



## The CISE-ALERT Operational Trials presented during the Project's Demonstration event in Rome

The execution of the CISE-ALERT operational trials and the exchange of best practices and recommendations for the Operational phase of the European Union's Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) were among the main topics, discussed during the CISE-ALERT VIP Days.

The interactive event was organized by the CISE-ALERT consortium on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at the headquarters of the Italian Space Agency (ASI) in Rome, Italy and gathered high-level experts, members of the CISE community and potential newcomers to the Common Environment.

In his opening words, Mr. Luca Maria Vincenzo Salamone, Director General of the Italian Space Agency defined CISE as one of the key topics in the programme of the Agency and confirmed the readiness of ASI to join the Operational phase of CISE.

On his turn, Mr. Dario Vaschetto, Policy Officer at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) congratulated the CISE-ALERT consortium for the execution of the trials, which will pave the way to the fully operational use of CISE and will help the entire CISE community to step up their efforts in that direction.

Mr. Vaschetto took the opportunity to invite all CISE stakeholders to the CISE High-Level Event, dedicated to the Operational Phase of CISE, which will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 in Brussels, Belgium. The conference, which is jointly organized by the European Commission (DG MARE), the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and CISE-ALERT consortium, will also feature the CISE-ALERT Final event, introducing the results and lessons-learned from the operational trials carried out within the project.

Mr. Eric Turquet de Beauregard, Head of Coast Guard and Law Enforcement Unit in the French Secretariat General for the Sea- Prime Minister (SGMer) acknowledged the intense work under the project since November 2022 and assessed the implementation of the project as very successful. He also recalled the commitment of France in CISE since its beginning

The event continued with the introduction of the concept of CISE-ALERT, delivered by Ms. Florence Wagner and Ms. Linda Bama - Tandia, representatives of SGMer and coordinator of the project.

As a retrospection of the implemented tasks, the project partners have upgraded some of the existing adaptors and developed some new ones, installed one new node and updated existing ones, created realistic scenarios dedicated to **Drug trafficking, SAR, Pollution response, Pre-clearing operations, Illegal fishing, Protection of critical infrastructure and Illegal Immigration**. Four of the seven scenarios – Illegal immigration, SAR, Pollution response and Protection of critical infrastructure, were successfully deployed so far through the CISE-ALERT operational trials by testing five CISE operational services and thus proving CISE as operational and ready-to-use.



Even with three use-cases still to be tested until the end of the project, CISE-ALERT has achieved the overall goals of the EU for the project proposal, which had required the use of at least two CISE services to be tested through the deployment of at least three use cases.

The event continued with an introduction of the way CISE facilitates long term data preservation and creates a European common language of data. The topic was presented by Mr. Patrice Lesueur, National Directorate – Customs Coast Guards , France, who defined CISE as a leap forward in sharing maritime surveillance data between different governmental communities with a responsibility at sea and based on cooperation and collaboration.

An interactive introduction of the CISE-ALERT scenarios was made by the involved project partners. The first key success presented was the trial dedicated to **Illegal immigration**. The scenario was presented by Capt. Dimitrios Skitsas, Greek Ministry of National Defence (HMOD), proving that CISE can be used as an operational tool for command and control. The scenario probed the level of operational maturity of the CISE system against illegal migration smuggling networks and demonstrated the main difference that CISE introduces, in terms of connecting different authorities (cross-borders and cross-sectors) to effectively understand, monitor and counter activities, that can have negative impact in the security and safety at sea. CISE further allows exchange of data between maritime authorities and not Member-States, connection between civil and military organizations and provides possibility for exchange both unclassified and classified information.

The **Search and Rescue (SAR) scenario**, which was also successfully deployed through an operational trial within the project, was introduced by Mr. Hervé Metayer , General directorate of maritime affairs, fishery and aquaculture (DGAMPA) at the Ministry of Ecological Transition (MTE), France. The use case demonstrates how the management of SAR operations through CISE could foster a more connected, informed, and efficient maritime operational environment. By providing a common platform for information sharing, CISE enables authorities with coast guard functions from different Member States and EU agencies to work together more effectively, contributing significantly to the overall success of the Search and Rescue operations.

