

**23<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO**  
**MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
**MBSHC23**

Ljubljana, Slovenia (30 March – 1 April 2022)

**Report of the IHO-EU network working group (IENWG)**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Greece
<b>Related Documents:</b>	MoU signed on 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2012 between IHO and EC /
<b>Related Projects:</b>	/

<b>Chair:</b>	Pierre-Yves Dupuy, France
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	/
<b>Secretary:</b>	Corine Lochet, France
<b>Members:</b>	ARHC, represented by Denmark BSHC, represented by Sweden EAthC, represented by France MACHC, represented by France MBSHC, represented by Greece NHC, represented by Norway NSHC, represented by Germany SAIHC, represented by France
<b>Associate member:</b>	Italy
<b>Observers:</b>	IHO Secretariat

During NIOHC18 in April 2018 it was decided that NIOHC will no longer be represented at IENWG meetings.

Since the plenary meeting of February 2018, all EU/EEA HOs receive all documents and invitations to participate to the meetings of IENWG.

In Dec 2020 Pierre-Yves Dupuy (France) was elected as chair of the IENWG in replacement of Laurent Louvart (France).

**Meetings Held During Reporting Period**

IENWG 12 - VTC Event, 8-9 December 2021.

## Work Programme

During the reporting period, the activities have mainly concerned:

### 1. “Coastal Mapping” project (<https://www.emodnet.eu/en/coastal-mapping>)

A consortium, led by Shom (FR) with 19 partners from 15 countries, conducted a study, from June 2015 to June 2018, financed by the European Commission, to identify the existing high resolution bathymetric data and the gaps along the EU coastal areas. A proposal of a future Joint European Mapping Programme has been prepared and has been presented to the EU Commission.

Three axes were proposed:

- Axis 1: Set up coordinated programmes for data acquisition at maritime basin scale
- Axis 2: Seize opportunities for bathymetric data acquisition in the framework of the EU operational programmes and funds, and ensure that those data are standardised and capitalized
- Axis 3: Promote good practices to produce bathymetric data from multiple sources, standardised for re-use by all coastal stakeholders to support maritime policies.

On the occasion of the EMODnet Open Conference and Jamboree (14-16 June 2021) it was suggested that the EU take the proposal into account for their new programming period 2021-2027 in development.

### 2. EOOS (<http://www.eoos-ocean.eu/>)

In coherence with the Coastal Mapping project perspective, the IENWG participates to the coordination of the strategy for EOOS (European Ocean Observation System) and has given inputs to include hydrography in the development of the European strategy for acquisition and management of marine data.

Promoted by the European Marine Board and EuroGOOS (the IOC GOOS component for Europe), EOOS is a coordinating framework designed to align and integrate Europe’s ocean observing capacity, promote a systematic and collaborative approach to collecting qualified information on the state and variability of our seas, and underpin sustainable management of the marine environment and its resources.

The EU strategic orientations are turned to the building of a numerical twin of Earth, twin of the Ocean. The twin will help to better understand the Ocean evolution and test the consequences of the public policies proposed to mitigate the climate change.

The IENWG has promoted more standardization in the EOOS strategy. It has valued in particular the IHO CSB Guidance publication (B-12) within the European scientific community and the industry which collect bathymetric data for their needs.

### 3. EMODNet (<http://www.emodnet.eu/>)

EMODnet started as a project, not as a permanent infrastructure and has become a long term marine data initiative. The EMODnet data infrastructure has been built in three major phases. After completing its vision targets by 2020, EMODnet is now fully operational and further developed in its fourth phase. Available data are used to create and make available multi-resolution maps of all Europe’s seas and oceans, spanning all seven disciplinary themes. Building on the EMODnet Bathymetry portal developed during Phase I (2009-2013) & Phase 2 (2013-2017). During Phase 3 with the release of a new DTM at approximately 100m grid resolution, the DTM was further improved with more surveys and improved tools taking benefit of redundant information when existing.

In 2020 EMODnet Bathymetry has also produced and released a first edition of its World Base Layer (EBWBL) service, which is only made available as OGC WMTS service. This World Base Layer provides a gridded representation of worldwide bathymetric and topographic coverage adapted for a better representation of seabed morphological features.

Improvements of the data flow and interactions between data providers and full integration will also be part of EMODnet Bathymetry's consortium activities. Satellite Derived Bathymetry (SDB) data will be included to cover gaps in survey coverage, as well as data from Lidar Bathymetry where available. Coastal areas will remain a major interest axis.

