



In cooperation with:  **FRONT**

“Coast Guard Project: Capacity Building and Training activities”

07JUN2024

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5B. Cooperation

EFCA

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Meeting agenda

- 09:30 – 09:45 Opening and introduction
- 09:45 – 10:15 Overview of SQFCGF – what is done and what is ahead of us
- 10:15 – 11:00 Overview of CBTExPr – overview of 1st period and way forward
- 11:00 – 11:20 Questions and answers, discussion
- 11:20 – 11:30 Summary and conclusion

INTRODUCTION

Capacity Building and Training activities



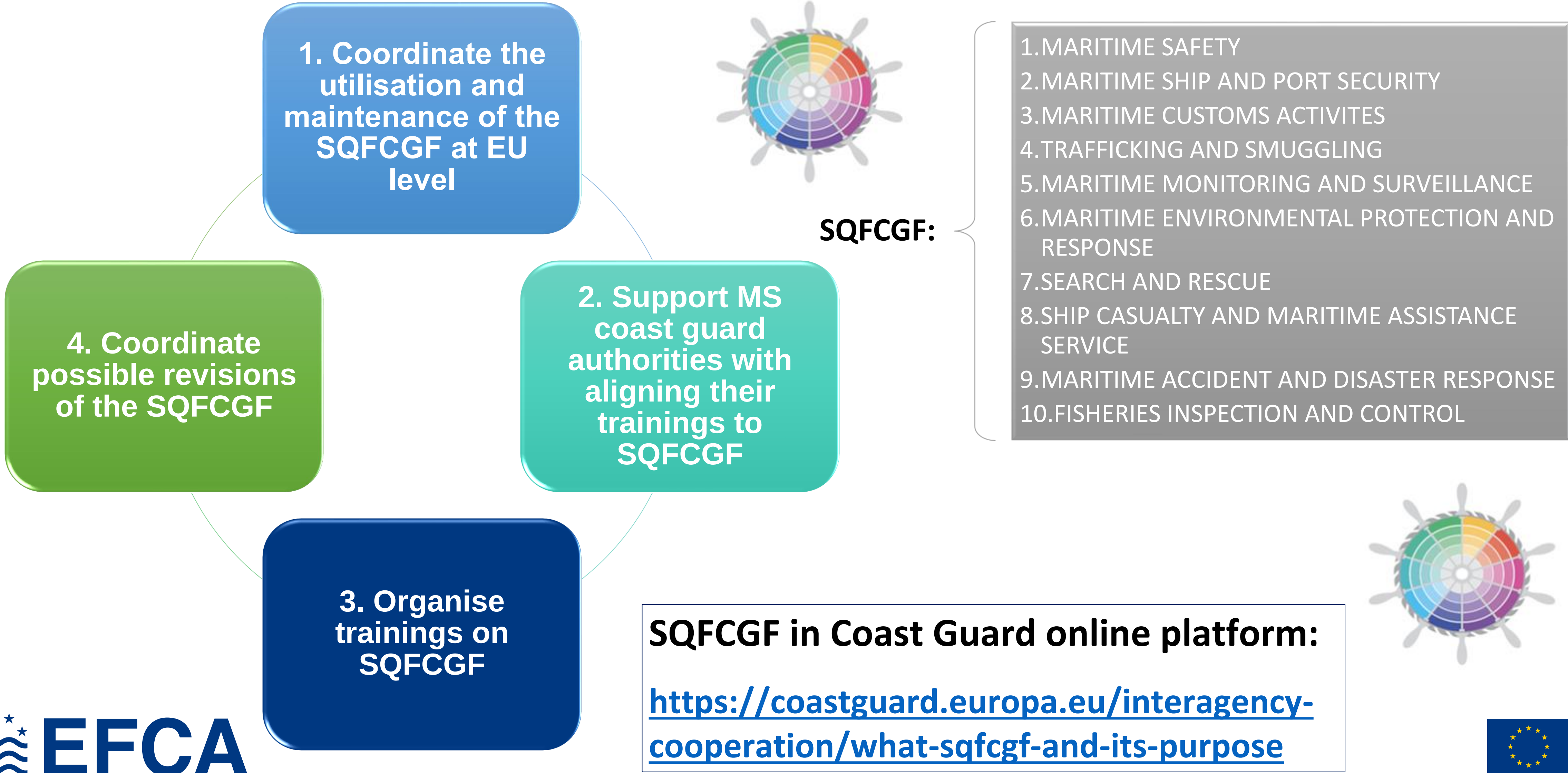
- Capacity building and training exchange programme (CBTEXPr).
- Sectoral Qualification Framework for Coast Guard Functions (SQFCGF).

