for enhanced cooperation between the Lebanese authorities involved in the implementation of international maritime conventions, an awareness session on the IMO Instruments Implementation (III) Code was held at the EMSA premises on 16 and 17 April 2024, with the participation of 10 high-level representatives from those authorities.



A training session for VTS operators, according to the IALA standard V-103/1, was organised in Spain with the participation of four operators from Algeria, Jordan, Libya, and Morocco with the aim of supporting the relevant authorities of these project beneficiaries to better manage their VTS systems with properly skilled staff.



Two staff members of the project's beneficiaries' maritime administrations, namely from Jordan and Morocco, have been supported by the project to enrol in the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) in Malta and attend the Master of Humanities (MHum) in International Maritime Legislation degree programme in the academic year 2024-2025.



The 3rd Steering Committee meeting of the SAFEMED V Project was held on 1 October 2024 in a hybrid format, facilitating both in-person and online attendance. The meeting was attended by participants from the project's beneficiary countries – Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia – as well as Türkiye as an observer. Following the discussion on the project's action plan presented by EMSA, the Committee endorsed the action plan for 2025 and the possible learning services to developed by the EMSA Academy in 2026.



Participants of the Common Core Curriculum for Med MoU PSCOs



Core Course Curriculum for Flag State Inspectors



Visit of the Lebanese authorities

IPA III PROJECT

IPA III PROJECT: 2024

TOOLS



- 113** | ELearning – MaKCs users
- 325** | Rulecheck – Flag State and Port State users

TRAINING COURSES & EVENTS



- 19** | Sessions and events
- 99** | Participants



SERVICES

- 43** | CleanSeaNet users
- 385** | CleanSeaNet images delivered
- 26** | MAR-CIS users
- 74** | Sharing T-AIS Information users



Durres, Albania - Credits: RDphotos/Getty Images



Credits: fotolgahan/Getty Images

IPA III PROJECT: HIGHLIGHTS 2024



Through the set of activities falling under the TIE(R) initiative – i.e., (the Transposition, Implementation, and Enforcement in support of Ratification) – EMSA is continuing to provide draft national legislation for transposing EU maritime acquis into the national law of the project beneficiaries. The latest activities undertaken in this area are the transposition of Directive 2019/883 and Regulations 2015/757 and 2019/1239 for the Republic of Serbia.



Albania and Türkiye received assistance to prepare for their respective upcoming audits under the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS). Preparatory audits were conducted to this end in Ankara and Istanbul (Türkiye) in May 2024 and Tirana and Durrës (Albania) in December 2024. Upon request of the beneficiaries, the project will provide further support to follow up on the outcome of the audits.



Utilising an external expert selected from the Agency's dedicated database, the project supported Montenegro in drafting the implementing procedures for the national Search and Rescue (SAR) plan enabling the country to enhance and rationalise the SAR organisation at the national level.



Preparatory IMSAS audits carried out in Türkiye in May 2024



Preparatory IMSAS audits carried out in Albania in December 2024