The interoperability between EMODNET and the IHO standards is a key point for European HOs. (See also <http://portal.emodnet-bathymetry.eu/>)

#### **4. Maritime spatial planning: MSP**

Due to the importance of data produced by HOs for maritime spatial planning which is becoming a major topic of interest in Europe (MSP Directive 2014/89/EU), IENWG has obtained a position of observer in the European Commission EC Member State Expert sub-group on Maritime Spatial Planning. Some Hydrographic Offices<sup>1</sup> are involved in EU projects to develop relations among neighboring countries for the implementation of the MSP Directive.

The first lesson learned is the necessity to develop the coordination between the EU member states for the production and diffusion of interoperable data useful for MSP.

A special work is doing by the EC DG MARE and inside some EU projects as MSP-MED, to transform plans in layers added in the Human Activities portal of EMODnet.

#### **5. European Re-use of public sector information Directive**

The Open Data Directive (European Directive 2019/1024 of 20 June 2019 on open data and the re-use of public sector information), formerly known as PSI Directive, has been promulgated. A list of generic categories of high value datasets, including "Geospatial" and "Earth observation and environment", which will have to be distributed freely and without charge, has been adopted. If the implementation act retain nautical charts this would have serious consequences for some hydrographic services, as they draw a significant part of their resources from the sale of charts.

A common understanding of the Directive was developed between European HOs but the main question remains the List of High Values Datasets.

An Implementing Regulation will define the list of specific high value data sets held by public sector bodies and public undertakings among the documents to which the Directive applies. The Implementing Regulation is yet expected to be adopted.

#### **6. Miscellaneous**

##### **Progress on IRCC Action Items**

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##### **Problems Encountered**

Covid-19 pandemic prevented the realization and participation from the part of the WG in scheduled events.

##### **Any Other Items of Note**

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##### **Justification and Impacts**

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##### **Action Required of MBSHC**

The MBSHC is invited to note the report.

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<sup>1</sup> FR, NO, NE, GE, IR, ES

**List of Actions of IHO-EU network WG**

*Version 9 Dec 2021 (IENWG12)*

Meeting	Number	Title	Action	Responsible	Status	Update/ status
IENWG4 18-19/01/16	A4.7	EU/EC SDI related issues	Make sure that UN/GGIM, GEOSS, Copernicus, Eurogoos... are aware of EMODNET and do not develop databases already in the scope of EMODNET, and are aware of the HO marine data needs.	EMODNET project team and all EU HO's	Permanent	CL47 - Establishment of the UN-GGIM working group on marine geospatial information (MGIWG). Necessity of veil of the activities of this WG. NL HO veil permitted to introduce the needs of the HOs in the UN/GGIM questionnaire on Core data Theme « Elevation »
IENWG4 18-19/01/16	A4.11	MSP expert group	Participation and representation of EU HOs	Chair and/or the HO of the organisator's member State	Permanent	09/12/2021: BSH is representative for GE in the MSP expert group. For the record, Shom is representative for the group and may participate to the meetings.
IENWG4 18-19/01/16	A4.12	MSP calls	Consider participation to call for proposals on MSP (regional approach). Inform partners on who is the point of contact	ALL EU HO's	Permanent	New interest from IHO, on line with IOC/UNESCO ; questionnaire from IHO-MSDI WG on MSP 09/12/2021: 2 new recent calls.
IENWG4 18-19/01/16	A4.13	MSP calls	Promote the use of S-100 framework and intention to meet INSPIRE in the proposals that will be prepared in response to the MSP calls	ALL EU HO's	Permanent	09/12/2021: Done by FR in the approved MSP Med and Med Osmosis projects.
IENWG4 18-19/01/16	A4.14	Archives	Share information on volume of archives that could be processed in a project to be proposed to Europe (DG-Climate change DG- education and culture). Liaise with IENWG to raise concern on	ALL EU HO's	Permanent	