Sectoral Qualification Framework and Exchange Programme

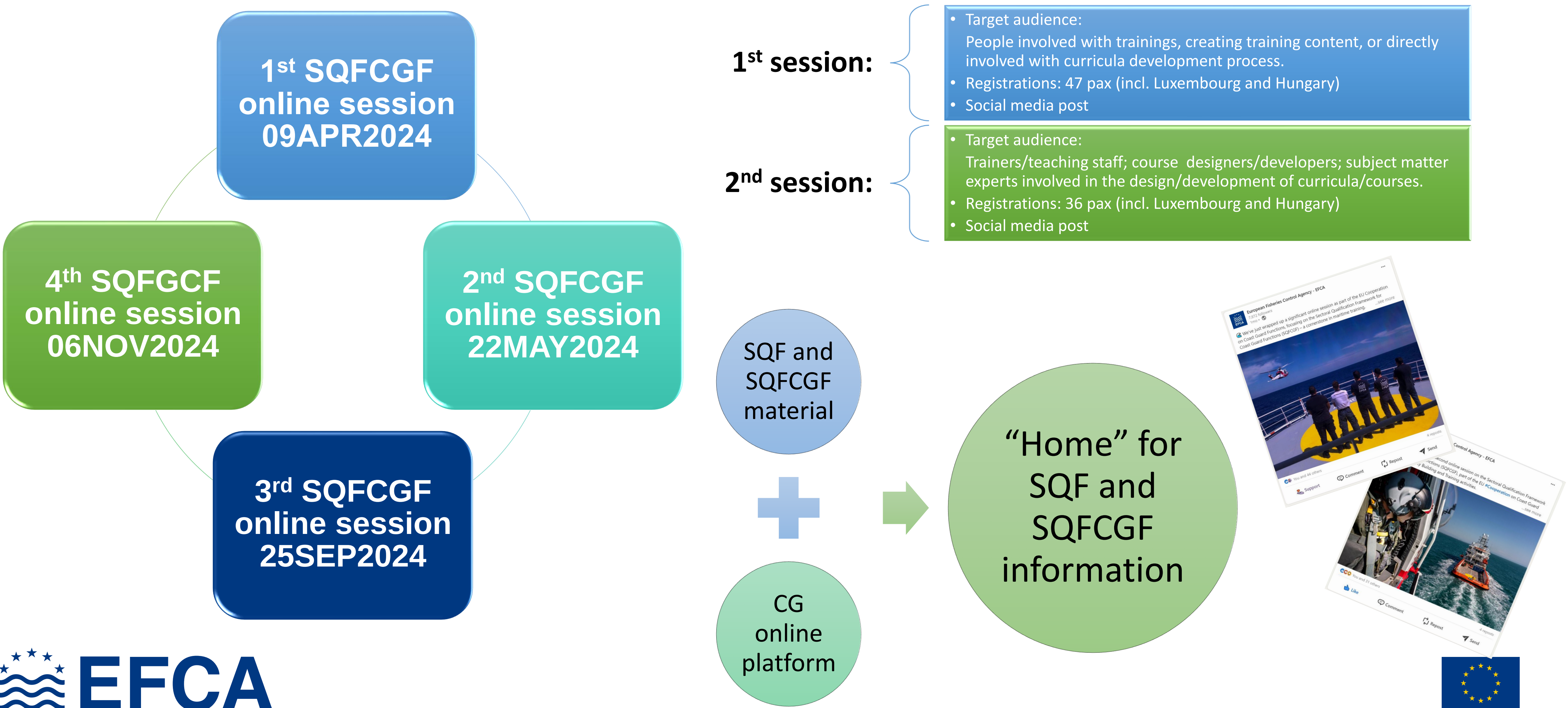
- Capacity Building and Training Network Consultation Framework with Member States was created.
 - In total there are 68 (+2 back up) designated points of contacts nominated from Member States.
 - Designated Point of Contacts are from 19 different countries (18 MS + 1 EFTA state) representing 58 different institutions.
- Regular Capacity Building and Training activity meetings with EMSA and Frontex.
- Additional expertise contract with external expert concerning SQF and SQFCGF topics from 2023. In 2024 different SQF and SQFCGF sessions for Member States will be offered.
- Creating and maintaining 1st period Capacity Building and Training Exchange Programme (CBTExPr). Launching 2nd period CBTExPr.

Overview of SQFCGF – what is done and what is ahead of us

Overall SQF and SQFCGF activities



SQF and SQFCGF activities in 2024



Overview of CBTExPr – overview of 1st period and way forward

Capacity Building and Training Exchange Programme (CBTExPr)



Aim

Exchange Programme is to encourage the Target Audience Coast Guard authorities, entities, and academies, to:

- share their know-how and working methods,
- present and exchange experience with their equipment, resources, capabilities and infrastructure.



Target audience

All Member States, European Free Trade Association countries and Schengen associated countries
Coast Guard Function authorities, entities, and academies.



Scope

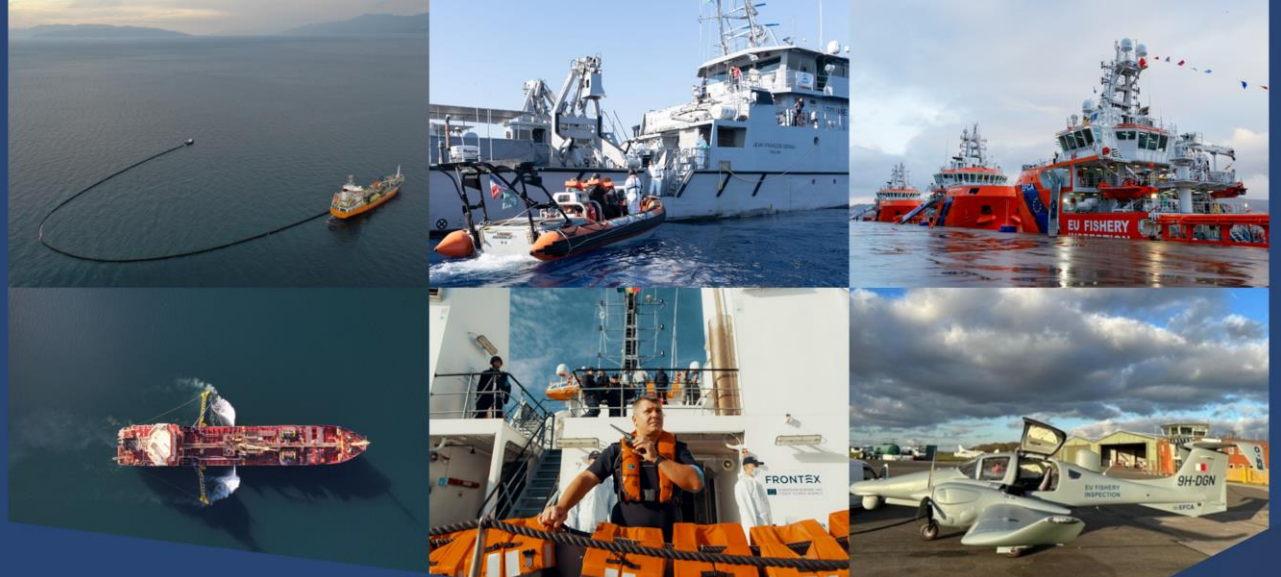
- Support cross-sectoral co-work and co-operation.
- Strengthen common understanding and inter-agency cooperation.



Areas

- On-the-job training and work shadowing (core of the Exchange Programme).
- Different Coast Guard Function courses.

