

## IENWG 13

13TH MEETING OF THE IENWG (IENWG-13)

23rd May 2023

Shom premises, 13 rue du Chatellier, 29200 Brest, France

**1. Welcome and Introduction** - IENWG Chair opens the meeting and delivers the welcoming address. (Pierre-Yves Dupuy, FR)

This meeting was organized back to the 2023 European Maritime Days (EMD) in Brest in the objective to invite representative of the EU Commission to work with us and to allow the HOs represented in person, to participate to the event and take the occasion to meet the European marine community. Eleven European countries were represented and could work with the representant of the DGMARE: Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Latvia, Netherland, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Sweden

M Remy DENOS, (Deputy Head of Unit A1 – Maritime innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)) was invited to participate to our meeting and stayed with the HOs all the morning.

In other hand, we beneficiated of the organization of a workshop of the European project for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in North and Baltic Sea region eMSP-NBSR (<https://www.emspproject.eu/>) and worked with their partners in a special sharing session;

The Agenda were approved and IENWG12 actions were adopted.

## **2. Information and discussion with DG MARE**

*2.1 Economical impact of data collection in Europe (FR, DG MARE, All)*

*IENWG13-02A European picture of HO's situation:*

The working group presented some information concerning hydrography and its specific characteristics in the European countries. With the small study we did before the meeting, we could give an idea of the governance, area of work, vessels, employees, budget of European hydrography and HOs. The DGMARE was very interested by this special zoom on a key maritime activity and by these informations to use in their reflexion.

*IENWG13-02B Economical impact of data collection in Europe:*

M Denos presented the vision of the DGMARE about the economic impact of data collection in Europe. The experience and studies done by the DGMARE revealed that many different entities are responsible and are carrying out different type of observations within a country.

Currently, there is little coordination and limited synergies among the actors of the acquisition of marine data within a country and between the countries.

Concerning the budget, the total spending on ocean observation by public bodies in the EU, or in response to public requirements is estimated to be between 1.5 bEur and 2 bEur per year. An extrapolating EU evaluation, done by the EU Commission, estimates the budget of EU hydrography as 400 MEur per year.

The Eu Commission considers that its urgent to develop the possibilities of transnational and basin cooperation for the acquisition of marine data to increase significantly the acquisition and use of marine data.

### **3. EU strategy for data**

#### *3.1 CINEA Study for Reporting Obligations for Ocean Observation (FR)*

##### *IENWG13-03A All Ocean Obs project presentation*

The tender relates to the European Union initiative “Ocean Observation Sharing Responsibility” which aims to achieve a coherent approach to European ocean observing

- Create a digital environment for the Member States to report their ocean observing activities
- Leading to transparent and improved planning, including joint planning by the EU Member States from the same ocean basin

Two major tools had to be proposed to the Eu Commission by the consortium and the HOs were invited to the stakeholder meeting organized to test the prototypes. (after the meeting: the hydrographic community was strongly represented and its useful and constructive participation were noticed by the DGMARE).

#### *3.2 High Value datasets topic in Open Data Directive (FR, NL)*

##### *IENWG13-03B Commission Implementing Regulation 21/12/2022*

##### *IENWG13-03C Impact of the Commission implementing regulation laying down a list of specific high-value datasets*

Some comments from the Europe WG of the UN-GGIM were delivered and in particular the fact that the Working Group considers that the lack of selectivity of the themes for this domain retained by the annex to the regulation taints the very notion of “high value”: the datasets selected, numerous and without distinction of key attributes, should not be considered as being of equivalent value, even though their information is not all essential. In addition, the annex includes the historical datasets of this domain in the scope of high value datasets, which considerably extends their scope. In fact, having a scope of high-value datasets too wide may have negative effects.

##### *IENWG13-03D Into the EU Data Space: Geodata’s New Frontier*

A very important historical summary of the European digital strategy and strategy for data is designed in the document. The open data Directive is a key piece of this policy and all the legislations for open data in Europe, since more than 30 years, have for objective to participate to the development of new inclusive market, the diffusion of open data for the research, especially for the protection of biodiversity and evaluation and fighting against climate change ..