Meeting	Number	Title	Action	Responsible	Status	Update/ status
			that subject among European SH			
IENWG 5 13-14 Oct	A5.2	Standards	Coastal mapping project to recommend in its conclusions that Europe promotes IHO S-44 and S-100 standards in European calls and further development of EMODNET including data acquisition	ALL EU HO's	Permanent	09/12/2021: promotion by FR during the EMODnet Jamboree conference 14-18 June 2021
IENWG 5 13-14 Oct	A5.7	Outreach EC DGs	Strive to have POC of other DGs (not just DG-MARE)	Chair helped by ALL EU HO's	Permanent	The participation to the EOOS construction help to promote HO's activities with EU commission services 09/12/2021: the event on the 10th anniversary of the IHO-EC MoU in 2022 would be an opportunity to invite the different DGs
IENWG 7 6-7 - Feb 2018	A7.3		Updated active plenary members list	Chair and all	Permanent	
IENWG-8 27 - Feb 2018		IENWG organisation	Update the list of full members	Chair	Permanent	
IENWG-8 27 - Feb 2018		MSP	To task MSDI WG to include MSP in MSDI working plan	GERMANY interested IENWG Members (DENMARK, FR, NORWAY ... )	linked with MSP Expert group activities	In course with MSDI WG, DG MARE MSP AND EMODNET UNITS
IENWG-8 27 - Feb 2018		EMODNET	EMODNET project to liaise with IHO	FR interested IENWG Members	next HSSC	Liaise with HSSC to exchange on technical matters S100WG (S102 multipurpose profile)

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				(GERMANY, NORWAY ...)		DQWG anything for EMODNET 09/12/2021: EMODnet Bathymetry uses the IHO CATZOC qualification. There is a gap between the DQWG and EMODnet and the subject could not be discussed at the HSSC. Action to close
IENWG-8 27 - Feb 2018		DATA RESCUE	Historical Data Rescue	Portugal, France, SPAIN, ITALY, IRELAND	Permanent	Link TWCWG through HSSC Management of project out of IENWG
IENWG-8 27 Feb 2018		COASTAL MAPPING	Coastal Mapping Follow-up Built mutualised maritime data acquisition plan per bassin	Resp. Maritim Bassin GERMANY (NSHC) DENMARK (ARTIC) FR (EATHC) ITALY (MBSHC)	Permanent	Cross areas of interest with UE Strategy for Axis 1 (EOOS ... ) and with ESIF opportunities with CPMR tools for Axis 2 Liaise with CSBWG for Axis 3 (Crowdsourced bathymetry) Proposition of project of diffusion of CSB report to the EOOS partners for appropriation of good practices for acquisition of bathymetric data
IENWG-10 14-15 Jan 2020	A10.1	COASTAL MAPPING	Coastal Mapping Follow-up	Chair and voluntary HO's in their countries	2020-2021	Proposition of diffusion of CSB report to the EOOS partners for appropriation of good practices for acquisition of bathymetric data 09/12/2021: Diffusion of CSB report to EOOS to be made. Part of the European MINKE project actions

Meeting	Number	Title	Action	Responsible	Status	Update/ status
IENWG-10 14-15 Jan 2020	A10.2	PSI Directive	Sharing of information about the ongoing process to veil the evolution of the high value datasets for the marine charts		2022	
IENWG-10 14-15 Jan 2020	A10.3	EU Maritime Day 2021	Participation of members of IENWG	All members	Annual	Postponed due to COVID19. Maritime Day in Den Helder, The Netherlands, 20-21 May 2021. 09/12/2021: 19-20 May 2022 in Ravenna (Italy). IIM could represent IENWG. 2023 edition in Brest (France). Shom plans to invite IENWG members.
IENWG-10 14-15 Jan 2020	A10.4	DG MARE participation to the MSP expert group	-	National HO/CHAIR	Permanent	EU Maritime Day 2020 cancelled. 09/12/2021: duplicate action with IENWG4 A4.11. Action to delete.
IENWG-10 14-15 Jan 2020	A10.5	Participation to INSPIRE Conf 2020 2021	Croatia 12-15 May 20	Fr, PT, GE, NO, and more will be represented	Annual	Postponed due to COVID19. Croatia 07-09 September 2021. Action to close.
IENWG-11 2-3 Dec 2020	A11.1	EU consultation on ocean observation - sharing responsibility	Chair to consult the European HOs for views/opinions including the relevance of a common reply, in addition to national replies.	CHAIR with ALL EU HO's		09/12/2021: It was agreed that due to national specificities it was preferable that each HO respond. A large proportion of the EU HOs responded showing a strong interest in the EU consultation. Action to close.
IENWG-11 2-3 Dec 2020	A11.2	Directive on open data and re-use of public sector	To remain in close liaison with the national representatives involved in the drafting of the PSI directive	All		

Meeting	Number	Title	Action	Responsible	Status	Update/ status
		information				
IENWG-12 8-9 Dec 2021	A12.1	MSP	Med OSMOSIS offers to test the experimental S-124 service provided by Shom. Volunteers should contact Shom.	All EU HOs	15 February 2022	
IENWG-12 8-9 Dec 2021	A12.2	IHO-EC MoU	On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the MoU, to organise an event preferably in Brussels for a good participation of the EC DGs	Chair and Executive Secretary	1st half of 2022	