



## CISE's operationalization launch through A Long Endurance and Real live Test

### CISE-ALERT eNewsletter №3

April 2024

## Project CISE-ALERT – towards operational CISE

During the past six months, the CISE-ALERT project has gradually moved forward, reaching its most important cornerstone of the project implementation – testing and validating the real live use of the *Common Information Sharing Environment – CISE*.

In this period, the CISE-ALERT Consortium focussed on the preparation of the operational trials, finalizing the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and the Operational Plan (OPLAN) - part of the activities, implemented under **Work Package 4** (WP4) - Endurance Trial preparation. To ensure the smooth technical implementation of the trials, under **Work Package 5** (WP5) - Operational validation (Trial execution and assessment), the Consortium started working on the technical and operational integration of the partners' systems in the Common Information Sharing Environment, which allowed **the definition of a clear schedule for the trials' performance and assessment**.

As a result, in the beginning of April 2024, CISE-ALERT moved forward towards its final and most substantial phase – the trials execution, by launching its first endurance trial, dedicated to **combatting illegal trafficking at sea**. The performed operational procedures have marked the start of the six-month real live tests, which aim to demonstrate the added value of CISE in the maritime domain.



# Progress Highlights

## Services Implementation

### Work Package 3

During the first quarter of 2024, the Consortium worked on the revision of **deliverable “Gap analysis and required implementation on adaptors or LS”**, following the implementation of the adaptors and the LSs upgrades, to describe the information/datasets needed by each of the operating end-users, and to identify future partners, providing such information (also dataset that are currently out of the scope of the CISE data model). The revised document also provides their definition, their availability and the specifics of connecting them to the CISE network (protection, license, data model and formats).

Another key deliverable from the implementation of WP3 is **D3.2 – “Integration of CISE processes and procedures in SOPs”**, which scope is sizing for the smooth running of the trials execution and

assessment phase, which will take place from April 2024 to October 2024.

This document will report how the technologies and the use of CISE may change the work habits of the CISE end-users. Another part of the document will clearly report how the project partners have integrated the use of CISE functionalities and services in their working environment. It will also contain SOPs (Standard operating procedures) on how to perform CISE services by project partners. SOPs can act as a checklist, that guides each Project partner how to perform basic CISE tasks efficiently and safely.

**CISE will change the work habits on how to exchange cross-sectoral and cross-border information between maritime operational centers (MOC) within the EU.**

## Endurance Trial Preparation

### Work Package 4

During the first month of 2024, the primary task of **Work Package 4 - Endurance Trial preparation** was the preparation for the upcoming Basic Training, scheduled in the first week of February 2024. This involved meticulous planning to ensure the training content aligns with the project's objectives and the End-Users' needs. A critical aspect of this preparation was the crafting of comprehensive **Training Material**, a vital component that will be incorporated into the Training Booklet.

At the same time, the partners, involved in the implementation of WP4, prepared the first draft for the **Operational Plan**. The document encompasses a detailed description of the **Greek Trial**, a pivotal phase set to unfold in the **Aegean**

**Sea, Ionian Sea, and the Adriatic Sea**. The trial features **active participation from Bulgaria, Greece, and Italy**, providing a robust example that can inform the design of subsequent trials.

During the first quarter of 2024, within WP4 the CISE-ALERT Consortium has been diligently working on the preparation and finalization of the **Operational Plan**. The partners have provided valuable feedback on their respective scenarios, which ensured the needed refining to the OPLAN.

The delivered comprehensive plan **establishes a timeline for the execution of the endurance trials and provides detailed descriptions of each scenario, as in the same time addresses administrative aspects such as reporting.**



## Operational validation (Trial execution and assessment)

### Work Package 5

**The overall objective of Work Package 5, which envelops the main activities of the trials execution, is to perform a real live use of CISE, using predefined scenarios.** The dedicated work within this WP will confirm the operational interoperability between partner systems under real operational conditions and on an adequate scale.

The implementation of WP5 has started in February 2024, with technical and operational integration of the partners' systems in the Common environment and will continue in the following months, in line with the trials schedule.

