

A MORE AGILE STATE ADMINISTRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN NAVIGATION SAFETY SECTOR

On Tuesday, the final conference of the MED OSMoSIS strategic project was held in Athens, organized by the Greek Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy. The conference was also available online.

Among others, Alexis Blum, the representative of the French General Secretariat for the Sea SGMer (*Secrétariat général de la mer SGMer*) spoke at the conference and praised the partners for their excellent cooperation in the circumstances of the pandemic, on a strategic project involving numerous partners and member states in a demanding field of work. Namely, maritime institutions of Greece, Italy, Spain, Slovenia, Portugal, France, Montenegro, and Croatia participated in the project.

At the conference were presented the results of the pilot activities, the new WEBGIS application of the Italian Navy, and the application of the French Hydrographic Institute for navigation warnings. The Greek Coast Guard showed and demonstrated the MMAIP GIS platform. The results of the project, and the created list of maritime surveillance platforms clearly show that the institutions that perform maritime surveillance need an operational infrastructure for the collection and distribution of the verified spatial and safety maritime information, which is required by the European Union directives.

The project manager on behalf of Plovput, Katja Božić, presented the project's implemented activities. In this strategic project, Plovput, due to the expertise of its team, Nautical inspector, Ivica Petrović, and chief engineer for radio-electrical affairs Željko Bračić, participated in pilot studies related to the exchange of safety information in maritime affairs, and the development of new algorithms for search and rescue.

Maritime safety information includes navigational warnings, weather reports, maritime search and rescue reports and other urgent navigational safety information. Plovput involved colleagues from the Croatian Hydrographic Institute who successfully tested the new application for navigation warnings produced by the French Hydrographic Institute - SHOM and partners, and gave their comments and suggestions for improving it, which resulted in an interesting article published on the project's blog: www.med-osmosis.blogspot.com

Operators of the Plovput radio service at the coastal radio stations Rijeka-radio, Split-radio and Dubrovnik-radio, as part of the radio service's work, keep a continuous watch on the frequencies for danger in accordance with the international regulations, mediate in emergencies coordinated by the Croatian Maritime Rescue Coordinating Centre (MRCC) Rijeka, mediate in communication related to ships' requests for medical assistance, and broadcast regular and extraordinary maritime safety information (MSI) via VHF and NAVTEX systems. Plovput is also in charge of removing debris and floating objects and things. Therefore, the results of the pilot study of search and rescue planning with the development of the COSMO view application and the Atlas of Sea Currents, as well as algorithms for search and rescue, showed that a similar application can also be used for the needs of Plovput especially when performing work to remove floating objects and things from the waterway, even with time distance.

During the project, the Plovput technical database was promoted, as well as the new Croatian Register of Aids to Navigation (AToN), the database that is also open for public use at the link rosp.plovput.hr.

Furthermore, the GIS platform created by the Croatian Hydrographic Institute was also presented, namely the Croatian portal of spatial data about the sea - GEO ADRIA.

Ultimately, during the three years of work on this project, Plovput, strengthened its institutional capacities for the implementation of EU projects.

Also, guidelines for IPA countries were presented at the conference. The partners signed a Memorandum of Understanding, as part of the Capitalization work package, which aims to improve the sharing of project results after completion. The memorandum was signed by all project partners, from Croatia they are Plovput d.o.o. and Cluster of intermodal transport - KIP, and it is also signed by the stakeholders of the maritime sector. The Port Authority of Split, the Port Authority of Rijeka and the Port Authority of Zadar have signed it with their Croatian partners.

Martina Antunović, head of overall communication between numerous partners from different countries involved in the project, gave an overview of important events during the project implementation, at the same time thanking everyone for successful communication, which was very difficult due to the impossibility of personal contact at meetings.

As part of the conference, presented were all activities carried out in the development of modules and applications for maritime surveillance, for the collection and exchange of information and data in the sector of navigation safety at sea from which recommendations for the improvement of policies on maritime surveillance and security are derived.

As it is already publically known, EU citizens are looking for a faster and more agile administration between member states, and with the achieved goals and realized documents - the partners of the MED OSMoSiS project have contributed to interoperability in data and information exchange in the maritime security sector.

The MED OSMoSiS project "Mediterranean governance for Strategic Maritime Surveillance and Safety issues", with a total value of three million euros, was financed under the Interreg MED 2014-2020 program. It started in November 2019 and ends in September this year.