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**COAST GUARD
EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**
<https://coastguard.europa.eu>
Funded by the European Union (additional information planned to be displayed in the future under the link above)



The aim of the Exchange Programme is to encourage the authorities, entities, and academies involved in Coast Guard Functions, to share their know-how and working methods, present and exchange experience with their equipment, resources, capabilities, and infrastructure.

Be part of the new and inclusive Exchange Programme as a host and/or a participant.

Contact us to help develop and enhance the European cooperation on Coast Guard Functions.



Target audience

Coast Guard Function authorities, entities, and academies from Member States, European Free Trade Association countries and Schengen associated countries.



Scope

- Support cross-sectoral co-work and co-operation.
- Strengthen common understanding and inter-agency cooperation.



Areas

- On-the-job training and work shadowing (core of the Exchange Programme).
- Different Coast Guard Function courses.

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Different CBTExPr related documents

- Capacity Building and Training Exchange Programme Terms of Reference
- Exchanges catalogue
- Exchanges calendar
- Call letter for hosts
- Call letter for exchange participants
- Outcome letters to:
 - Host PoCs concerning approved exchange participants to their exchanges.
 - Sending organisation PoCs concerning the outcome of candidate(s) nomination(s).
- Letters concerning changes
- Exchange invitations via AGM

To:
Nominated Coast Guard project capacity building and training activity point of contacts
Cc:
Members of the Steering Group on Training and Exchange of Experience of EFCA
Members of the Consultative Network on Technical Assistance (CNTA) of EMSA
National Frontex Point of Contact of all EU MSs/SAC

Subject: Coast Guard Exchange Programme – Call letter for Hosts

Dear Colleagues,

In February 2022 a project¹ started to support the development of an academies and training network, the implementation of an exchange programme, and the sectoral qualifications framework as regards the coast guard functions.

One of the main goals of the project is to support and enhance the cross-border and the cross-sectoral cooperation through exchanging theoretical and practical knowledge, best practices and lessons learned between authorities dealing with coast guard functions within the European Union (civil or military), thus contributing to support European Union Member States authorities and entities in preparing their staff for joint missions and operations.

Herby we encourage all Member States coast guard authorities and entities, as well as coast guard academies to participate in this project. The aim of the exchange programmes is to share, among other things, hosts' own experiences and working methods, as well as to introduce their equipment, resources, capabilities and infrastructure. The first exchange programme period is foreseen from February 2024 to January 2025.

To:
Nominated Coast Guard project capacity building and training activity point of contacts
Cc:
Members of the Steering Group on Training and Exchange of Experience of EFCA
Members of the Consultative Network on Technical Assistance (CNTA) of EMSA
National Frontex Point of Contact of all EU MSs/SAC

Subject: Coast Guard Exchange Programme – Call for Exchange Participants

Dear Colleagues,

A Coast Guard Capacity Building and Training Exchange Programme (CBTExPr) was launched in June 2023 through a call for hosts for the period February 2024 – January 2025. Subsequently, 28 different exchange offers for up to 127 participants were received. The aim of the exchange programme is to share, among other things, hosts' experiences and working methods, as well as to introduce their equipment, resources, capabilities and infrastructure.

Herby, we launch the call for **Exchange Participants**. The calendar covering the first CBTExPr period (Annex A) as well as the catalogue of the offered exchanges and the requirements for the Exchange Participant candidates (Annex B) are attached to this letter.

CBTExPr first period 02.2024 to 01.2024 – hosts and exchanges

- Call for hosts – launched on the 2 June 2023, open until 11 September 2023 (twice prolonged).
- Offers for hosts were voluntary. The programme does not cover the hosts' costs.
- Outcome of call for hosts:
 - 9 Member States & Iceland;
 - 21 coast guard authorities and entities;
 - 28 different exchange offers (31 in total);
 - 128 participants places;
 - offered exchanges cover all CGF, sea and air activities.



CBTExPr first period 02.2024 to 01.2024 hosts

1. **Belgium:** Agency for maritime and coastal services
2. *(Belgium: FPS Mobility and Transport - DG Shipping)**
3. **Croatia:** Ministry of agriculture of the Republic of Croatia (Directorate of fisheries, Sector for monitoring and control of Fisheries)
4. **Finland:** Finnish Border Guard
5. *(France: Centre de sécurité des navires de Bordeaux)**
6. **France:** CROSS-A Etel
7. **France:** French Customs Coast-Guard
8. **Iceland:** Icelandic Coast Guard
9. **Italy:** Centro di Aviazione
10. **Italy:** Italian Coast Guard
11. **Italy:** Scuola Nautica – Guardia di Finanza
12. **Poland:** Maritime Regional Unit of Border Guard
13. **Poland:** Maritime Office in Gdynia
14. **Poland:** Maritime Office in Szczecin
15. **Poland:** Pomeranian Customs and Revenue Office in Gdynia, Law Enforcement Maritime Division in Gdansk
16. **Portugal:** National Maritime Authority in Portugal
17. **Romania:** Romanian Maritime Training Centre (CERONAV)
18. **Spain:** Spanish Maritime Safety and Rescue Agency, MRCC Tarifa
19. **Spain:** Spanish Maritime Safety and Rescue Agency Headquarter, National Maritime Operations Department
20. **Spain:** Spanish Maritime Safety and Rescue Agency, Jovellanos Training Centre
21. **Spain:** Spanish Maritime Safety and Rescue Agency, National Maritime Coordination Centre

