



11th Meeting of the IHO-EU Working Group (IENWG) Video-teleconference (VTC), 2 – 3 December 2020

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2020	
Task 1.1.4	Maintain relationship with European Union Initiatives (such as INSPIRE and EMODnet)

Initially planned to be hosted in Dublin, Ireland, back-to-back with INFOMAR 2020¹, the event celebrating 21 years of mapping Ireland's Seabed, the 11th meeting the IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG-11) was re-arranged by video teleconference (VTC) from 2 to 3 December 2020 due to the pandemic.

Ingénieur en chef Pierre-Yves Dupuy (France), Acting Chair, was re-elected as Chair of the IENWG and was supported by Corine Lochet (France) as Executive Secretary for running the meeting. Thanks to the VTC format, twenty-two delegates from 15 Member States (Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden) were able to participate in the meeting. Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Yves Guillam represented the IHO Secretariat.

The meeting was opened with a comprehensive status report by France on the last developments about the *European strategy for data*². This strategy embraces important concepts on data availability, data sharing, data interoperability, data governance and data infrastructures and technologies. One of the key issues for Hydrographic Offices is the impact of such data policies on their individual business model if and when some S-57 data (or feature objects) are included in the official list of the so-called "high value datasets". France also presented some direct applications of these policies in marine sciences highlighting the Horizon 2020 European Green Deal Call by which €1 billion is to be spent for research and innovation and the Digital Twin of the Ocean.

<p>Digital twin of the Ocean Why, How?</p>  <p>Paradigm Shift:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cross modeling of the ocean and no more modelization topic by topic -Modeling interactions among hydrography, oceanography, physics, chemistry, biology, human activities, governance, evolution of maritime policies.. -Work in common for all the EU ocean networks, specially EMODNET and COPERNICUS -Modeling cross impacts for better evaluate climate change, risks for marine biodiversity -Evaluate the impact of new policies for human activities on climate change, marine biodiversity .. <p>On the way to EOOS! (European Ocean Observing System) First call opened</p> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">IENWG 11 EU Digital twin of Ocean</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A new way of management of marine data for next generation Hydrography included</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Needs of qualified data from all Member states and links with global ocean data production -Needs of recurrent production of data -Needs of open data -Hydrography: one of the marine data for twin's food.. <p style="text-align: center;">One of the objectives of the EU strategy for Marine data</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">IENWG 11 EU Digital twin of Ocean</p>
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The meeting noted that a strategic consultation "*Ocean Observation –Sharing Responsibility*" was launched on 20 November by DG Mare to which consideration should be given by HOs and the IHO in general. A coordinated approach was recommended to reinforce the strength of the IHO contribution in general.

Director Luigi Sinapi echoed the importance of marine observation programmes for the IHO, and highlighted the IHO assets such as standards and guidelines for crowdsourced bathymetry which represent an important contribution to such programmes at national and international levels. He briefed the IENWG on the IHO initiatives and joint programmes such as Seabed

¹ <https://www.infomar.ie/news-events/events/infomar-2020>.

² Communication from the Commission to the EU Parliament... COM (2020) 66 final dated 19 February 2020.

2030, which are currently underway and are aligned with the new IHO Strategic Plan 2021-2026.

Reporting on the success story and the future of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet), the meeting noted that the Secretary-General of the IHO participated at the 10 years anniversary of the EMODnet network. The working group was informed of the last call for tender (May 2020) related to further development and maintenance through service contracts, one of which being focused on bathymetry. The release of the full EMODnet Bathymetry Digital Terrain Model 2020 product and associated services is planned mid-December 2020. This layer is to become a key foundation of the Digital Twin of the Ocean.

The meeting also addressed other important topics:

- Maritime Spatial Planning projects and calls for proposals;
- the digital representation of maritime limits in official documents produced by European Union institutions.

The IHO Secretariat commended the involvement of Hydrographic Offices in EU-funded projects. Participants were invited at the same time to take any opportunity in these projects to promote the IHO S-100 framework and select associated S-100 based products as strategic objective of the IENWG to ensure interoperability and the efficiency of production lines and data flow in Hydrographic Offices in the long term.