The ongoing work within the framework of WP5 is closely related and will further integrate the tools, delivered within WP2, namely the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). They are considered essential observation and assessment tool, which are put into use to support the management and to measure the effectiveness of the CISE-ALERT trials. Furthermore, the conduct of the operational tests will also be carried out in accordance with the defined scenarios, and will comply with the requirements set out in WP4.

**On the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2024, CISE-ALERT has launched the execution of its first trial, dedicated to combatting illegal trafficking at sea.** Through the carried-out actions, the Consortium set the momentum for the CISE-ALERT endurance tests, and demonstrated how, with the use of CISE, critical and up-to-date information could be collected from authorities across EU countries and different sectors.

The primary action in the implemented scenario was to detect, monitor, and intercept vessels, suspected of illegal trafficking in the Black Sea, Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea and Adriatic. The purpose of this action was to observe the exchange of information from national or EU legacy systems, on suspicious vessels entering or sailing in the vicinity of partners' territorial waters, through CISE.

**The culmination of the trial between the Hellenic Ministry of Defence and the other involved partners in the illegal trafficking scenario, namely the Bulgarian Executive Agency "Maritime Administration" (EAMA) and the Slovenian Maritime Administration (MzI), took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of April, testing the following CISE services: VOI (Vessel of Interest), Incident, AOI (Area of Interest) and partially Operational Asset.**

**Following the performed tests, the CISE-ALERT project welcomed positive and encouraging results from the successfully performed first trial.** The successfully performed operational procedures are considered as a significant milestone in demonstrating the collaborative capabilities and preparedness of the CISE-ALERT partners in addressing complex challenges through the Common Information Sharing Environment. Furthermore, the performed first endurance tests have provided a valuable feedback, paving the way for the other scenarios, which will be tested until September 2024.



## Show case event

### Work Package 6

The main goal of **Work Package 6**, which was launched in January 2024, is **to demonstrate that CISE-ALERT is able to reach the goal of enhancing the cooperation and coordination between the public maritime authorities, by promoting the development of innovative CISE services.**

**To do so, on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of September, 2024 the CISE-ALERT Consortium will organize a Show case event (VIP Days) at the Auditorium of the Italian Space Agency headquarters in Rome. The event will demonstrate the results from the CISE-ALERT endurance trials before the CISE community, through real demonstration events and discussion panels.**

The VIP Days aim to provide evidence of the benefits obtained from the use of the CISE infrastructure, both in terms of improved quality of collaboration between civilian and military authorities in charge of Coast Guard functions, thanks to the CISE operational services invoked, and in terms of the operational added value, regarding the type and quantity of data exchanged, otherwise unobtainable.

The two-day event will foster discussions and will outline the benefits of CISE, by deepening the analysis of the CISE-ALERT trials and providing insights for new services and functionalities for improving the exploitation of the CISE infrastructure.

***Don't forget to save the date!***

### **CISE-ALERT VIP DAYS**

***11 - 12 September, 2024  
Italian Space Agency,  
Rome, Italy***

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## Project events

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Review Meeting and 3<sup>rd</sup> Consortium Meeting of Project CISE-ALERT



On the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2023, CISE-ALERT held its 1<sup>st</sup> Review Meeting with the European Commission, where the Consortium presented the carried-out activities and achieved progress during the first year of the project implementation.

The meeting was attended online by Mr. Dario Vaschetto, representative of DG MARE with the purpose to evaluate the progress of the project activities, their relevance and contribution to the project objectives, as well as to review the status of deliverables and milestones. The reported progress of the project received an overall positive feedback from DG MARE and

confirmation that the project is moving in the right direction.

The Review meeting was held in Athens, Greece in hybrid form and was hosted by the Greek partner in the project - Ministry of National Defence of Greece (HMOD).

On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2023, the CISE-ALERT project partners further discussed the forthcoming work, focusing on the CISE-ALERT operational scenarios in terms of timeline, technical readiness, area of operation, participants involved and the potential role of the CISE-ALERT End-Users in the project activities.