##### *IENWG13-03E Factsheet Historical databases for HVD implementation*

The open data Directive concerns future data and historical ones. Suggestions are given to manage the opening of historical data in the theme of Earth observation and environment, which gave the occasion of exchange of messages with the Eu Commission

##### *IENWG13-03F Factsheet APIs and HVD list*

In this presentation, it’s pointed out the necessity to develop APIs for the high value data sets, as those for the INSPIRE Directive and on line with the OGC standards.

#### *3.3 INSPIRE future (NL)*

##### *IENWG13-03G INSPIRE Good Practice – Data-Service Linking Simplification Webinar (21/11/2022)*

##### *IENWG13-03H INSPIRE Good Practice – Data-Service Linking Simplification (presentation)*

The reflections done in a seminar organized by the Eu Commission for the application of the simplification of data service linking were presented for different countries and at the European level.

#### **4. European initiatives via EU projects**

##### *4.1 Maritime Safety & Surveillance (SE, FR)*

###### *IENWG13-04A S-100 Implementation in European projects*

To accelerate the development of the S-100 standards, the participation of the HOs to European projects is a key initiative in the European waters. Two projects were presented, one in the area of Intereg programs in Baltic area (accepted since the meeting), and other in the area of Horizon Europe Program (rejected since the meeting)

The objective of this presentation is to try to replicate these projects in the other maritime basins.

###### *IENWG13-04B CISE-ALERT project*

The common information sharing environment (CISE) is an EU initiative providing a decentralized framework for point-to-point information exchange across sectors and borders. It is involving more than 300 EU and national authorities with responsibilities in maritime surveillance.

CISE aims to make European and national maritime surveillance systems interoperable, enabling all concerned authorities to exchange information in an automatic and secure way.

[https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/ocean/blue-economy/other-sectors/common-information-sharing-environment-cise\\_en](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/ocean/blue-economy/other-sectors/common-information-sharing-environment-cise_en)

This presentation delivers the State of play of this European Policy and project for the coast guard activities. The HOs are encouraged to take this example to participate to CISE in their countries.

##### *4.2 Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) (DE, FR)*

The Maritime spatial planning is progressing worldwide and is one of the layers of the future digital twin of the Ocean.

Actually, only the BSH is fully involved by its government in the implementation of the MSP, and the Shom is partially involved.

EMODNet is now the tool which supports the Eu database for the MSP plans.

###### *IENWG13-04C MSP at BSH*

The BSH participated to 10 European projects in this theme which helped to implement MSP in the North Sea and Baltic area. These projects helped to share results with the neighbor countries and in the same maritime basin, and to develop MSP in the German EEZ and territorial areas in partnership with the landers.

###### *IENWG13-04D MSP at Shom*

Like the BSH, the Shom participated to 10 European projects (some with the BSH) with the same task in all the projects around the data necessary to the implementation of the MSP Directive.

This participation helped the Shom to collaborate with the other countries but with the French administration first and it provides recommendations on data collection, formats to publish, provide data, assess and validates geomatics data..

##### *4.3 Copernicus coastal service evolution (FR)*

###### *IENWG13-04E*

The Shom is involved in the process of management and governance of Copernicus Marine Service.

The Shom presented the French position concerning the evolution of the Copernicus emergency management service for the coastal flood awareness system.

For France the legal system of alert is organized with Meteo-France and the Shom. A different source of alert is excluded because of the consequences on the State or local government system of emergency planification, insurances ..

#### *4.4 Maritime Strategy Framework Directive (RO)*

##### *IENWG13-04F QUIETSEAS project*

With 10 partners in 9 countries and Accobams, the European project Quiet seas is dedicated to support the implementation of the MSF Directive for the descriptor 11 (underwater noise).

Two HOs are involved in the project, Romania and France.