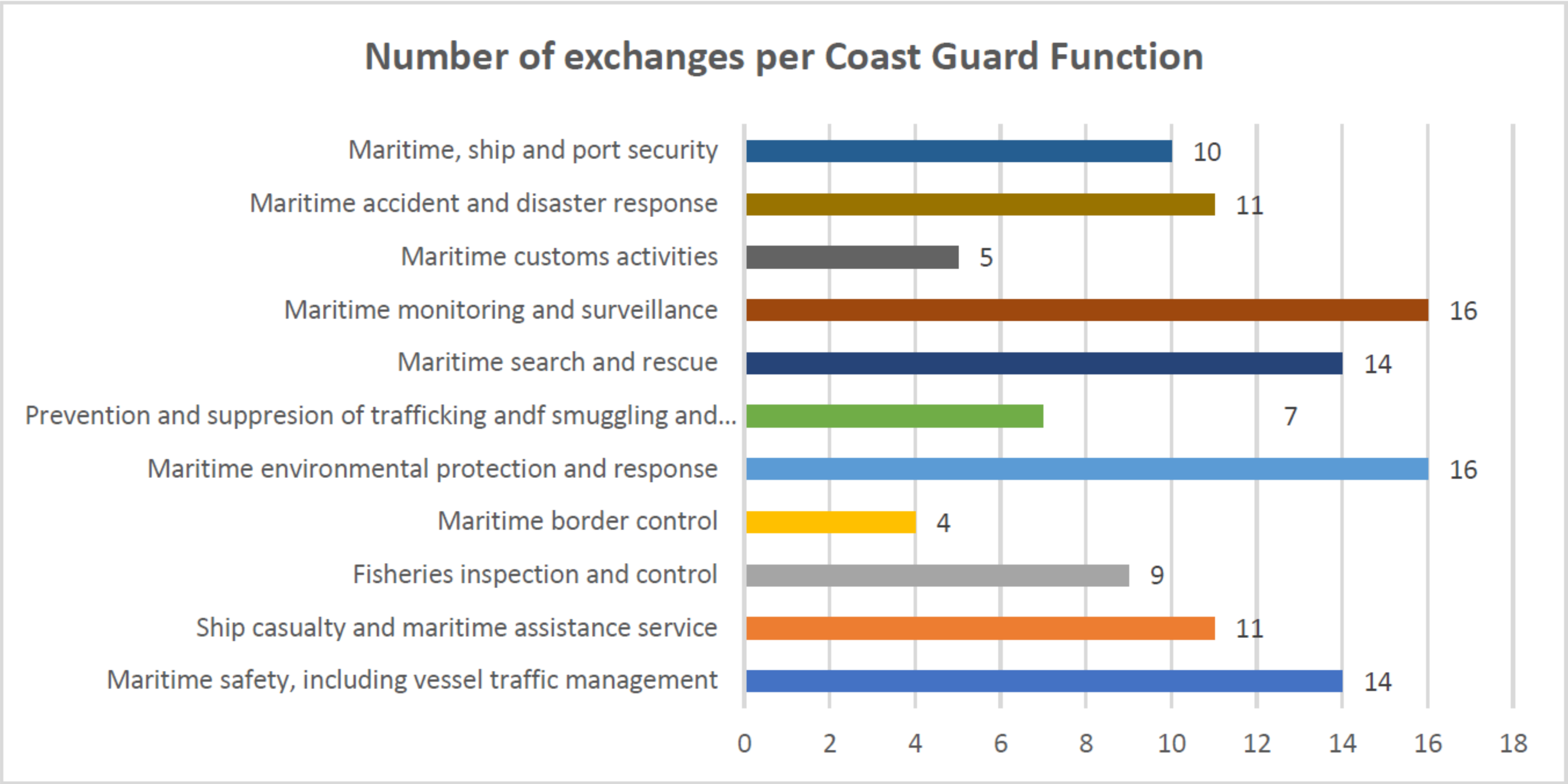
** no candidate nominations received*

First period 02.2024 to 01.2025 exchanges

1. **FRANCE:** 2024/FB **BELGIUM:** 2024/BE/1 – Maritime safety and environment
2. *(BELGIUM: 2024/BE/2 – FPS Mobility and Transport- DG Shipping)**
3. **CROATIA:** 2024/HR/1.1 and 2024/HR/1.2 – Fisheries control and inspection
4. **FINLAND:** 2024/FI/1 – SAR Mission Co-ordinator (SMC) Course
5. **FINLAND:** 2024/FI/2 – On-scene Co-ordinator (OSC) Course
6. **FINLAND:** 2024/FI/3 – Work shadowing
7. *(FRANCE: 2024/FR/1.1 and 2024/FR/1.2 – Observation internship at CSN Bordeaux)**
8. **FRANCE:** 2024/FR/2 – Implementing control plan at sea: the French integrated approach
9. **FRANCE:** 2024/FR/3 - Increase marine practices
10. **ICELAND:** 2024/IS/1 – Coast Guard Vessel Staff Exchange
11. **ITALY:** 2024/IT/1 – Centro Simulazione Operazioni Aeronavali
12. **ITALY:** 2024/IT/2 – Rescue Swimmer Course (observers)
13. **ITALY:** 2024/IT/3.1 and 2024/IT/3.2 – Maritime Capacity Building Exchange at the Scuola Nautica 2024
14. **POLAND:** 2024/PL/1 – Maritime Regional Unit of Border Guard Training
15. **POLAND:** 2024/PL/2 – Maritime Safety Training
16. *(POLAND: 2024/PL/3 – Maritime Safety and Environment Protection Training)**
17. **POLAND:** 2024/PL/4 – Vessel Traffic Services Operators' Training
18. **POLAND:** 2024/PL/5 – Training in the ship search and container inspection
19. **PORTUGAL:** 2024/PT/1 – ATLANTIC POLEX.PT
20. *(PORTUGAL: 2024/PT/2 – RESCUE SWIMMER PT)**
21. **PORTUGAL:** 2024/PT/3 – Robotic Experimentation and Prototyping Exercise
22. **ROMANIA:** 2024/RO/1 – Marine environmental awareness and prevention
23. **ROMANIA:** 2024/RO/1 – Maritime safety
24. **ROMANIA:** 2024/RO/1 – Maritime security awareness
25. **SPAIN:** 2024/ES/1 – Job shadowing at Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre Tarifa
26. **SPAIN:** 2024/ES/2 – Exchange of good practices regarding Operations Management and Planning
27. **SPAIN:** 2024/ES/3 – Knowledge sharing and hands-on experience for Coast Guard Functions Training Personnel
28. **SPAIN:** 2024/ES/4 – Work shadowing at the National Maritime Coordination Centre*

** no candidate nominations received*

1st period exchange offers and Coast Guard Functions



CBTExPr first period 02.2024 to 01.2024 – exchange participants

- Call for participants – launched on the 23 October 2023. Due date prolonged until 18 December 2023.
- The eligible costs of the CBTExPr exchange participant include travel, accommodation and daily allowance.
- Outcome of call for exchange participants:
 - 12 MS & Iceland nominated exchange participants.
 - In total more than 200 nominations.
 - Many candidates applied to several different exchanges.
 - Candidates covered all CGF.
 - 86 approved participants and 34 reserve list candidates.
- First exchange in February 2024 offered by Italian Coast Guard – 2024/IT/2 “Rescue Swimmer Course (observer)”.
- Observation of exchanges with a social media posts, summary stories in CG online platform.



