

EU SHIPSAN ACT Joint Action

The impact on maritime transport of health threats due to biological, chemical and radiological agents, including communicable diseases

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SUMMARY

Ships sail from country to country where different hygiene standards and rules for controlling diseases exist. This Joint Action aimed to (i) produce a state of the art report, (ii) develop guidance on risk assessment and response to chemical and radiological events on ships, (iii) develop an outline of a risk assessment tool for occupational health risks per cargo ship type, (iv) increase port health staff and crew competencies, (v) improve quality of inspections and bring a consistent/proportionate approach to inspection of all ship types, (vi) maintain and update SHIPSAN ACT information tools.

OBJECTIVES

The general objective of this action is to strengthen an integrated strategy and sustainable mechanisms at EU level for safeguarding the health of travelers and crew of passenger and cargo ships and prevent the cross-border spread of diseases.

METHODOLOGY

Methods for completing the specific objectives include:

- literature review
- table top and operational exercises
- surveys and questionnaires
- site visits
- training
- inspections
- working group meetings
- development of guidance documents

WP COORDINATION

The Joint Action had a three level organization structure:

- **strategic level** (general assembly and the advisory board)
- **executive level** (coordination and evaluation teams, and the coordinator)
- **management and implementation level** (work package leaders and teams)

CONCLUSION

EU SHIPSAN ACT helps countries to preparedness planning and to develop IHR core capacities. It strengthens the EU's capacity to monitor and respond to health threats by facilitating rapid ship-to-port and port-to-port information exchange using web-based tools. It protects health of (a) ship travelling passengers in the EU, by strengthening compliance of ships with legislation, standards and guidelines and implementing an integrated strategy for epidemiological investigation; (b) crew working on ships, by providing training on ILO Maritime Labour Convention health related issues. Its actions contribute to protect the EU population against health threats and improve citizens' health security.

WP DISSEMINATION

- **National Dissemination Plans** implemented by partners
- **Web-portal** www.shipsan.eu
 - 13,930 visits annually
- **Bimonthly e-newsletter**
 - 11 issues, >1500 readers
- **Leaflets**
- **Presentation of SHIPSAN ACT in Events:**
 - national conferences in EUMS
 - Events in Non-EU countries
 - European conferences/meetings (EC, ECDC)
 - International conferences (WHO, ANVISA)
- **Exit/Sustainability Plan**



SDU

WP EVALUATION

Evaluation was done throughout the Joint Action.

- **Indicators** used to evaluate the progress and impact of the Joint Action.
- **Internal and external evaluation** involving
 - (a) interviews
 - (b) questionnaire
 - (c) SWOT analysis (strength, weakness, opportunities, threats)
- **Timely feedback** of evaluation results

RESULTS

RESEARCH

A five part State of the Art report consisting of:

Part A	Part B	Part C	Part D	Part E
• Literature review on Infectious diseases on all types of ships.	• Literature review and survey on chemical and radiological incidents in maritime transport.	• Survey on hygiene inspection practices on fishing vessels in EU.	• Survey on training needs related to core capacities at points-of entry-ports in EU.	• Survey on practices & responsibilities of port health authorities along inland waterways in EU.

GUIDELINES

Guidelines developed for competent authorities in support to their risk assessment and response to chemical and radiological incidents on ships while the ship is at port.

TRAINING

- Pool of trainers: **83 trainers from 20 countries**
- e-learning platform: **325 registered users** <http://elearning.shipsan.eu>
- Training courses (European and national) focused on IHR (2005) and EU SHIPSAN manual:
 - **96 seafarers and 101 port health officers** trained via face to face courses
 - **104 port health officers** received on the job training

INSPECTIONS

In 2013: 50 inspections conducted on 48 passenger ships in 22 ports from 13 EUMS based on EU standards by trained inspectors.

In 2014: 50 inspections conducted on 50 passenger ships in 32 ports from 16 EUMS and 1 non – EUMS based on EU standards by trained inspectors.



	2011	2013
Inspection Reports	42	48
Corrective Action Statements	20	31
Number of Deficiencies	393	517
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non compliances with requirements of the EU legislation • Non compliances with recommended standards of the Manual • Notations 	41	84
	282	360
	70	73

WEB SYSTEMS

- **21 public health events** on ships were followed up by competent authorities using the web-based Communication Network <http://www.shipsan.eu/comnet/>
- **5613 certificates** were issued using the Information System for recording/issuing IHR Ship Sanitation Certificates <http://ssc.shipsan.eu>
- **Contact details of authorised ports** of 19 EU countries for issuing Ship Sanitation Certificates under IHR (2005) available via the European directory <http://www.shipsan.eu/Inspections/AuthorisedportstoissueSSC.aspx>

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Web-based risk assessment tool for occupational health risks per cargo ship type by using the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) Online Interactive Risk Assessment (OIRA) tool <http://www.oiraproject.eu/>

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