The project works in coordination with the European expert group for descriptor 11: the TG Noise Expected results

- Definition of particularities for risk-based GES assessment in the Mediterranean Sea (MED) and Black Sea (BS) regions.
- Recommendations on acoustic propagation modelling for continuous sound assessment in MED and BS regions.
- Data gathering (D11C1, D11C2 and D1).
- Proposal of a methodology to establish thresholds values for D11C2 in the MED and BS regions in agreement with TG Noise work

#### *4.5 Green Mobility (DK)*

##### *IENWG13-04G MobiSpaces project*

MobiSpaces places focus on developing data management platforms for mobile data that can be processed decentrally and to such an extent that it can return usable data, thus improving data processing for all.

The Danish HO participates to the project to develop a special use-case: “ Use Case #5: CrowdSea Mapping” Federated Learning (FL) for Enhancing Nautical Charts”

This use case will validate how crowdsourced nautical sensor data can be processed directly onboard vessels, and qualified for improving navigational safety at sea;

The Federated Learning approach will prioritize what information is urgent to share with the centralized server and what can wait until connected to a low-cost communication channel, and in the end updating nautical charts.

### **Common session with eMSP NBSR Community of Practice on Data sharing, information and communication technology serving MSP**

#### **IENWG & eMSP NBSR CoP on Data**

The joint session aimed to identify synergies and potential cooperation in terms of data related to MSP. Presentations covered the IHO-EC Network Working Group, Maritime Spatial Planning, eMSP-NBSR project, and IHO S100 standards

The session included group discussions on FAIR principles: findability, accessibility, interoperability, reuse as well as challenges/opportunities for improvement.

#### **Challenges identified included:**

- data consistency for MSP is not easy to tackle, though HELCOM in particular made an effort for the data of the Baltic sea using metadata and description,
- confidence in environmental data,
- limited accessibility to strategic data, there are often restrictions on data which is often confidential or classified. Those restrictions might differ from one country to another which is something difficult to tackle in a transboundary context,
- distinction made between “data protection” and “data openness”,
- coordination among different entities either due to communication - even departments in one agency may not always discuss with each other – or due to the jurisdiction – IHO and MSP are rarely tied in

(except in Germany, BSH having the mandate to make the MSP plans and France with Shom involved in the process but at a rather late stage).

**Opportunities identified were:**

- the existence of MSP itself is an opportunity, as it allows a better organization of ocean use and environmental management, and therefore of the safety of human activities,
- there are existing efforts on-going to close the gaps between both hydrographic and MSP disciplines with events such as this one,
- it is good to have different perspectives when working on maritime spatial planning, including the views of a security-focused HO which is a theme included in the stakes to consider in the MSP directive
- some hydrographic institute also have a role in ecology, environment, etc which are needed for the MSP process,

**Key take-home messages included:**

- the need for IHO data both for the sustainable blue economy development (e.g. wind farm development) and climate change considerations,
- utilizing EMODNet for environmental data,
- harmonizing MSP data, which unlike to IHO has no standards and is based on a multitude of data provider,
- recognizing the role of national data authorities, which provide data of high quality, high value and which are of reference such as the data from the IHO members, but needs to be identifiable for the stakeholders and not remain confidential,
- and promoting effective communication for data harmonization.

**End of the Common session with eMSP NBSR Community of Practice on Data sharing, information and communication technology serving MSP**

**5. Way forward of the IENWG**

*Strategic discussion on our situation and our objectives (All).*

The chair (Pierre-Yves Dupuy) reminded that the last review of the activity and the strategy of the WG was made 5 years ago and welcomed the proposal for this point made by Germany. The Director General of Shom (Laurent Kerleguer) took part in this part of the meeting.

Thomas Dehling raised the following questions: where are we, what are the next steps, how to more involve the IHO secretariat? He exposed the importance to regularly consider the alignment of the WG with the IHO activities, the development of EU maritime policies, financial opportunities and member States' needs. The review of the IENWG activities and strategy is particularly topical in the anticipation of the next IRCC15 meeting (12-14 June) and the discussion at the IRCC level to extend capacity building funding in the IHO.

It was agreed that the IENWG Chair should summarize the directions to be prioritized in the future work of the IENWG, which are reported below, circulate them to members for approval and report to the next IRCC15 meeting.