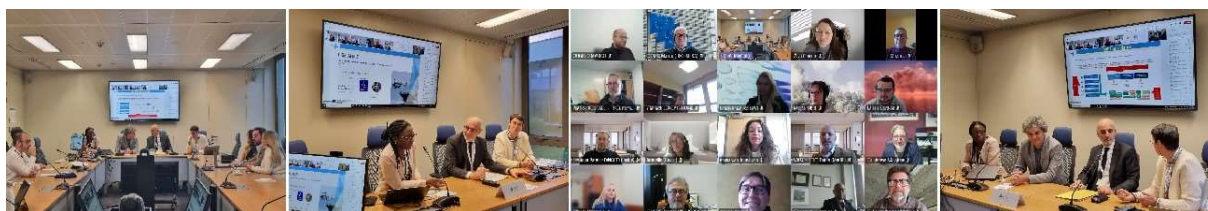


## 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the CISE-ALERT Project

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, the CISE-ALERT Project held its 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee (SC) Meeting, held in hybrid form (physical and online), from the premises of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) in Lisbon. The event was chaired by the project coordinator – French General Secretariat for the sea (Secrétariat général de la Mer) - SGMer, represented by **Mr. Eric Turquet de Beauregard**, Counsellor for the State Action at Sea and Head of Law Enforcement and Coast Guard Function at SGMer, and the Project coordination team – **Ms. Florence Wagner** and **Ms. Linda Bama**.

preparation and execution of the CISE-ALERT operational trials.

The partners reported on the achieved results, related to the definition of services (WP2), provided technical update on the services implementation and the progress of the scenarios (WP3), discussed the ongoing activities, dedicated to the trials preparation and the next steps towards the execution and assessment of the tests (WP4 and WP5).



The members of the Committee, together with European Commission representatives of the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), the European Maritime Safety Agency and the Joint Research Centre (JRC), discussed the latest progress of the project and the ongoing and future activities, dedicated to the

The SC also discussed the upcoming work related to the preparation of the main CISE-ALERT showcase event, which is planned for September 2024 in Rome and is set to demonstrate the benefits and perform a real time demonstration of the use of CISE before the CISE Community and relevant stakeholders.



## CISE-ALERT project presented during CERIS thematic Workshop on Innovation for maritime situational awareness and maritime security

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, the CISE-ALERT project took part in a thematic Workshop on Innovation for maritime situational awareness and maritime security, organized by the Community for European Research and Innovation for Security (CERIS) in Brussels.

The event brought together different EU-funded research and innovation projects and gave the floor to practitioners (Coast Guards), but also

innovators and policy makers in the field of search-and-rescue at sea, sea border surveillance, and other maritime security and safety functions.

Within the discussed topics, the CISE-ALERT project was presented by the project coordinator - Ms. Florence Wagner (SGMer), who introduced the added value of the project and the innovative approach of the Consortium to test the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE).



## CISE-ALERT presented during the ECGFF Workshop

CISE-ALERT Project took part in a workshop on *“Exploring Cutting-Edge Tools and Technologies to Enhance Coast Guard Operations: A Workshop on Maritime Situational Awareness”*, jointly organized by the Portuguese chairmanship of the European Coast Guard Function Forum (ECGFF) and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA).

The event, which was held in Lisbon on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of March, 2024, brought together representatives of different EU national authorities with coast guard functions, EU Agencies and bodies.

The thematic workshop addressed specific topics, among which the integrated command and control systems in use of coast guard authorities, exchange of real time information, interoperability challenges and the role of the Common Information Sharing Environment – CISE

in enhancing the maritime surveillance operations.

Within the dedicated panel, the CISE-ALERT project was presented before the members of the ECGFF by Ms. Florence Wagner, Coordinator of the project (Secrétariat général de la mer - Premier ministre (SGMer)). Ms. Wagner spoke about how CISE-ALERT will foster real data exchange among the maritime operational centres, by developing different scenarios, which will be tested by the participating Member-States during operational trials.

