

# **First Capacity Building and Training Network Consultation Framework with Member States**

**“Capacity Building and Training in Coast Guard Functions: Sectoral Qualification  
Framework and Exchange Programme”**

**Meeting – 7 March 2023 – Vigo, Spain**

**(Hybrid meeting)**

## **Meeting Report**

**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**

Within the European Union (EU) many different authorities are responsible for carrying out coast guard functions (CGF) and it is therefore fundamental to encourage cooperation and coordination at EU level to avoid overlapping and to ensure efficient and effective CGF activities.

The Coast Guard Cooperation Handbook and Capacity Building Project<sup>1</sup> (project) started on 1 February 2022 with a duration of 60 months. The aim of the project is to support the cooperation with and between the competent European coast guard function authorities, in:

- The practical handbook on European Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions.
- Capacity building and training (CBT) network, exchange programme and Sectoral Qualifications Framework (SQF).
- Online platform to host the handbook and the exchange programme and SQF related information and material.

The project is funded by the European Commission and managed by EFCA and is implemented in close cooperation with EMSA and Frontex.

The project CBT activity part covers and includes:

- setting up and maintaining the CBT activity network;
- a capacity building and training exchange programme (CBTexPr);
- promotion of Sectoral Qualification Framework for Coast Guard Functions (SQFCGF).

### **2.        Objectives of the meeting**

The first CBT network consultation framework meeting with MS focused on introducing the MS designated Point of Contacts (PoC) to the project, informing them about the tasks planned in project

---

<sup>1</sup> Project “Implementation of the results of the Coast Guard qualifications Network and the Practical Handbook on European cooperation on coast guard Functions”.

under the CBT activity, introducing the SQF concept and its developments and use by the agencies and presenting and discussing the new CBTEPr. Considering that the project CBT activities are a direct follow up of the European Coast Guard Academies network (ECGFA Net) Project, an overview of the former ECGFA Net project was given.

The morning part of the meeting was dedicated to the overall project introduction and SQF concept. The afternoon part of the meeting was dedicated to new CBTEPr.

The objectives of the meeting were the following:

- 1) Introduce to the MS PoC-s:
  - a) the project, its objectives and tasks;
  - b) the project CBT activity related tasks;
  - c) SQF concept;
  - d) SQF suggested activities for the upcoming years;
- 2) To explain and give to the MS PoC-s an overview:
  - a) of the former ECGFA Net project;
  - b) of the sectoral qualification framework for coast guard functions related activities and developments under each agency (EFCA, EMSA, Frontex).
- 3) To have an open discussion with MS PoC-s about capacity building and training related tasks under project (exchange programme).

### 3. Participants

| Presential                                                                                   | Online                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Belgium–1, Estonia–1, Croatia–1, Italy–3, Lithuania–2, Poland–1, Portugal–3, Spain–5, EFCA–6 | Austria–1 (EFCA external expert), Cyprus–2, Estonia–2, Finland–2, France–1, Iceland–1, Lithuania–1, Malta–1, The Netherlands–1, Poland–1, Romania–5, Spain–2, Sweden–1, EMSA–2, Frontex–3 |
| <b>Total Presential: 23</b>                                                                  | <b>Total Online: 26</b>                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>TOTAL: 49</b>                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                           |

### 4. Overview of presentations

#### EMSA presentation “The EMSA Academy. Curricula and course design and development”

Alberto Adamo, Project Officer for Training and Capacity Building in EMSA provided an overview of the EMSA Academy, its processes related to learning services and in particular the courses and curricula Design and Development phase of the Harmonised Training Plan cycle.

#### Frontex presentation “Using the Sectoral Qualifications Framework for Border Guarding”

Anemona Peres, Senior Training Officer from Training Unit, Capacity Building Division in Frontex provided a detailed and depth overview of the SQF use for border guarding activities.

#### EFCA presentation “Overview of EFCA training and capacity building activities; including linking to SQFCGF”

Signe Aaskivi, Training Administrator from 3B. Training and Capacity Building in EFCA, provided an overview of EFCAs training and capacity building activities and products. Recent developments in streamlining Agency training offers by aligning trainings with the SQFCGF.

#### SASEMAR presentation “European Coast Guard Functions Academy Network”

Covadonga Suarez and Ana Rietz from SASEMAR gave an overview about the previous ECGFA Net project, as the current project CBT activities (ExPr and SQFCGF, but mainly covering the ExPr part what was led by them) are a direct follow-up the previous project, where the ExPr part was led by them. Their presentation included an overview on how the ECGFA Net project was created, its objectives, how it was managed, who participated and its outcome. The main focus of their presentation was towards the ExPr and its challenges and outcomes. They also gave suggestions for the future developments based on the lessons learned from the ECGFA Net project. In addition, they showed their support and readiness to be part of the upcoming years' work.

### **EFCA external expert presentation “From Bologna and Copenhagen to Sectoral Qualification Frameworks”**

EFCA external expert (Heinz Schneider) provided a theoretical overview about SQF concept, including in his presentation topics like what we take from Bologna and Copenhagen, the purpose of Qualifications Frameworks, why are SQFs needed, that SQF specifics create quality, as well as quality assurance.

### **5. Sectoral Qualifications Framework suggested activities for the next upcoming years”**

During the meeting the SQF suggested activities for the next years were presented:

- Continuously throughout the project period, the SQFCGF collaboration network between agencies and MS will be maintained. That network is already set up and covered with CBT activity MS designated PoC-s.
- In the CG Online Portal, a SQFCGF section will be created, sharing the best practices and other inputs. The SQFCGF section will be updated on regular basis.
- In the II-part of 2023 a leaflet with an explanatory note about European Qualifications Framework (EQF)/SQF in general and more specifically SQFCGF will be prepared and shared in the beginning of 2024 with MS.
- Throughout the project period, there will be SQFCGF related meetings for CBT activity MS designated PoC-s: awareness sessions and workshops may be provided to MS. MS are openly invited to share their experiences.