***The main highlights of the participants to answer to "where are we", were:***

- The IENWG network activity allows a dialog with the EU Commission (like DG MARE this meeting).
- The DG MARE confirms that an intervention or suggestion from the WG (11 countries represented for this meeting) has a much better chance to be considered than an individual one.
- The WG Members value the interactions with the EU Commission and information sharing between the HOs.
- The IENWG gives within the IHO an understanding of EU maritime policies and expectations and within the EU Commission the knowledge of the IHO and HOs competencies.
- The IENWG allows HOs to set up common position and to influence on EU maritime policies.

- The IENWG stands out from other IHO WG for its networking activities and should continue to give priority to its capacity of networking, reactivity and informal way of working.

**Next steps?**

The following topics were discussed, on the basis of exchanges with the EU Commission representative in the morning (Rémy Dénos from Unit Maritime innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment of DG MARE), and should be considered as priority developments. Rémy Dénos is ready to liaise with other *ad hoc* DGs for the development of IENWG activities.

The involvement of the IHO secretariat would definitely be an asset for the promotion activities at high level in the EU Commission.

1) **EU maritime policies evolutions:** to continue the activity of monitoring and influencing developments in EU maritime policies in the benefit of IHO and EU countries HOs.

2) **Development of the S-100 hydrographic products and services in Europe:** to promote to DG MARE and DG MOVE, the IHO S-100 products and concrete use cases (organization of a dedicated webinar, transmission of a flyer, organization of a EU study about the benefits of the S 100 for Blue economy, marine safety, protection of marine areas and biodiversity). The lobbying shall be extended towards DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG RTD.

3) **Capacity Building:** to promote the value to develop programs for the development of competencies, expertise, training and means to increase the hydrographic capacity in the EU and outside EU. This activity at the IENWG level should be well connected to activities to be developed by the IRCC on extending CB funds. CB is of strategic importance to the EU, because:

(1) the world economy strongly depends on the Sea Line of Communication between Europe and East Asia, requiring safe passage through all national maritime areas in between. East Asian countries are currently the largest IHO CB donors, and an EU role would complement that; (2) Africa may be the next geopolitical focus area, with large European interests in rare Earth minerals, human trafficking, fisheries, and other natural resources.

*Benefits:* Improvement of marine safety and protection of environment. Increase in the data acquisition and marine knowledge for all.

4) **Data collection:** to develop with HOs Interreg and Horizon Europe programs, **common acquisition campaigns of bathymetric data in the EU maritime basins** (coastal mapping project recommendation)

*Obstacles:* no topic clearly identified in the EU financial programs for that; the principle of subsidiarity: the EC does not act on responsibilities that are with the Member States.

*Benefits:* acceleration of the acquisition of data indispensable for the EU maritime policies and the digital twin of the oceans (DTO)

Shom emphasized that the activities regarding the new directions of work should be shared among members. It is expected that it will result in new ideas and orientations for projects to be discussed with the European Commission.

**6. Involvement in events since last meeting and in next year**

*Review of the events where the HOs has represented or will represent the IENWG (All)*

The main event where the HOs have been represented was the European Maritime Days (EMD) in Brest and the main project of representation in 2024 will be during the EMD 2024, on 30 and 31 th May in Svenborg Denmark. Our Danish colleagues will organize the next IENWG meeting back to this EMD's session to take benefit of the participation of the DGMARE and other European partners.

### ***7. Conclusion of the meeting***

This meeting of IENWG was special with 4 main sequences:

- The participation of a representative of the DGMARE to our debates during all the morning session
- The sharing of experience with a European Maritime Spatial Planning project
- The debate around the future of the IENWG among the HOs during the afternoon
- The participation of the HOs to the European maritime days during 2 days after the meeting

Very fruitful perspectives were opened and the contact with the DGMARE for next developments were increased.

The Chair thanks all the participants for their valuable contributions and participation to the meeting and the EMD event.

The next meeting, will be organized in May 2024, M Rémi DENOS will be solicited to facilitate the participation of the HOs in the event.