Launch of the CBTExPr second period 02.2025 to 01.2026 exchanges call for hosts is planned to Summer 2024!

About 1st period exchanges

- I part of 2024 exchanges were held in six (6) countries: Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain.
 - Some exchanges had time changes – in duration or in dates.
 - Approved exchange participants gave up places (different reasons, incl. one injury).
 - Reserve lists were activated in most of the exchanges where we had it.
 - Exchange 2024/IT/3.1 offer was for 15 places, had 6 applicants and had in the end 2 participants. Host still did it. There was a cancellation possibility.
 - A lot of challenges and extinguishing fires, responding and acting fast.
 - Sometimes need to support hosts/exchange participants after worktime, during weekend.
- II part of 2024 exchanges will be held in nine (9) countries: Belgium, Croatia, France, Iceland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain.
 - Some of the exchange dates TBD (2024/ES/2 and 2024/ES/4, 2024/FR/3, 2024/IT/1, 2024/PT/3, 2024/RO/3).

Finished and upcoming 1st period exchanges until July 2024

1. 19.–23.02.2024 2024/IT/1 – Rescue Swimmer Course (observers)
2. 15.–19.04.2024 2024/FI/2 – On-scene Co-ordinator (OSC) Course
3. 15.–19.04.2024 2024/IT/3.1 – Maritime Capacity Building Exchange at the Scuola Nautica 2024
4. 17.–19.04.2024 2024/PT/1 – ATLANTIC POLEX.PT
5. 22. 24.04.2024 2024/PL/5 – Training in the ship search and container inspection
6. 15.-19.05.2024 2024/PL/4 – Vessel Traffic Services Operators' Training
7. 21.-23.05.2024 2024/ES/1 – Job shadowing at Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre Tarifa (1 from 2 pax)
8. 21.-24.05.2024 2024/ES/3 – Knowledge sharing and hands-on experience for Coast Guard Functions Training Personnel (1 from 2 pax)
9. 27.-31.05.2024 2024/FI/1 – SAR Mission Co-ordinator (SMC) Course
10. 03.-06.06.2024 2024/FI/3 – Work shadowing (ongoing)
11. 10. –13.06.2024 2024/PL/2 – Maritime Safety Training
12. 11. –13.06.2024 2024/HR/1.1 – Fisheries control and inspection
13. 17. –18.06.2024 2024/FR/2 – Implementing control plan at sea: the French integrated approach

