

## 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IHO-EU Network Working Group Saint-Mandé, France 18-19 January 2016

The IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG), established by the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) to monitor and deal with the activities and processes developed under the aegis of the European Union (EU), held its fourth meeting in Saint-Mandé, France, on 18 and 19 January 2016, at the invitation of the French Hydrographic Office (SHOM).

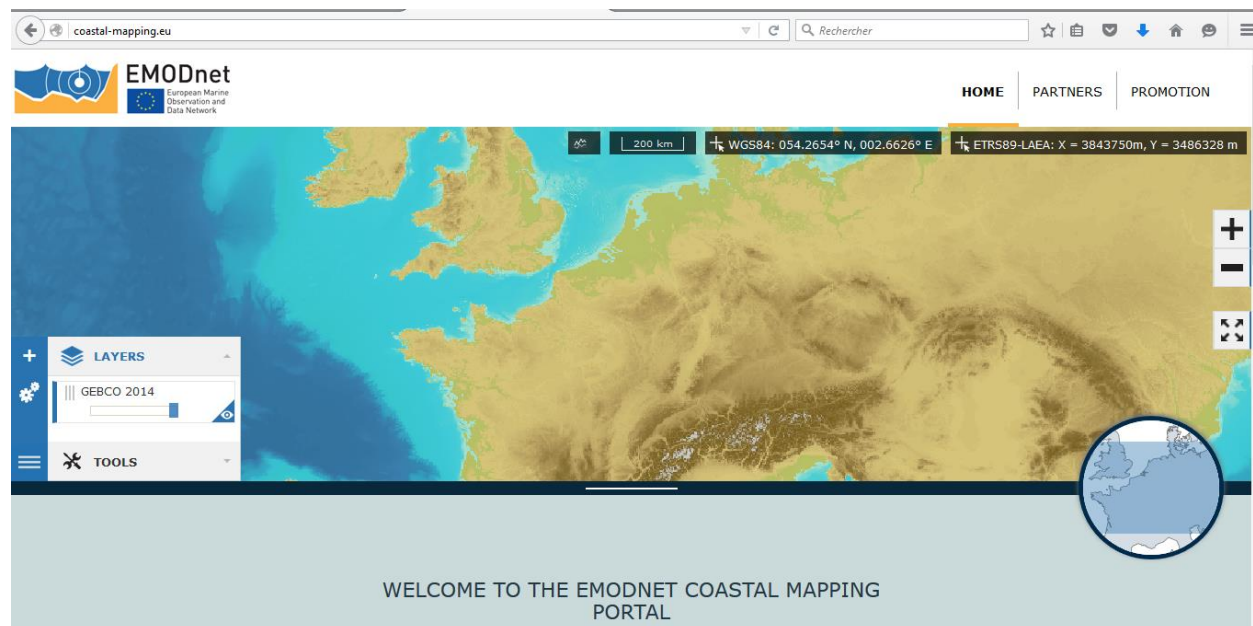
The meeting was chaired by Laurent Kerléguer (France) and attended by representatives from the following Regional Hydrographic Commissions:

- Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (Sweden),
- Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (France),
- Nordic Hydrographic Commission (Norway)
- North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (United Kingdom)
- North Sea Hydrographic Commission (Germany),
- South Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission (France)
- South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (France).

Apologies had been received from Denmark, representing the Arctic Hydrographic Commission and from Greece, representing the Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission.

Director Gilles Bessero represented the IHB.

France, as project coordinator, reported on the progress of the Coastal Mapping Project funded by the European Commission in support of the development of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet). The project brings together 11 European Hydrographic Offices. Its objectives are to assess the current availability of digital coastal maps in the EU, to disseminate this information by EMODnet, to share experience of coastal mapping in the EU, to develop standards for best practices and to propose how a future Joint European Coastal Mapping Programme (JECMaP) could operate. The first significant milestone was reached successfully with the opening of a dedicated portal in December 2015 (see <http://coastal-mapping.eu/>).



The meeting noted that the future call for tenders on the phase III of the bathymetry component of EMODnet which was expected in late 2015 had not been issued yet and discussed further the arrangements for preparing a response. The participants agreed that EMODnet-bathymetry should be promoted as the reference dataset in support of UN-GGIM Europe, EuroGOOS and other related

European initiatives. The meeting considered also the support that Hydrographic Offices (HOs) could provide to the phase III of the component of EMODnet related to human activities and drafted a report inviting the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group (MSDIWG) to analyse further the role of HOs. The participants agreed on several actions to strengthen the contribution of Hydrographic Offices to the implementation and further development of the EU Spatial Data Infrastructure framework (INSPIRE) and develop a strategy to promote the use of S-100 - *IHO Universal Hydrographic Data Model*.

The meeting considered the recent development and calls for proposals related to the implementation of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and agreed to invite participation to the calls on a case by case basis through the relevant Regional Hydrographic Commissions. France reported on the request that the IENWG be recognized by the European Commission as an observer in the MSP Expert Group.

The meeting reconfirmed its view that EU HOs should liaise with their national maritime administrations to ensure the inclusion of the maintenance of software-based marine equipment (such as ECDIS) in the agenda of the EU Expert Group on the Marine Equipment Directive (MARED). The participants acknowledged the view expressed by Comité International Radio-Maritime (CIRM) that the issue would be best addressed at the level of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) but noted that a common position of the EU IMO Member States would help.

The meeting supported a proposal from France to investigate the feasibility of a project aiming at enhancing the archives held by EU HOs, in particular to support climate change studies and to ensure their conservation and accessibility in the long term. The group agreed to start with an inventory of these archives.

It is planned to hold the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IENWG on 12 and 13 October 2016, in conjunction with an IHO-EC meeting.