

Report of the IHO-EU network working group (IENWG)

Submitted by:	Chair of IENWG
Related Documents:	/
Related Projects:	/

Chair:	Laurent Kerléguer, France
Vice-Chair:	/
Secretary:	/
Members:	IHB, ARHC, represented by Denmark BSHC, represented by Sweden EAtHC, represented by France MACHC, represented by France MBSHC, represented by Greece NHC, represented by Norway NIOHC, represented by United Kingdom NSHC, represented by Germany SAIHC, represented by France SWPHC
Expert Contributors:	/

Meetings Held During Reporting Period

IENWG 3 - Saint-Mandé, France, (9-10 June 2015)

IENWG 4 - 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 third and fourth meeting in Saint-Mandé, France.

On 18 February 2016, IHB Director Gilles Bessero and Ingénieur Général Bruno Frachon, National Hydrographer of France, on behalf of the IHO-European Union Network Working Group (IENWG), met with Mr Joao Aguiar Machado, Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, at the European Commission (EC) in Brussels, Belgium.

In that occasion the IHO representatives highlighted the wide scope of activities of the IHO and its Member States, encompassing not only the safety of navigation but the support of the whole blue economy, and the relevance of these activities for several EC Directorates-General, including capacity building issues in relation to development aid.

The next meeting between the EC and the IHO is scheduled in October 2016 in Brussels.

Magnus Wallhagen of Hydrographic Office, Swedish Maritime Administration will represent the IENWG at the European Maritime Day 2016 in Turku Finland 18-19 May.

Work Programme

The work programme of IENWG is given in annex.

During the reporting period, the activities have mainly concerned:

1. "Coastal Mapping":

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG Mare) has awarded a contract on coastal mapping call MARE/2014/10 to the consortium led by SHOM.

The kick-off meeting was held at the end of June in Saint-Mandé.

Three years after the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission (EC) and the IHO, this is the first significant success for a consortium of HOs taking the lead in an important EU project.

The overall aims of the project are to:

- Assess the current availability of digital coastal maps in the EU
- Disseminate this information by EMODnet
- Share experience of coastal mapping in the EU
- Develop standards for best practices
- Propose how a future JECMaP could operate

The project team validated the portal specifications. The portal publicly opened on 23rd December 2015.

The principles of the algorithm that will help in choosing the best way to assess the knowledge in coastal areas were validated by the project team during the Roma (IT) meeting in early March 2016. The first version of this algorithm, the outcomes from the past experience survey and the progress of all the other tasks were reported in the interim report submitted in early April 2016 (approval in progress).

The next objectives are:

- To improve the algorithm by gathering more information (on costs in particular) from non-partners
- To set up the algorithm function on the portal in order to promote it and help the previous objective
- To build and submit an acquisition programme by using the algorithm and taking into account economic models, data policies and EU fundings.

2. EMODNet:

The European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) is a long term marine data initiative from the DG MARE underpinning its Marine Knowledge 2020 strategy. The main purpose of EMODnet is to unlock fragmented and hidden marine data resources and to make these available to individuals and organisations (public and private), and to facilitate investment in sustainable coastal and offshore activities through improved access to quality-assured, standardised and harmonized marine data which are interoperable and free of restrictions on use.

Currently EMODnet is in the 2nd phase of development with seven sub-portals in operation that provide access to marine data from the following themes: bathymetry, geology, physics, chemistry, biology, seabed habitats and human activities. Several European HOs are already involved in in this 2nd phase.

The call for the third phase should be launched before the summer 2016.

After consulting European HOs of the RHC concerned, IENWG HOs have defined a common strategy relative to the future "EMODNET 3 bathymetry" call for tender.

3. Maritime spatial planning

On 23 July 2014, the European Parliament issued the Directive 2014/89/EU establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning. In several European MS, HOs are key players in the field of MSP. For that reason IENWG has requested an observer seat at the MSP expert group in order to represent IHO. It was awarded in May which will allow attending the 8th MSP expert group meeting (not scheduled yet).

