
**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine
Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the
Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.56/INF.10
2 June 2023
Original: English only

Kappara, Malta, 13-15 June 2023

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

**IRA-MAR Project – improving the Integrated Response to pollution Accident at sea and chemical risk in port –
Project progress**

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document will not be printed and is made available in electronic format only. Delegates are encouraged to consult the document in its electronic format and limit printing.

Note by the Secretariat

This document provides the most up-to-date information about a project co-funded by DG-ECHO, led by France: IRA-Mar, "improving the integrated response to pollution accident at sea and chemical risk in port", which started on 1st March 2022.

IRA-MAR project

The IRA-MAR project "improving the integrated response to pollution accident at sea and chemical risk in port" aims to support the beneficiary countries in improving preparedness for marine pollution events through an integrated approach to response, both at sea, on the shoreline and in ports.

This is a two-year project is being co-funded by the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and is running from March 2022 to Feb 2024.

It is coordinated by France, together with partners Sea Alarm (Belgium), Cedre (France) and ISPRA (Italy).

It is designed to support the beneficiary countries France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia – but the outputs will be relevant and useful to all European States. And the project will also contribute to the initiatives that facilitate regional coordination in improving maritime security or dealing with pollution such as WESTMED, Ramoge Agreement, the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships 2022-2031).

So far, the following activities have been conducted under the four work packages of the project:

- **Study conducted by Cedre of the response in ports, which will identify best practices, and main gaps in the response systems.** A questionnaire survey has been widely circulated to national port authorities via the regional agreement Secretariats (REMPEC, Bonn Agreement, OSPAR Convention, RAMOGA Agreement), EMSA, DG-ECHO, IAPH. These first results have been presented at the latest Advisory Board meeting last April and are still being analysed by Cedre. It will be completed with the organisation of visits, in ports, study of lessons learnt from past incidents and the development of incidents-sheets. The results of this study will be presented at a workshop in Dec 2023.
- **The Spanish Ministry of Transport will study the response capabilities in case of gas clouds in ports, using the ALOHA model and drafting scenarios.** These scenarios have been played during a series of table-top exercise sessions (three in Bilbao, Cartagena, Ria de Huelva, a total of 15 exercises will be conducted) involving the main stakeholders and experts involved in HNS incident, not only at sea but also in ports. Procedures will be elaborated to coordinate the response with Civil Protection Authorities and a workshop will be organised in the final quarter.
- **ISPRA focuses on the use of drones (UAS Unmanned Aircraft System) in emergency response.** The overall aim of this work package is to draft guidelines about standardisation of drones based surveys and procedures to carry out inspections of remote areas. It will also look at the development of synergies between maritime authorities and civil protection for the use of these drones in coastal areas. A technical guide "Best Available Technologies for the use of drones to carry out surveys in emergency response" has been published. This publication (available on the webpage of the project: <https://wwz.cedre.fr/Projets/2022/IRA-MAR-2022>) aims to support competent authorities and promote the use of drones methodology in the field of marine emergency response. A matrix of terms of reference for each drone-developed methodology, based on flying drones in coastal areas, will be drawn up. Field trials that will test various types of drones and sensors will be conducted in June in Brest and in October in Italy.
- **Sea Alarm Foundation is pioneering holistic/integrated management of marine emergencies involving at-sea and on-shore response.** A comparative study and assessment of existing

marine emergency management systems have been conducted in 10 selected countries. Based on this study, recommendations will be drafted and Sea Alarm will also develop a serious game that will be played by relevant authorities at a workshop in October this year.

The results of the project will be disclosed at a closing event that will be held in Dec. 2023 in Marseille.