Mr. Patrice Lesueur (DNGCD) and Mr. Primoz Bajec (Mzl), representatives of the CISE-ALERT Consortium, who also attended the workshop, gave examples of the use of CISE in maritime surveillance operations and pointed out the benefits of the Common environment.





# CISE-ALERT End-User Community

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## SAVE THE DATE!

### Invitation to the CISE-ALERT End-User Community

The focus of the CISE-ALERT project is strategically directed towards provision of support and reinforcement of the end-user network and facilitation of the integration of the CISE stakeholders among the Member States. Furthermore, the expected results of the CISE-ALERT project are devoted to the whole CISE community, reaching beyond the boundaries of the Consortium.

During the next CISE-ALERT Consortium meeting, which will be hosted by the French Customs (DNGCD) on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 in Le Havre, France, the CISE-ALERT End-User Community will have the chance to be part of the discussions on the results from the first executed operational trial, the upcoming activities and the operational organisation on the trials.

Having the above, the CISE-ALERT Consortium is pleased to invite the representatives of the CISE-ALERT End-User Community to take part, in person or online, in the discussions on the CISE-ALERT operational trials, which will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 during the upcoming CISE-ALERT Consortium meeting in Le Havre, France.

To register for participation, please contact us at: [cise-alert-project@pm.gouv.fr](mailto:cise-alert-project@pm.gouv.fr)





## Join the CISE-ALERT Workshop at the European Maritime Day on 30 May in Svendborg, Denmark!

### SAVE THE DATE!

We are delighted to announce that CISE-ALERT project will again be present during the European Maritime Days, this time to be held in Svendborg, Denmark on 30-31 May 2024. The workshop “**CISE-ALERT: towards CISE’s operationalisation**” will be organised by **Secrétariat général de la Mer** and the **CISE-ALERT project consortium** and will take place on the **30<sup>th</sup> of May at 16:45 - 18:00 (CEST time)**.

The CISE-ALERT workshop will be dedicated to maritime surveillance and security and more specifically will focus on the role of CISE as the EU’s maritime security awareness mechanism, enhancing interoperability and cooperation among EU actors who carry out maritime surveillance activities & effective operations at sea.

Time being CISE is approaching to its operational state. The CISE-ALERT project aims at testing the Common Information Sharing Environment in an operational way with a long endurance trial, where an exchange of real cross-border and cross-sector data between maritime operational centres will give a clear picture of the feasibility and added value of CISE. In this context, one of the main presentations during the CISE-ALERT Workshop will be a visual demonstration of the use of CISE in a potential maritime operation carried out by several Member States and the European Union Satellite Centre (SatCen). Interactive activities with the audience will help the attendees to assess the added value of CISE and its relevance in the maritime domain, by providing a comparison between the conduct of such maritime operation with and without CISE.

*Join the CISE-ALERT Project Workshop at the European Maritime Day!*

**CISE-ALERT Project Workshop:**  
“CISE-ALERT: Towards CISE’s operationalisation”

**30 May 2024**  
16:45 - 18:00 CEST

**Svendborg, Denmark**  
Svendborg International Maritime Academy (SIMAC)

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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*The European Maritime Day is an annual two-day event during which Europe's maritime community meet to network, discuss and outline joint actions on maritime affairs and sustainable blue economy. The 2024 edition of the European Maritime Day will take place in Svendborg, Denmark on 30-31 May as an on-site event at SIMAC (Svendborg International Maritime Academy).*

***Registration to the workshop is open by the 10th of May at the official website of the EMD: [www.maritime-day.ec.europa.eu](http://www.maritime-day.ec.europa.eu) .***

***Don't forget to add the CISE-ALERT workshop to your EMD agenda!***





## Do you want to know more about the CISE-ALERT project?

### CISE-ALERT on Social Media

The social media accounts, created for the CISE-ALERT project, provide timely and relevant information of all important project events, work progress, milestones, deliverables and results.

#### Follow us on:



Project CISE-ALERT



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### CISE-ALERT website:



[www.cise-alert.eu](http://www.cise-alert.eu)

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#### Contact:

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