

First Capacity Building and Training Network Consultation Framework with Member States

Meeting – 7th of March 2023 – Vigo, Spain (Hybrid meeting)

Discussion paper regarding development of a “Capacity Building and Training Exchange Programme”

Project: **Coast Guard Cooperation Handbook and Capacity Building Project**
(Implementation of the results of the Coast Guard qualifications Network and the Practical Handbook on European cooperation on coast guard functions)

1. Background information

The Coast Guard Cooperation Handbook and Capacity Building project¹ (CGHandbook&CBT) is covering a capacity building and training exchange programme (CBTExPr) and the Sectoral Qualification Framework for Coast Guard Functions (SQFCGF).

The project, in particular the CBTExPr, is relevant for the EU Member States (MS) coast guard (CG) authorities and entities, for civilian and military authorities and entities implementing coast guard functions, and also for relevant to EU MS academies who are teaching CGF. An exchange programme of officers/experts allows to exchange experience and best practices among CG authorities and entities in different MS, as well as complement co-operation with neighbouring countries and/or to prepare for different international exercises and missions.

The objective of this document is to provide a basis for discussion on the implementation of an Exchange Programme.

2. Capacity building and training exchange programme scope and target audience

The CGHandbook&CBT project capacity building and training exchange program (CBTExPr) is planned to be inclusive and cover the widest possible scope in the CGF area: support cross-sectorial co-work and co-operations, strengthen common understanding and inter-agency cooperation. The Exchange Programme may also give to all authorities in MS, which are dealing with CGF on daily basis, an opportunity to participate in the CBTExPr as a facilitator (exchange host) or as an officer/expert as a trainee (exchange participant).

The CBTExPr is planned to be divided into two main areas:

- On-the-job training and work shadowing in other MS CG authorities or entities, as well as MS academies teaching CGF (core of the program).

¹ “Implementation of the results of the Coast Guard qualifications Network and the Practical Handbook on European cooperation on coast guard functions” - Contribution Agreement attributed to EFCA through Commission Implementing Decision of 4.6.2021 on the financing of the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2021, C(2021) 3870 final.

- Different CGF related courses held by other EU MS CG authorities or entities as well as MS academies teaching CGF.

Furthermore, the CBTEPr would cover EU MS academies (done by on-the-job training or work shadowing) and personnel exchanges, who are teaching CGF.

3. Initial ideas on objectives and aim of the capacity building and training exchange programme

The aim of the CBTEPr is to encourage MS CG authorities and entities, as well as the academies, to share, among other things, their experiences and working methods, show their equipment, resources, capabilities and infrastructure.

A list of possible objectives of the CBTEPr is included below:

- To promote networking in the CGF field, and, in particular, in the field of CGF capacity building and training.
- To promote the exchange of knowledge, skills, experiences and best practices in the CGF field.
- To promote the sharing of resources and mutual assistance.
- To assist in filling certain training gaps, i.e., for scarce and unusual skills, cutting edge know-how.
- To harmonize the knowledge and know-how of the European CGF actors.
- To contribute to the creation of a European CGF culture.
- To increase knowledge and understanding of the challenges faced in other EU Countries.
- To promote the increase of the lessons learned.
- To contribute to the development and the use of SQFCGF.

In principle, exchanges under the CBTEPr can be between three and five working days.

The exchange(s) offered by the project capacity building and training activities may be:

- Fully practical (on the job, work shadowing, participation on the operations, missions or exercises etc.).
- Partly practical and theoretical.

We foresee that during the exchange(s) the participants will also get the experience on how to work together in an international environment, which will be a good basis for the joint operations and exercises done and held at the EU level.

Exchanges would be valid to all MS CGF authorities and entities, also to MS academies that are teaching CGF. The exchange participant shall be from a MS CGF authority and entity or from a MS academy, which is teaching CGF.

4. Discussion points

During the meeting, the following points would be under discussion:

- How useful do you see the implementation of an CBTEPr with the proposed aim and objectives?
- What coast guard functions exchanges are you interested in and why?
- What do you think could be the minimum and maximum duration of the CBTEPr (view from host and participant side)?
- Would you favour more theoretical or more practical exchanges? Work shadowing, operations, missions, participation on exercises?

- Should the CBTEPr support participants participating exchanges in the different regions from where the participant originally is from?
- Do you think language could be an obstacle or a challenge? Please give examples.
- How long in advance do you see it is necessary for you to have a CBTEPr host call to plan and provide exchanges?
- What advantages and disadvantages do you see participating in an CBTEPr as a host and/or as a participant?
- What challenges to you see participating in an CBTEPr as a host and/or as a participant?
- Is the certificate of the CBTEPr important and needed for participants and the sending organizations or not?

Annex 1. Main actors in the implementation of the CGHandbook&CBT project CBTEPr

Actor	Description
EFCA	Lead and coordinator.
EFCA, EMSA, Frontex	Implementing bodies.
EFCA point of contact (EFCA PoC)	EFCA's CGHandbook&CBT project officer
CBTPOCs	CGHandbook&CBT project capacity building and training PoC-s who are nominated MS CGF authorities and entities, also MS academies teaching CGF as a contact point for the CGHandbook&CBT project capacity building and training part.
Host	MS CG authorities or entities and MS academies teaching CGF, which will provide/host exchanges.
Host point of contact (host PoC)	Contact point from the MS CG authorities or entities and MS academies teaching CGF that are hosting exchanges(s).
Sending organization	MS agency or entity belonging to the public administration or performing public functions, responsible for or involved in the performance of one or more CGF.
Sending organization point of contact (sending organization PoC)	Contact point from the MS CG authorities or entities and MS academies teaching CGF that will send their staff to participate in the exchange(s).
Exchange participant	Person who is working in a MS CGF authority or entity or person from a MS academy who is teaching CGF and will participate in the CGHandbook&CBT project exchange.