Social media coverage of the visited exchanges

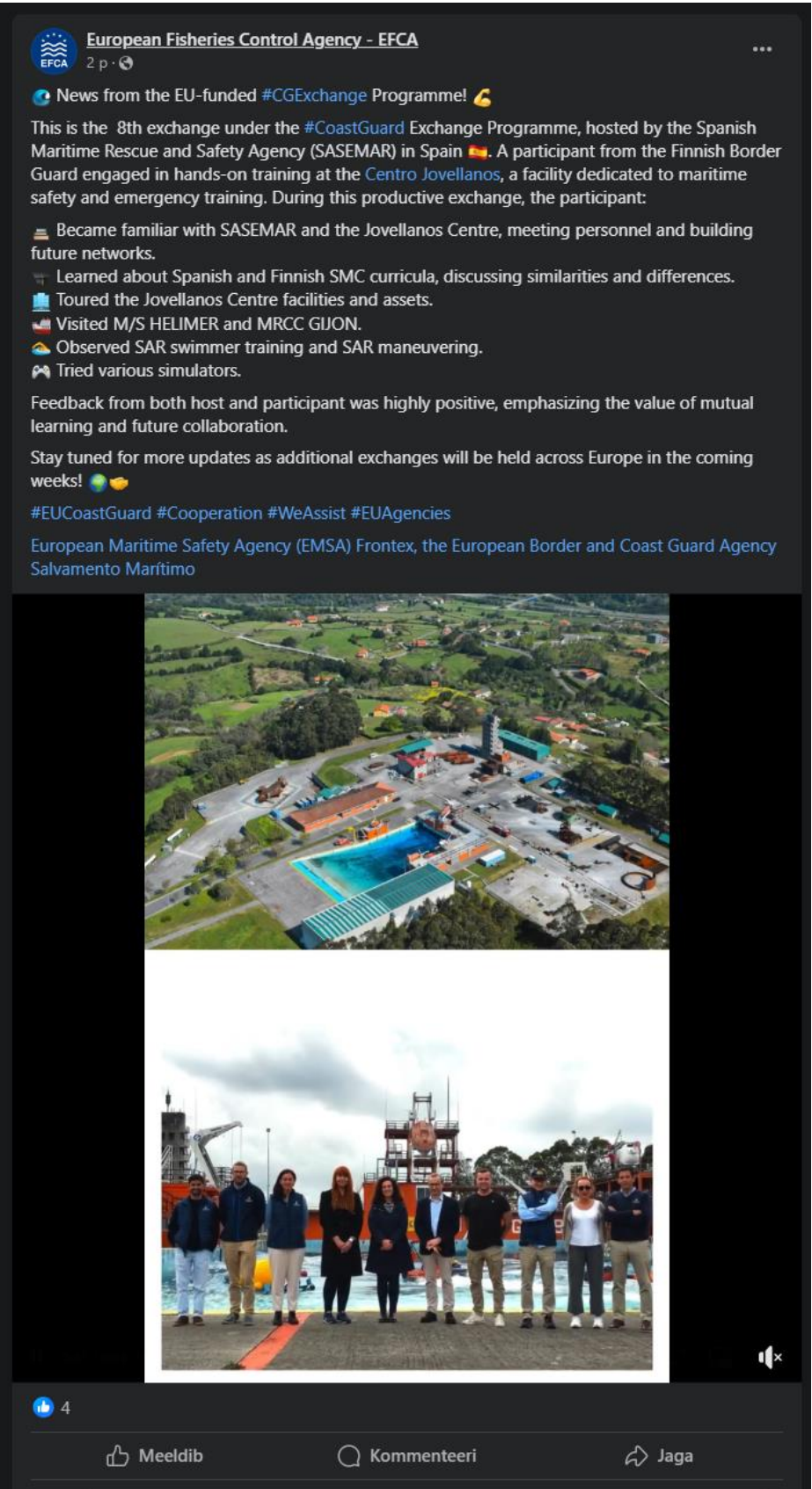
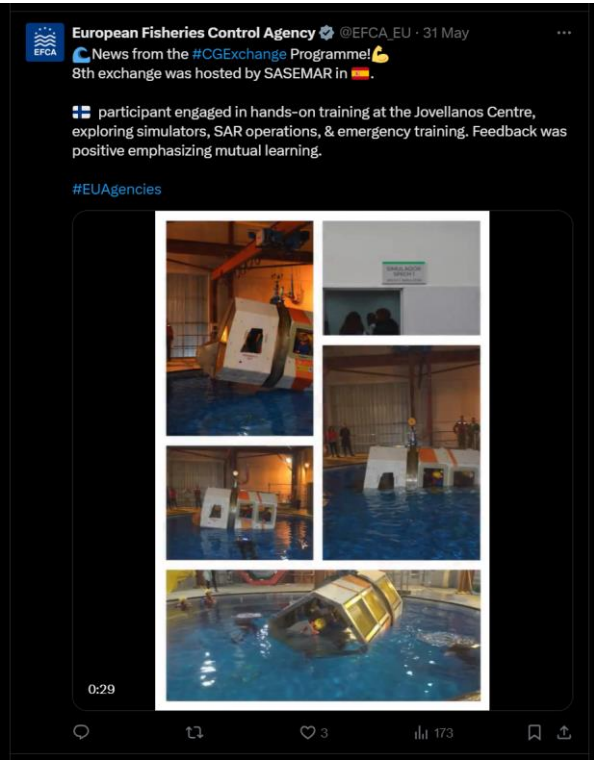
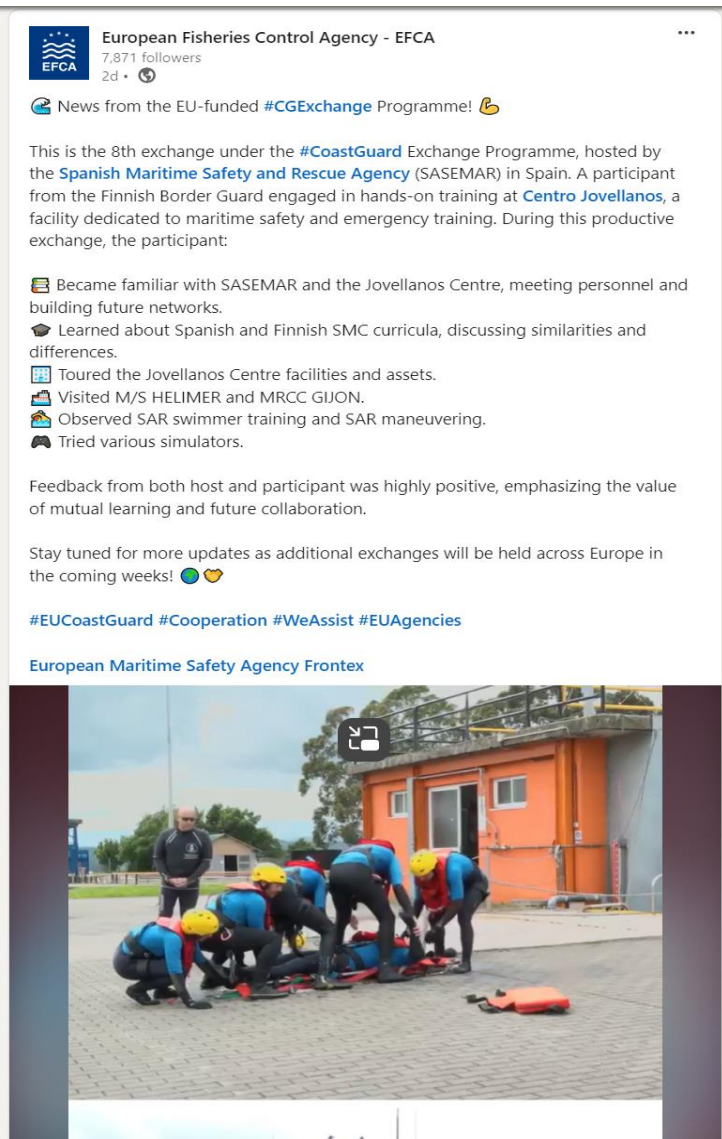
LinkedIn – Facebook – X (former Twitter)

Social media post examples (LinkedIn):

- **2024/FI/3:** https://www.linkedin.com/posts/european-fisheries-control-agency_cgexchange-coastguard-coastguard-activity-7203416006294253568-n6pi?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
- **2024/ES/3:** https://www.linkedin.com/posts/european-fisheries-control-agency_cgexchange-coastguard-eucoastguard-activity-7202233186943164416-3n8K?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
- **2024/PL/5 sum up:** https://www.linkedin.com/posts/european-fisheries-control-agency_cgexchange-cgexchange-cgexchange-activity-7193882923480055808-TZDt?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
- **2024/PL/5 start:** https://www.linkedin.com/posts/european-fisheries-control-agency_coastguard-cgexchange-cooperation-activity-7188161639148306432-G5fV?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
- **2024/IT/2 sum up:** https://www.linkedin.com/posts/european-fisheries-control-agency_cgexchange-guardiacostiera-guardiacostiera-activity-7168642639766904832-3yqr?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
- **Start of the CBTEPr:** https://www.linkedin.com/posts/european-fisheries-control-agency_coastguard-cgexchange-cooperation-activity-7165661590124544000-qsjsx?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