One of the scenarios still to be tested until the end of the project - **Pre-Clearing operations**, was presented by Ms. Rossella Maria Pia Russi, Italian Customs and Monopolies Agency (ADM). The main benefits of the use of CISE in this use case are the secure exchange of information and data among European authorities involved in maritime surveillance, which could add value to the work carried out for the protection of the Italian coasts, for speeding up the controls of goods entering the EU and for increasing the safety and security of European citizens.

At the end of the first day, a real-time demonstration of the CISE interface was performed by the Italian Space Agency, the French Hydrographic Service (SHOM), the Slovenian Maritime Administration (MzI) and the Greek Ministry of National Defence (HMOD), followed by a Workshop dedicated to the added value of satellite imagery, held by ASI.

The second day of the event started with an introduction of the CISE-ALERT **Pollution response scenario**, successfully tested within the CISE-ALERT operational trials. The use case was presented by Capt. Pavel Pavlov, Executive Agency “Maritime Administration”, Bulgaria. The Common Information Sharing Environment is a strategic tool, that can improve the mutual cooperation between the EU Member States in terms of detecting, monitoring and sanctioning vessels, polluting the maritime environment. The scenario represents example of probable actions and information exchange through CISE, elaborating a pattern for operational use between any CISE Node holders to react in similar cases. Such use of CISE will reduce

time for communication, investigation, and workload of the personnel involved in the mutual environment protection activities in European waters.

Another scenario, which was developed within the project and is expected to be tested within the CISE-ALERT operational trials is the **Illegal fishing scenario**, presented by Ten Gonçalves Ferreira, Ministerio da Defesa Nacional, Portugal (Defesa).

In the context of CISE, the best way to share the EU illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) List with relevant authorities is through the Vessel Of Interest (VOI) List Service, which has an additional benefit that relevant authorities can contribute with new information related to the vessels which is then shared back to all authorities. Besides improving cross-border/sector cooperation, the main benefit of using CISE is the speed at which the EU IUU List information is shared and enriched with improved reaction times.

The scenario dedicated to the **Protection of critical maritime infrastructure**, presented by Mr. Borut Maraž, Slovenian Maritime Administration (Mzi), focuses on the use of CISE in operations against possible cyber and hybrid threats to the critical maritime infrastructure, which can be unintentional harms as well as deliberate actions. It enables the Maritime Operational Centers (MOCs) to proactively identify and mitigate security threats, as well undertaking necessary actions in a timely and efficient manner. The data fusion, possible through CISE, allows better coordination, allocation, and utilization of resources, providing detailed insights into maritime operations.

According to the agenda, a workshop, led by Ms. Nuria Decker, European Maritime Safety Agency, took place within the second day, providing valuable detailed information on how newcomers can join CISE. Among the key benefits of joining CISE were highlighted the increase of effectiveness and cost efficiency, avoiding duplication of data acquisition, creation of synergies among the stakeholders, improved cross-border and cross-sector cooperation, complementarity of information and services delivered and possibility to exchange unclassified and classified information.

The event continued with a round table on the operational services of CISE with the participation of Mr. Gianluca Luraschi (EMSA), Mr. Patrice Lesueur (DNGCD), Mr. Hervé Metayer (MTE) and Mr. Louis Cougoureux (Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in La Garde -France). During this session, Mr Luraschi presented the five operational services while the other speakers focused more on their feedbacks in the implementation of these operational services in their administration. CISE is an interoperability solution based on a decentralized architecture build on a standard data model connecting existing maritime surveillance systems and allowing for seamless information sharing among them. To exchange information through CISE, Stakeholders need to develop an Adaptor to connect their Legacy System(s) to the CISE Node. In this context, a discussion on the technical developments of CISE with special focus on how to set up a CISE Adaptor took place during the second day. Valuable input and key technical details were provided by the panellists in the discussion: Mr. Daniele Colasimone, EMSA, Mr. Klemen Omahen, MZI, Mr. Paolo Pagano, European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and Ms. Armelle Sommier, SHOM.