### **6. Capacity Building and Training exchange programme**

During the meeting, the main elements of the new CBTEPr were presented and discussed. The new CBTEPr is planned to be inclusive and cover the widest possible scope in the CGF area, considering the available resources in the project: support cross-sectorial co-work and co-operations, strengthen common understanding and inter-agency cooperation. It will give to authorities in MS dealing with CGF an opportunity to participate in the CBTEPr as a facilitator (exchange host) or as an officer/expert trainee (exchange participant).

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

The CBTEPr 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).
- Participation in different CGF related courses held by other EU MS CG authorities or entities as well as MS academies teaching CGF.

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 at EU level.

Exchanges will be open to all MS CGF authorities and entities, also to MS academies that are teaching CGF, and could be financed until the limit of the budget assigned to the project. The exchange participant shall be from a MS CGF authority and entity or from a MS academy, which is teaching CGF.

A CBTEPr section will be created on the online platform, sharing the information about the exchange programme and its forms (for example, calls for host and participant, exchanges calendar, different forms for hosts and participants, etc.). The section will be updated on regular basis.

## **7. Discussion of Capacity Building and Training exchange programme**

During this agenda item, the discussion points from a pre-sent discussion paper (Annex 1) were discussed. In total there were 14 questions which were asked to participants using SLIDO. The SLIDO results can be found in Annex 2.

The most important outcomes of the SLIDO and the follow up discussion were:

- Most of the participants see that the implementation of a CBTEPr with the objectives described is very useful (score 4.7).
- Most popular average minimum and maximum duration (from the host point of view) of the exchange programme was 3 to 5 days (a week). Some answers also noted the days for travelling. An important point raised was that the exchange duration should be balanced so that it does not create capacity gaps or additional workload for hosts, as well as capacity gaps to the participant organization. Also, the exchanges should not be too short (e.g. less than 3 days) as usually one day is going to live in and one day for sum ups.
- MS expressed that for them most preferred CBTEPr activity is operations and missions (score 2.59), which would be beneficial to their everyday work and also further on participating in international missions. It was followed with participation on exercises (score 2.41) and in equal way the work shadowing's and participation in trainings/workshops (score 2.3). This outcome should encourage MS to offer CBTEPr exchanges operations and missions, when replying to the call for hosts, as well as work shadowing (in addition to trainings and workshops, which are more common to be offered usually as exchanges).
- MS expressed that languages should not be an obstacle or a challenge.
- From the earlier presentations and from the SLIDO questions it came strongly out that MS need time for the preparation of exchange proposals (answering the call for hosts) and later to apply for the exchanges (send their participant proposals for the exchanges). The most indicated average minimum time for a call for hosts was three months. It is important to take this period into account when creating the CBTEPr calendar. The same goes for MS nominating participants to exchanges. MS need almost the same time to match in their organisation the staff and to nominate the participants. Time for this period would be at least two months.

In addition, some MS added that the process has to be clear and not overlapping.

- MS saw a lot of advantages and benefits on the implementation of the CBTEPr. The most advantages outlined were related to the exchange of experiences (lessons identified and lessons learned, sharing problems and solutions), making new contacts, sharing of ideas, networking and communication.
- Under disadvantages or challenges in hosting exchanges or participating the most common answers were that it can lead to additional workload for the host and also for the organisations who will be sending their people to participate in the exchanges. Still in the end there was an overall understanding that there will be far more benefits for both sides, compared to disadvantages or challenges. The most important here would be also that the participants have

to be highly motivated to be part of the exchanges as the hosts will be doing important efforts. On the other hand, the hosts will also benefit from participants as participants can share their knowledge and views. In summary, there will be information and experience exchange in both ways and benefits in both ways.

- MS expressed that the certificate of the CBTEPr for participants or sending organisation would be important and necessary (score 3.9).
- At the end of the discussion, one additional questions was raised to MSs: “How do you think the online platform could support the exchange programme and, more generally, the capacity building and training?”

The discussion mostly showed that the CG online portal could and should support the CBTEPr activities. The answers from MSs showed the MSs interest and what else could be included in addition to the items already planned.

## **8. Conclusion**

- The first CBT Network Consultation Framework meeting with MS had active in person and online participation.
- The meeting was very useful and ended with valuable discussions of the CBTEPr, with SLIDO used to interact with MS opinion about CBTEPr. SLIDO questions were based on the pre-sent CBTEPr discussion paper discussion points.
- The meeting showed that MS are interested in the CBTEPr for the next upcoming years.
- Note was taken on the MS views concerning the CBTEPr calendar and time needed to provide exchanges as hosts and later to nominate participants for the exchanges. Also, that the processes has to be clear and not overlapping.
- A certificate of the CBTEPr participation was seen as important.
- On the CG Online Platform, a CBT activity section was seen as important. The section would be covering the CBT activity network, CBTEPr and SQFCGF information. It would be updated on a regular basis.
- After validating all the inputs gathered during the meeting the plan and agenda is to launch the CBTEPr Terms of Reference with annexes and a call for hosts in the spring of 2023.

Note: *for any question or request of meeting presentation, please contact [efca.coastguard@efca.europa.eu](mailto:efca.coastguard@efca.europa.eu).*



## **ANNEXES**

**Annex 1. Discussion paper regarding development of a “Capacity Building and Training Exchange Programme” (4 pages)**

**Annex 2. SLIDO results of the CBTEPr discussion (24 pages)**