



# Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission

Report presented on behalf of the Commission by Vinka KOLIĆ,  
MBSHC Chair

# Meetings of the MBSHC between A2 and A3

**Chair: Croatia**, from April 2022

**Vice Chair: Romania**, from September 2022.

**23 Member States** - Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Associate Member(s): Albania, Israel, Palestinian Authority, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Observers: CIESM, Germany, the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities - IALA, IOC, the two Regional ENC Coordinating Centers (RENC) IC-ENC and PRIMAR

## Meetings of the MBSHC between A2 and A3

**22<sup>nd</sup> MBSHC Conference:** Virtual meeting, 27 – 28 May 2021

- Full regional participation (19 out of 23 member states) Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine
- Associate members: United Kingdom, United States of America
- Observers: IALA, IC-ENC and PRIMAR
- IHO Secretariat and IHO Council Chair participated as an observers.

**23<sup>rd</sup> extraordinary MBSHC Conference:** Hybrid meeting, 29 March – 01 April 2022, Ljubljana, Slovenia

- Full regional participation (17 out of 23 member states) Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey
- Associate members: Israel, United Kingdom, United States of America
- Observers: Albania, CIESM, IALA, IC-ENC, PRIMAR, stakeholders from industry (Fugro, GeoAcoustics, iXblue, Kongsberg Maritime, SevenCs)
- IHO Secretariat participated as an observers.

# Highlights of regional collaboration and follow up achievements

- *The cooperation within the MBSHC was good but due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19, some activities slowed down compared to the pre-pandemic period.*
- **The new MBSHC Statutes** was adopted during the MBSHC23 and is in force as from 01 April 2022
- **2 new Member States** – enlargement of the MBSHC membership is beneficial:
  - *Lebanon became a new MS of the MBSHC from February 2021;*
  - *Albania became a new member of the IHO in May 2022 and is currently in the process of signing the MBSHC Statutes.*
- *2 Member States (Israel, Libya) are still non-members of the IHO and 2 Member States were suspended (Serbia and Syria).*
- **the Region F International Charting Coordination Working Group (Region F ICCWG)**
  - **F Coordinator - Greece** (2022-2024), Turkey - Vice-Coordinator - continued coordination and bilateral discussion is the only way for the solution of ENC overlapping issues and the only way for the step forward.
- **BASWG** - working group on the safety of navigation in the Black and Azov Seas - Chair- Turkey
  - *Since A2 (11/2020), two VTC meetings were held (11.05.2021 BASWG15 and 01.03.2022 BASWG16) – slowed actions due to actual present situation in the area.*
- **Maritime Safety Information (MSI)** - The NAVAREA III Coordinator for this region is Spain.
  - *Regular ongoing activities and intense coordination activity is carried out in the Black and Azov Seas area due to actual present situation in the area.*

# Highlights of regional collaboration and follow up achievements

- **S-1XX Working Group** dedicated to the S-100 roadmap implementation within the MBSGC region **was established**.
  - 10 member states applied for the membership - France is selected as WG Chair.
- **Disaster Response Framework** for the MBSHC region was approved at the MBSHC23 (March 2022) - IRCC Recommendation 10 - apply Resolution 1/2055 in case of disasters occurred to support the affected States in their Regions.
- **MSDI** (Italy – MBSHC Ambassador) is recognized to be relevant due to marine spatial data integration and new standard S-100.
  - There is a constant need to cooperate with MS, to encourage training, awareness of the importance of the integrated geospatial information framework and involvement of the MS in the MSDI initiatives and challenges in the region.
- **Capacity building** (Turkey – CB Coordinator) is core strategic issue and plays a key role in the region. Since the last A2 all the activities that were planned for 2021 and 2022 are funded by the CBSC and were carried out successfully
  - 2021: 4 webinars - Transition to S-100 , Airborne Lidar Bathymetry, Artificial Intelligence in Modern Hydrography and Satellite-derived Bathymetry).
  - 2022: 2 workshops – MSDI and Cartographic Data Management (Istanbul - Turkey- 12/2022)

# Activities contributing to the strategic goals and targets of the IHO

- The **main challenge** in the MBSHC region is **the implementation of the S-1xx framework services**, and for that reason additional effort, capacity building activities, education, trainings, and cooperation among MS in the region are required.
- **S-100 implementation:**
  - **MBSHC S-1XX WG was established** to coordinate activities related to S-100 roadmap implementation which is in line with the IHO Strategic Plan.
  - **the Region F International Charting Coordination Working Group (Region F ICCWG)** - extended mandate to include coordination of S-101 in the F region.
- **Disaster Response Framework** for the MBSHC region was approved
- The coordination role of the IHO-EU network working group - IENWG is a great example of the cooperation between European HOs in large EU funded projects, especially in the MBSHC region.
  - Participation in the implementation of **the EU funded projects** - European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODNet), MBSHC Coastal Mapping, European Ocean Observation System (EOOS) etc., along with active participation from the MBSHC MS in the EU initiatives – Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and EU Directive on Public Sector Information (PSI).
  - MBSHC MS are active contributors to the EMODNet Bathymetry portal - The EMODNet bathymetry data is used in the IHO-IOC GEBCO global grid.



**Assembly is invited to**

- a) take note the full report (MBSHC Report - A3\_2023\_G\_06.5)**
- b) consider the reported highlights of regional activities and the activities contributed to the strategic Goals and targets in their further deliberations**