

**Paper for Consideration by MSDIWG**

**DE/BSH report on IHO e-learning material assessment**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Germany, BSH
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	Germany reviewed the available e-learning materials in Dec 2022 and shares the findings
<b>Related Documents:</b>	MSDIWG action 07/2022
<b>Related Projects:</b>	IHO e-learning centre

**Introduction/Background**

MSDIWG14 invited WG members to review the available e-learning training materials. BSH assigned to work to MSDI, cartography and hydrography experts.

**Analyses/Discussion**

The request to review the e-learning material was made at MSDI14. The way in which the results were to be provided was not specified. The BSH developed a format to provide the results in a harmonized and structured way.

Question	Generic	Hydrography	Cartography	MSDI
How was the access to the portal?	Simple	The access to the portal worked as expected, but it could have been designed to be more intuitive.	Easy to sign up	Easy to sign up
Does the portal provide information on the potential target group and on which level of knowledge should exist to understand the content?	No.	No. There was no explanation (or I did not find it) as to the target audience for this course. This is something that would have been useful to help increase the focus of the content.	No. Even after finishing all the course units I have no idea who the target audience really is. Some parts seem to be designed for children others are designed for people actually working with nautical charts.	Not on the portal level. The explanation of the possible target group was given in the first video.
Was the content explained sufficiently for persons not familiar with the topic?	Not applicable	No. There is a lot of information for the layman to absorb. Complex topics are presented very fast, not always well explained and the slides don't always act	Some parts yes. Others not.	It was well structured and explained with very few buzz words.

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		<p>as an aid to the spoken content. Sometimes the slides do not even have anything to do with the spoken content!</p> <p>Since there is so little time allocated for each episode, the content has to be better structured to get ONE idea out of a ~3 minute episode.</p>		
It the topic irrelevant for matter experts because of skill?	Not applicable	I would say that this course is irrelevant for experts in the field. There are better sources of information.	Experts will find many parts lacking because outdated information is presented. Most of the time only the surface of a topic is scratched. I cannot image a layman to be able to understand the whole course.	The course is a good refresher of information known.
Was the language good to understand?	Not applicable	Yes. The narrator was easy to understand, but she seemed to be simply reading from a script. This made the course feel a bit unnatural.	Yes.	Yes, but with a slight tendency to get too fast.
Was the content of the slides good to read?	Not applicable	Most of the time, the slide content was readable, but on several occasions this was not the case.	Some pages were too cluttered. But in general everything was readable.	Yes. The slides were well designed. Some typos and inconsistencies detected.
Were important aspects omitted?	Not applicable	Broadly speaking, no. All aspects are there. However, they need to be better balanced and complex subjects need to be addressed more thoroughly.	The course lacks in providing in-depth information. It only scratches the surface and in some aspects provides outdated information.	No. The topic was comprehensively explained.
Conclusion:		While I am convinced that e-learning modules are extremely valuable resources in our profession, I would	Not to recommend, too many open items	To recommend. All aspects were explained.

Question	Generic	Hydrography	Cartography	MSDI
		not recommend the portal in its current state.		
Was the course too long or too short?	Not applicable	<p>It depends on the target audience. For the general public to gain a broad understanding of hydrographic surveying, I would say that the course is too long and goes too much in depth. If the target audience are technicians that need an introduction to hydrographic surveying, I would say that the content is not detailed enough and definitely needs to be restructured to focus on essential outcomes.</p> <p>Also, one would save a lot of time if each 3-4 minutes episode was not separated by the same repetitive animations and audio sequence of waves and music. I found these to be more disturbing than helpful.</p>	The choice and order of topics seemed odd at times. All in all not recommended to provide anyone with insight into nautical chart production because laymen cannot discern false from correct information and experts already know more.	The length was according to the amount of information provided.

General remarks:

- play time of the units is not shown anywhere, so planning which unit would fit in a certain time frame was impossible (cartography)
- a more accessible version of the course that does not rely on audio would be helpful (cartography)
- "difficulty level" (Beginner,...,Master) did not rise continuously throughout the course units (cartography)
- Unit 1.2 is missing (cartography)
- lots of spelling errors (cartography, MSDI)
- inconsistency between slide header and content (MSDI)
- sometimes the audio would repeat during a part while the presentation would show something else (cartography)
- information provided in the course (including screenshots) seems to be very old and is partly outdated (cartography)

- some of the quizzes do not work (e.g. only one answer can be selected for a question “name three...” or the symbols “X” and “O” that shall be clicked on are not visible at all, selections should be made with no associated content) (cartography, MSDI)
- links shown in the course slides cannot be clicked (cartography, MSDI)
- exercises which are presented as “follow this screen capture” cannot be done by the students because there is no explanation and the software used in the exercise is not freely available (the quite loud piano music accompanying the screen capture is more distracting than helpful) (cartography)
- when citing sources for definitions one would expect to see official IHO definitions, especially in an IHO related e-learning environment (cartography)
- The grammar needs to be revised because there are MANY OBVIOUS spelling mistakes (hydrography)
- There are a few OBVIOUS glitches (e.g. video suddenly stops, video at the wrong place) (hydrography)
- Quizzes need to be better related to the content just presented (hydrography)
- Links to YouTube videos that are private company endorsements are unacceptable for such platforms ((hydrography))

**Action required of MSDIWG:**

The MSDIWG is invited to:

- a. Note the report.
- b. Address the revision of the e-learning material, taking into account the assessment results.