4. Miscellaneous

Maritime Equipment Directive

IENWG is considering how EU Directive on Marine Equipment could foster the requirement that software-based equipment such as ECDIS be updated to the latest version of the relevant standards.

HOs of EU/EEA have liaised with their relevant administration to make sure that the question of ECDIS maintenance is at the agenda of the next Maritime Equipment Expert Group (<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=2653>). This question has not yet been raised at the MED expert group.

Progress on IRCC Action Items

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Problems Encountered

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Any Other Items of Note

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Conclusions and Recommended Actions

It is proposed to IRCC to endorse the work program of IENWG in annex.

Justification and Impacts

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Action Required of IRCC

The IRCC is invited to endorse the report.

CONSOLIDATED IHO-EU network WG Work Programme
Current Version 20 January

Tasks

A	To monitor the outcome of the EC call for tender “Coastal mapping”
B	To prepare the position of European HOs about the future phase of EMODNet, the long term marine data initiative from the European Commission
C	To improve cooperation with the European Commission, by promoting amongst its entities and with decision makers the role of the hydrographic offices in development of EU maritime policies
D	To monitor European directives, calls for tenders and proposals, projects, events, etc, potentially impacting HOs and to define actions to be conducted in accordance

Work Items

Work item	Title	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed S-Supersede d	Contact Person(s)	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
A.1	To tender, as a consortium including several EU HOs, to the call “Coastal mapping”	H		Aug 2014	Nov 2014	C			

Work item	Title	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed S-Superseded	Contact Person(s)	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
A.2	To monitor the decision of DG Mare about "Coastal mapping"	M		Dec 2014	March 2015?	C	Chair		Contract awarded to HOs consortium.
A.3	If awarded to the consortium, to monitor the progress of the study "Coastal mapping"	M		June 2015 ?	June 2018?	O	Project leader at SHOM		Kick-off meeting June 2015 in Saint-Mandé. The coastal mapping portal was opened on December 2015
B.1	To encourage the chairs of RHCs to consider implementing the model of the Baltic Sea bathymetric database in their region	H		Feb 2015		O			Letter sent to RHC chairs in February 2015. Actions initiated by NSHC and EAtHC in March 2015. NSHC CL 3/2015 and CL4/2015 EATHC CL n°2/2015 MBSHC CL 2/2015

Work item	Title	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed S-Superseded	Contact Person(s)	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
B.2	To determine the position of HOs about next phase of EMODNet	H		Jan 2015	Aug 2015	O	All members of the WG		Some IENWG proposals for technical specifications of “EMODNET 3 bathymetry” have been addressed to DG Mare 1 July 2015 IENWG HOs have defined a common strategy for tendering to the future “EMODNET 3 bathymetry” call.
C.1	To investigate a participation to the European Maritime Day 2016 to promote the role of the hydrographic offices in the development of EU maritime policies	M		Jan 2015	Feb 2016	S			Sweden to represent the IENWG. Main objective will be to improve IENWG visibility + pave the way for next Maritime Day that will be hosted by UK and probably synchronized with World Hydrographic Day

Work item	Title	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed S-Superseded	Contact Person(s)	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
C.2	To investigate possibilities to establish contact between the IHO-EU Network and the EU parliament Inter-Group on "seas, rivers, islands and coastal areas".	M		Feb 2015	June 2015	C	Chair		http://searica.eu/en/events/conference/meeting-marine-data-what-role-for-europe
D.1	To establish a process to monitor DG Mare communication in order to detect calls for tenders, calls for proposals, projects and events which could be of interest to the IENWG	M			April 2015	P	France		To be extended to other EC entities in a second phase

Work item	Title	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed S-Superseded	Contact Person(s)	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
D.2	To consider how the EU Directive on Marine Equipment could foster the requirement that software-based equipment such as ECDIS be updated to the latest version of the relevant standards	M			Summer 2015	P	IHB		Some HOs of EU/EEA have liaised with their relevant administration to make sure that the question of ECDIS maintenance is at the agenda of the next Maritime Equipment Expert Group. Question has not yet been raised at the MED expert group though.

