



IHO – EU Network Working Group (IENWG)

Minutes of the 12th meeting (8 – 9 December 2021)

1. *Welcome and introduction*

Welcome by Pierre-Yves Dupuy (PYD, FR), chair, with regrets for no possibility to organize a hybrid meeting, as initially planned, due to the evolution of the pandemic. Round table: France, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Norway, Sweden, Croatia, Estonia, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Romania and the IHO secretariat were represented (list of participants at the end of the documents).

PYD pointed out that the meeting was taking place at an important time as the EU was starting a new programming cycle.

1.1 *Approbation of the agenda*

Without any remark or comment, the agenda is adopted.

1.2 *Adoption of IENWG11 actions*

Without any remark or comment, the actions from the previous meeting are approved.

2. *EU strategy for data*

2.1 *Impact for Marine Data / High Value Datasets topic (EU directive 2019/1024 on open data and the re-use of public sector information)*

Leendert Dorst (LD, NL) had proposed a presentation by Ton Zijlstra (TZ), from Geonovum (NL). TZ presented the current situation regarding the EU legal framework on digital transformation and data. TZ explained the EU data approach, which is directly linked to EU policy goals (Green Deal) and is leading to a European unique market for data exchange (link with the Digital Twin of the Earth). Calls are opened for this purpose and programmes dealing with datasets are listed (Copernicus and EMODnet included). In conclusion, we are at a starting point of a process and have to define where we are relevant and have to take influence. Gilles Martinoty (GMY, FR) thanks TZ for this interesting global vision. Regarding the Deloitte study (IENWG12-02A), the question is to what point the HO's datasets are concerned and the position of the ENC's regarding the theme of mobility. Luigi Sinapi (LS, IHO sec.) wondered what the role of IHO is regarding the standards in particular (S-100). LD remarked that ENC's are mentioned several times in the Deloitte study, but standing for inland ENC's. In his opinion, ENC's are not in the scope. In TZ's opinion, that's not so clear, but there's no real way to influence at this stage. GMY noticed that the "maritime" term is used several times in the study regarding the transport networks, so it's quite ambiguous.

Zeljko Bradaric (ZB, CR) asked for a reason explaining the delay in the adoption of the Implementation Act. No one in the attendance could answer.

[Considering the strong link between the two topics, PYD proposed to go directly to the item 2.4 of the agenda.]

2.4 INSPIRE future

Ine de Visser (IdV), from Geonovum (NL), presented the situation regarding the INSPIRE Directive. The Commission should carry out an evaluation of the Directive no later than January 1st 2022. A Staff Working Document (SWD) has been drafted and is expected to be adopted during Q1 2022. The potential of INSPIRE has to be considered regarding the new European policy developments. Key drivers identified by the MIG expert group for the revision of the INSPIRE Directive and recommendations outcoming from the SWD were presented. Ellen Vos (EV, NL) added that, thanks to the new technical developments, future adaptations are possible.

TZ and IdV highlighted **the concept of "green deal database"** which will keep our attention in the next months.

2.2 National Seabed Mapping programmes

Paulo Nunes (PN, PT) presented the Portuguese national seabed programme SEAMAP2030, highlighting the alignment with the current international initiatives, the very large maritime administrative area included in this programme (regarding the size of the country), the current situation in terms of coverage and the overall objective (contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of the sea, supporting research and promoting development). Sean Cullen (SC, IR) presented the Irish national seabed programme INFOMAR (Integrated Mapping For the Sustainable Development of **Ireland's** Marine Resource) and explained the benefit-cost ratio approach (estimated return on project is 4 to 6 times cost). Corine Locht (CL, FR) asked about the financing of these programmes. On the **Portuguese side, the programme is financed by the IH's** own budget, but they ask the government for additional funding. On the Irish side, the government provides an extra budget. The INFOMAR team has to motivate this funding with a report every 3-4 years. PYD highlighted the large range of needs identified in France where national waters are rather poorly covered, and the need of a holistic approach on this thematic. He gave an information on the preparation of the One Ocean Summit, planned around mid-February in Brest, France. LS recalled the importance of inviting the international organizations, like IHO, in this kind of summit.