Summary story example (CG online platform):

- [First exchange: 2024/IT/2 – Rescue Swimmer Course \(observer\) | European Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions \(europa.eu\)](#)



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Press release concerning CBTExPr

EFCA launches the first Coast Guard Capacity Building and Training Exchange Programme | European Fisheries Control Agency (europa.eu) – <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/node/646>

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EFCA launches the first Coast Guard Capacity Building and Training Exchange Programme

2024-04-17

The European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), in collaboration with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) has launched the first Coast Guard Capacity Building and Training Exchange Programme at European level. This initiative, funded by the European Commission, aims to bolster the development of an academy and training network and implement an exchange programme between administrations from different countries.

The exchange programme facilitates the exchange of theoretical and practical knowledge and best practices among authorities engaged in coast guard functions. By doing so, the project contributes to preparing staff for joint missions and operations, benefiting EU Member States (MS), European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries and Schengen associated countries' coast guard authorities and entities. It offers participants valuable insights into international cooperation, crucial for joint missions, operations and exercises conducted at the EU level or with third countries. This programme is therefore also very relevant for the EU Maritime Security Strategy and Action Plan^[1], which seeks to strengthen Europe's autonomy amid growing threats to maritime security.

The first exchange took place in Sarzana, Italy, with participants from the Icelandic Coast Guard and the Portuguese Maritime Life Saving Institute in the Italian Coast Guard's Rescue Swimmer Course, with a week dedicated to theoretical and practical lessons.

Overall, there were 86 candidates that were assigned to an exchange and 34 candidates to reserve lists. The next exchanges for this semester involve authorities from Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Romania, Portugal, Poland and Spain.

"The programme sets sail on a journey of collaboration, learning, and empowerment, striving to shape the future of coast guard functions across Europe," said Susan Steele, EFCA Executive Director. "The Coast Guard Capacity Building and Training Exchange Programme is designed to be inclusive, covering a broad spectrum in the coast guard functions area. It promotes cross-sectorial collaboration, strengthens common understanding, and encourages inter-agency cooperation."

Visit the Coast Guard Portal to read more about the exchanges' outcomes: [The Exchange Programme | European Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions \(europa.eu\)](#)

Share it



Background

EFCA is an EU agency that promotes the highest common standards for the control, inspection, and surveillance under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). EFCA was established to organise operational coordination activities by the Member States and to assist them to cooperate so as to comply with the CFP rules in order to ensure its effective and uniform application.

With a view to reinforcing European cooperation on Coast guard functions, EFCA's founding regulation was amended in September 2016 entrusting EFCA — together with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) — to support national authorities carrying out coast guard functions at national and Union level and where appropriate at international level.



^[1] Council conclusions on the Revised EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) and its Action Plan, 14280/23. Brussels, 24 October 2023.



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Some photos and videos from the visited exchanges



2024/IT/2



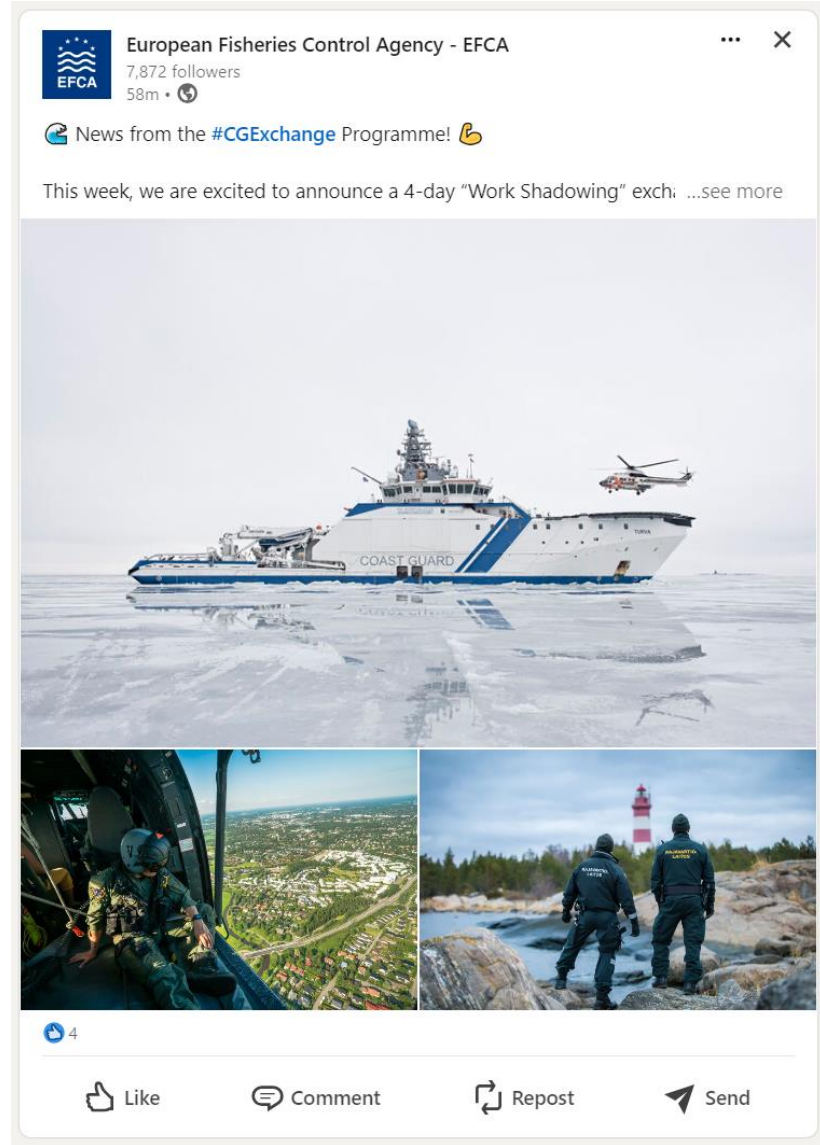
2024/PL/5



2024/ES/3

Just ended 2024/FI/3 “Work Shadowing

- Aboa Mare simulators 🚢
- Nauvo training base / Coast Guard station 🏠
- OPV “Turva” 🚢
- MRSC Helsinki 🌐
- Air Patrol Squadron ✈️



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Some feedback from the finished exchanges – HOST's

Based on feedback forms (CBTExPr ToR Annex 3), emails and interviews.

