

14th meeting of the IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG-14) Svendborg, Denmark, 29 May

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2024	
Task 1.1.4	Maintain relationship with European Union Initiatives (such as INSPIRE and EMODnet)

The 14th meeting of the IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG) was held in Svendborg, Denmark on 29 May 2024, hosted at Svendborg Hotel by the DANISH GEODATA AGENCY - GEODATASTYRELSEN (GST). The meeting was chaired by Mr Pierre-Yves Dupuy (France) and attended by 17 participants from 9 IHO European Member States (present and remote) and the European Commission – DG Mare remotely. IHO Director Luigi Sinapi represented the IHO Secretariat. The chosen venue of the meeting allowed the attendees to participate in the European Maritime Days (EMD) organized by the European Commission / City of Svendborg / Danish Maritime Authority on 30 and 31 May 2024 in Svendborg, Denmark, to which the IHO joint company with Seabed2030, contributed communication materials to the booth hosted by EMODnet with the support of DG MARE (CE).



Participants at IENWG-14

Mr Allan Idd Jensen, Head of Department at GST and Mr Luigi Sinapi, opened the meeting highlighting the importance of the topics of the agenda for strengthening the relationship between the IHO and EC and developing a strategy in the recognized common areas of interest, such as S-100 development, Capacity Building and Data Collection. The IENWG Chair presented the meeting’s agenda, highlighting the EU policies and projects of interest to the IHO.

The following topics were discussed:

- **EU maritime policies:** to continue the activity of monitoring and influencing developments in EU maritime policies for the benefit of IHO and EU countries Hydrographic Offices. The impact of the “All Ocean Observation Project”, “GreenData4all and Green Deal Data Space” and “High Value Datasets – HVD survey results” descending from the approval of the EU Regulation 2023/138 on High Value (maritime) Datasets were discussed.
- **Data collection:** to develop with the support of Hydrographic Offices Inter-regional and Horizon Europe programs, aiming for common acquisition campaigns of bathymetric data in the EU maritime basins. An update on the *EMODnet Vision 2035 Drafting group* establishment and *EMODnet bathymetry* and the links with GEBCO and Nippon Foundation Seabed2030 project were presented.