2.3 Blue Economy

CL gave a presentation on the EU Blue Economy approach described on the (EU) 2021/240 communication from the Commission to the Parliament (IENWG12-02H), in particular: the preparation by 2022 of an Ocean Observation Initiative, the expansion of the Copernicus marine service for ocean forecasting and coastal services, the importance of Maritime Spatial Planning, the support for cooperation between coastal regions and the data exchange in the context of maritime security.

[As the group was very late with the agenda and A. Souf was not able to attend the 2nd day, the Chair proposed to go directly to her update on Maritime Spatial Planning projects.]

4.5 MSP

Adeline Souf (AS, FR) gave a presentation on MSP in general and at Shom, in particular on the two projects started in September (MSP-OR and eMSP NBSR). These projects will introduce the safety of navigation in the MSP studies, and workshops will be organized with the HOs of the countries involved in the projects. She also mentioned two new calls for proposals closing in January 2022.

[End of the first day]

PYD opened the second day with a recall on the MS Expert Group on MSP. Shom represents the IENWG in this group but does not always participate. BSH which represents Germany offered to work closely with Shom in the context of this group.

3. *European programmes*

3.1 *Horizon Europe*

PN presented the programme Horizon Europe, the link with the EU Strategies and important topics (Blue Economy, Green Deal, Mission Starfish, Data Strategy), its ambition, its fundamental pillars and the associated budgets.

3.2 *ERDF*

CL presented the European Regional development Fund (ERDF). She described its priorities and focused on the Interreg fund, part of the ERDF dedicated to the European territorial cooperation between adjacent regions, over larger transnational territories or around sea basins.

3.3 *EMFAF*

CL presented the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). She listed the priorities of interest for the HOs: maritime surveillance (CISE achievement), EMODnet, Marine Knowledge and Maritime Spatial Planning.

4. *EU projects and data infrastructures*

4.1 *MINKE*

CL presented the Horizon 2020 MINKE project which aims to integrate Marine Metrology Research Infrastructures to coordinate their use and development. LS mentioned the MetroSea 2021 conference and the fact that it is up to HOs to highlight the importance of metrology.

4.2 *Baltic & North Sea MSDI*

Jens Peter Hartmann (JPH) presented the report of the Baltic Sea and North Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group (BS-NSMSDIWG), highlighting the need to establish a joint meeting with the MSP Technical Expert Group on data, envisaged on Q3 2022. Moreover, the BS-NSMSDIWG should be a S-100 testbed in particular for S-122 (marine protected areas). EV also highlighted the IHO innovation lab meeting planned in Singapore and online in Q2 2022.

4.3 *EMODnet Bathymetry*

Gaël Morvan (GMN, FR) presented an update on the EMODnet Bathymetry project, coordinated by Shom, in particular the extension of the project to the Caribbean

islands and the current effort towards a unique multi-thematic EMODnet portal (concerning all EMODnet projects). GMN also mentioned the survey launched (in two steps) this year on the opportunity to develop and provide a dynamic Pan-European SDB products and the need of communication between Copernicus and EMODnet in order to work in a consistent way and not to confuse the user. This has been mentioned during the EMODnet Steering Committee in September.

4.4 EMODnet Data Ingestion

GMN presented the EMODnet Data Ingestion project which finished its second contract in October (3rd call closed on November 14th, still waiting for the evaluation). The main objective of the project is to identify, encourage and support data holders with EMODnet in order to feed the thematic portals.

In conclusion of these two presentations, PYD recalled the importance of promoting EMODnet as often as possible and welcomes the extension to the Caribbean Sea, illustrating the international role of the initiative.

4.6 EuroGOOS AISBL

CL presented the organization of EuroGOOS AISBL, association committed to oceanography within the context of the intergovernmental Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS). CL also reported on the 9th EuroGOOS conference held online with a great success in May 2021.