- Participants well selected/chosen, highly motivated with and good team spirit and active.
- Participants were adequately prepared for the exchange and willingly carried out the assigned tasks.
- Participants brought their own contributions to the exchanges.
- Knowledge about activities performed by other maritime administration and procedures implemented by them have been the two most important benefits that we had from this exchange.
- The exchange was able to provide satisfying training activities to both, creating new skills and strengthening the knowledge that can allow the professional growth in the international cooperation.
- Chance to strengthen relationships both with the Agency (EFCA) and the exchange participants' administrations.
- Opening ourselves to international cooperation.
- Participation in CBTExPr was great chance to exchange knowledge and experiences with other colleagues with common areas of expertise.
- The exchange allows us to exchange knowledge, skills, experiences, methodologies and different approaches due to the national differences.
- The most valuable element of this exchange is sharing information, both strengths and weaknesses. This starting point allows both Institutions to understand what works or not for each other, compare and give new tools to the other.
- The key element of this programme is to share the strengths and weaknesses of our job, to acquire and/or give tools, and even in shared challenges create the framework to work together to find the solution.

Some feedback from the finished exchanges – HOST's

Based on feedback forms (CBTExPr ToR Annex 3), emails and interviews.

Suggestions or additional comments:

- Continue the good selection and matching of exchanges and exchange participants.
- In the beginning of the exchange give time for participants to introduce themselves.
- Participants should be active, as this is the way you can learn the most and be able to present your own points of view to the other participants.
- Not to be afraid to offer more exchange participant places.
- Still make the exchange if some of the selected and approved participants will withdraw their participation (example of IT Guardia di Finanza).
- Give more time for participants and host representatives to communicate and network.
- Make longer exchange offers. Maybe not 2-3 days, but a week and plan networking time inside the exchanges.
- Make some joint events in the evenings together with participants. Ice-breakers, common lunches and dinners.
- Get feedback summary from the Agency (EFCA).
- Continue the things you are doing, continue the Exchange Programme as it is needed for the CGF operational people and authorities.

One of the host PoC sentence:

“Working with EFCA and all the Agencies has been, also on this occasion, a privilege for us; we would be glad to be able to propose again for future similar initiatives, remaining at disposal for any form of further collaboration should it be requested in the field of capacity building in the specific Coast Guard functions.”

Some feedback from the finished exchanges – EXCHANGE PARTICIPANTS's

Based on feedback forms (CBTExPr ToR Annex 4) emails and interviews.

- Hosts have been available and motivated to welcome other EU members.
- All exchanges and cross-country participation in exchange programs, especially for observation of courses, can be of great benefit and value to those attending.
- Hosts representatives have been fantastic. Hosts have made an incredible job not only in the quality of the exchange's contents, but also taking care of all participants in all commodities.
- Everything nicely organized.
- The exchanges have exceeded expectations.
- Participating in the exchange program allows participants further develop in their professional career.
- This kinds of programs keeps the organizations in contact with other organizations.

Some feedback from the finished exchanges – EXCHANGE PARTICIPANTS's

Based on feedback forms (CBTExPr ToR Annex 4), emails and interviews.

Suggestions or additional comments:

- Longer exchanges.
- Depending on the exchange type - more practical exercises (incl. simulators) and operational activity.
- More time for networking and discussions with other participants and host representatives.
- Host to prepare and share with exchangees a copy of training material (Word, PowerPoint, video, literature...).
- Hosts to make their exchange offers more clear – correct name, name and content should match, requirements, dressing code.
- Hosts and their representatives have been amazing – friendly, warm and welcoming. They have made participants feel welcomed and appreciated.
- Hosts representatives have been open and also eager to learn from participants.
- Everything has been good. Everything has been outstanding.
- All exchange programs are very important for any organization. And the most important is that this makes better connections between nations and makes all future cooperation easier.

Two exchange participants sentences:

“It would be interesting to carry out exchanges like this more often and with a few more participants in each round.”

“I would encourage the continuation of such programmes and make it easier for workers to take part in them.”

Some of the CBTExPr added values

- Connecting different parts of Europe: from north to west and south to east.
- Not only exchange participants are learning during exchanges, but also host representatives.
- Sharing information – both strengths and weaknesses.
- Hearing and learning from other mistakes.
- Hearing and feeling that the challenges and struggles can be the same.
- Getting new ideas and views, possibilities and perspectives.
- Creating contacts and network for the future co-operation and/or sharing documents (exchange WhatsApp groups)
- After exchange: sharing material, ideas and knowledge with colleagues (cascading forms), as well as continuing co-operation with new contacts, network.
- Creating a floor/base to start implementing new knowledge via suggestions in home authorities, making things better and even more effective.

One exchange host PoC quote:

“New bonds have been created that set the bath for a strong European Coast Guard Network Experts”



In cooperation with:



EMSA

FRONT_{EX}



Some of the main CBTExPr activities in 2024

- **Maintaining 1st period exchanges, incl. supporting hosts and sending organisations, participants (until DEC2024)**
- **Exchange visits – social media posts and summary stories (until DEC2024)**
- **1st period half year short summary (AUG2024)**
- **Starting the CBTExPr 2nd period:**
 - Revising Terms of Reference (JUN2024)
 - Launching the call for hosts (JUN/JUL2024)
 - Approving host offers, creating new period exchanges calendar and catalogue (NOV2024)
 - Launching the call for exchange participants (DEC2024)
 - Supporting possible new hosts and sending organisations candidates (starting from JUN/JUL2024).

Thank you for your attention!



QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



EFCA
European Fisheries Control Agency