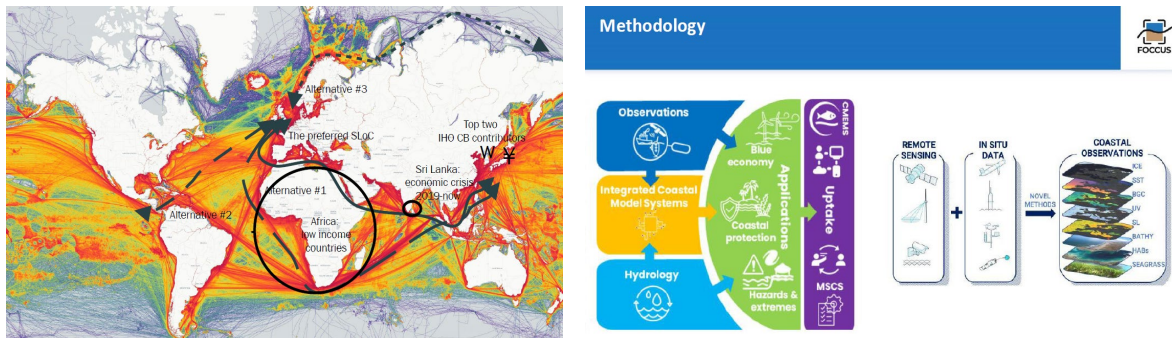


EMODnet as in-situ marine data in Europe and beyond

- Development of the S-100 hydrographic products and services in Europe: to promote to EU DG MARE and DG MOVE the potential use of S-100 products and services on Maritime Safety & Surveillance projects and the evolution of Copernicus Coastal Emergency Management Services. The latest developments of the “*MaDaMe (Maritime Data Methods) for safe shipping*” and “*Baltic Sea e-nav Interreg project*” were presented. On this latter, Sweden highlighted on the project outputs:
 - A. *Output 1* - Available Baltic Sea E-Nav Base package via:
 - S-101 next-generation electronic navigational charts with full coverage of the major shipping routes in the Baltic Sea;
 - S-102 dense bathymetry seafloor information products will cover most relevant shipping routes, fairways and harbour approaches, where hydrographic survey data of sufficient quality is available;
 - S-104 water level and S-111 sea surface currents as amending data sets.
 - B. *Output 2* - Guidelines adopted regionally under the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) to regulate how these products and services shall be harmonised across borders between different nation’s respective responsibility.
- Capacity Building: to promote programs for the development of competencies, expertise, training and means to increase the hydrographic capacity in the EU and outside EU. The strong link between the Worldwide Hydrographic Capacity development and the security of the Sea Line of Communications (SLoCs) between Europe and East Asia and Africa was presented, affirming the need of a resilient network of SLoCs as fundamental for the world economy, reliable nautical charts (INT, S-57, S-1XX) to enable safe navigation and investments in hydrographic capacity development elsewhere to assure global maritime accessibility. The proposal elaborated by the IENWG under the leadership of Belgium on “*IHO and EC Cooperation in Third Countries for Hydrographic Capacity Development*” was discussed and commended by the WG, as a strong example to demonstrate that IHO priorities and EC international development priorities are synergetic, thereby offering potential for mutual benefits by intensifying cooperation. The proposal will be presented to the next IRCC-16 as part of the IENWG report to IRCC and to the IHO Fund Generation Project Team, recently established to identify opportunities for recurring funding based on existing and short-term options and long-term strategic options.

- EU on-going projects of interest for the IENWG: the “*Technical Group NOISE*” to establish the underwater noise thresholds at EU level, “*Standards and Best Practices in Ocean Observation*”, “*FOCCUS*” project on forecasting and observing the open-to-coastal ocean for Copernicus users and “*ReMAP*” project to review and evaluate the monitoring and assessment of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and the study conducted by SHOM on the application of IHO standards to MSP, were discussed.

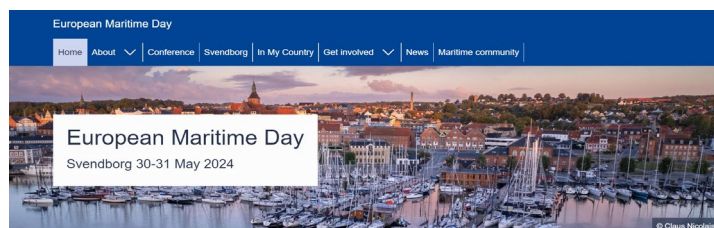
The involvement of the IHO Secretariat was reaffirmed as an important asset for the promotion of activities at high level in the EU Commission.



Recent developments in EU and IHO initiatives

Following the presentation of DG MARE representative on “*Ocean Observation: enabling coordination and synergies*”, the WG on the basis of the four challenges for the next phase of collaboration: Maritime policies, Data Collection, e-navigation standards (IHO S-100 products and services) and Capacity Building, developed key messages to be sent to EU DGs and bodies via DG MARE. Once the new European Commission is settled and not before the last quarter of 2024 / first quarter 2025, the IENWG will arrange a high-level meeting to discuss the four challenges with the European Commission.

At the end of the meeting, Mr Pierre-Yves Dupuy was confirmed IENWG Chair for the next 3 years. The next meeting will be held in 2025 likely back-to-back with the European Maritime Days in Cork, Ireland (exact dates TBD).



EDODnet / IHO / Seabed2030 booth at the EMD 2024, 30-31 May 2024, Svendborg (Denmark)

On 30 and 31 May 2024, the IENWG-14 participants attended the EMD and related workshops on global issues concerning the blue economy, the marine environment, the maritime security and ways of moving forward in European areas of interest.