4.7 CISE & ECGFF

GMN presented the CISE network which aims to enable the sharing of information between the systems used for the maritime surveillance by the Member States. CISE is in a transitional phase managed by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) until the end of 2023 and is going up in power. In France, the General Secretariat of the Sea (Prime Minister) is the national representative, Shom and the Navy are **declared as participants in the CISE Cooperation Agreement. Shom's objectives are** to integrate its environmental and legal data in the CISE network and promote the fact that Member States would have interest to associate their HOs to the development of their CISE own system, and to ensure that HOs' data and maritime surveillance are taken into account in MSP.

5. Digitalization of nautical information

5.1 Presentation of the French case: PING

Yves Le Franc (FR) presented PING, the national platform for nautical information project, which aims at digitalizing navigational warnings to promote the interoperability of marine spatial information and the integration into user systems (ECDIS, VTS, smartphone **applications...**). PING will use and promote the IHO S-124 standard. The current developments are realized in the context of the maritime surveillance MED OSMoSIS project financed by the Interreg Med EU Programme. All HOs are invited to participate to the testing phase.

5.2 Presentation of the Norwegian case

Njål Tengs-Hagir (NO) presented the current situation of marine base mapping in Norway and a socio-economic analysis of the value of a project mapping and making available marine base maps from the coast through an infrastructure solution that can be used by all stakeholders (food, environmental and marine management and research). The conclusion of this analysis is that the project has positive results in terms of positive net benefits, positive non-price effects and minimal distributional effects. The benefit ratio is about 1 to 26-28.

6. *EOOS*

6.1 *News from EOOS*

CL recalled the importance of the link with the scientific community and mentioned one action of the MINKE project, for sharing good practices for the acquisition of bathymetric data, to be developed in partnership with the EOOS Technology Forum and the IENWG represented by Shom.

7. *Involvement in events since last meeting and in next year 2022*

Past events were mentioned, in particular the European Maritime Day 2021, the 9th EUroGOOS conference (already mentioned at §4.6), the EMODnet conference and jamboree of June 2021. Regarding the upcoming events, the European Maritime Day will take place in Ravenna, Italy, in 2022 and in Brest, France, in 2023.

PYD proposed to organize an event for the 10th anniversary of the EU-IHO MoU in Brussels or eventually in Paris. LS suggested as a backup to organize it in Monaco. PYD expressed that Brussels would be preferable for the participation of the different representatives of the European Commission we would want to invite.

8. *Review of the IENWG Work Program and conclusions of the meeting*

8.1 *Review of the action list*

The actions were listed and some updates were proposed. The list of actions will be edited and proposed for review to the participants shortly.

8.2 *Conclusions of the meeting*

PYD resumed the main items of this very interesting and productive meeting, thanked everyone for their participation and concluded by wishing a merry Christmas and a happy new year to everyone.

Participants:

Pierre-Yves Dupuy (FR, Chair)
Corine Lochet (FR, Exec. Sec.)
Gaël Morvan (FR)
Adeline Souf (FR) – 1st day
Fanny Lecuy (FR) – 1st day
Gilles Martinoty (FR) – 1st day
Yves Le Franc (FR) – 2nd day
Jens Peter Hartmann (DK)

Katrine Petersen (DK)
Patricia Slabon (GE)
Thomas Dehling (DE)
Panagiotis Gkionis (GR)
Njål Tengs-Hagir (NO)
Annika Kindeberg (SE)
Goran Strinic (HR) – 1st day
Zeljko Bradaric (HR) -1st day
Olavi Heinlo (EE) – 1st day
Sean Cullen (IE)
Andrea Ferrarini (IT)
Claudio Caporale (IT)
Ellen Vos (NL)
Leendert Dorst (NL)
Ine de Visser (NL, Geonovum) – 1st day
Ton Zijlstra (NL, Geonovum) – 1st day
João Vicente (PT) – 1st day
Paulo Nunes (PT)
Maria Emanuela Mihailov (RO)
Luigi Sinapi (IHO Secretariat)

