



IMO-OMI



UNEP-PNUE

REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP

EUROMED COOPERATION ON MARITIME SAFETY AND PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS
(SAFEMED)

EU-Funded MEDA Regional Project MED 2005/109-573

SHORT COURSE ON CASUALTY INVESTIGATION

World Maritime University, Malmö, Sweden
6 - 10 October 2008

SAFEMED Project Task 1.6 O

REPORT

EUROMED

1. Background

The Short Course on Casualty Investigation, hereinafter referred to as “the Course”, was held at the premises of the World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö, Sweden from the 6 to the 10 October 2008. The Course was organised by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) within the framework of the MEDA Regional Project “Euromed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships – SAFEMED” (MED 2005/109-573) financed by the European Community (hereinafter referred to as “the SAFEMED Project”).

The Course, identified as SAFEMED Task 1.6 O, was carried out under Activity 1 (Towards an effective flag State implementation and monitoring of classification societies) of the SAFEMED Project which is being implemented by REMPEC.

The Technical Annex of the Safemed Project contract planned the organisation of a short course on Flag State Implementation at the International Maritime Academy in Trieste, Italy. However, due to the closure of the Academy, arrangements were made after consultation with the European Commission (EuropeAid Cooperation Office and DG TREN) to organise a course on Casualty Investigation, a topic which was not initially covered in the Project but which was fully within the remit of the Project's Activity 1 "Towards an effective flag State implementation and monitoring of Classification societies". A course on Flag State Implementation per se was organised within the framework of task 1.10 O, also at WMU, in October 2007.

2. Course Objectives

The objectives of the Course were:

- to enhance existing knowledge about the maritime casualty investigation framework;
- to add specific knowledge on issues such as legal considerations, the maritime casualty investigation process, data analysis and human element and;
- to provide a venue for the exchange of information and experience among participants

Fourteen participants from eight SAFEMED Project beneficiaries attended the course. The Palestinian Authorities nominated two participants, but they were prevented from travelling due to the situation in the Gaza strip. Israel did not nominate any participants, the reason being that a seminar on casualty investigation was organised in the country less than twelve months before the organisation of the Course.

3. Course Programme

The Course lasted five days and was divided in two parts. The mornings were devoted to lectures, while the afternoon sessions provided an opportunity for a classroom exercise. The first and last morning lectures were delivered by Dr. Jens Uwe Schröder, of the WMU, while the three other lectures from Tuesday 7 Oct. to Thursday 9 Oct. were delivered by, in chronological order:

- Mr. Paulo Correia, Senior Project Officer, European Maritime Safety Agency;
- Mr. Kevin T. Ghirxi, Malta Maritime Authority;
- Mr. Jörg Kaufmann, Director, Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU), Germany

The first lecture gave participants a background on casualty investigation, the international obligations and historical background. It also defined a few concepts such as casualties, safety, and human errors. It then focused on the legal background as provided under the applicable international Conventions. Detailing the types of casualty investigations, Dr. Schröder insisted on the differences between a maritime casualty investigation and a judicial procedure. Emphasising this distinction was important to participants, who were not all fully aware of it in the first place.

The second lecture by Mr. Correia focused on the European legislation with regard to marine casualties, detailing the existing EU legislation on Accident Investigation, the EU Proposal of a Directive on Accident Investigation, and the investigation process methodology. In the second part of his lecture, Mr. Correia presented the European database for marine casualties. He pointed out that this database was part of the ensemble of EMSA databases and information systems, with other components such as CleanSeaNet and SafeSeaNet.

The third lecture was delivered by Mr. Ghirxi, currently undertaking a Ph.D. at WMU on the subject. The topic was collection of evidence in casualty investigations. This lecture detailed what is expected from a casualty investigator, what is evidence, and the human factors, such as psychological and behavioural issues to be taken into account when conducting casualty investigations in order to get exploitable results. Mr. Ghirxi, speaking of his experience as a marine casualty investigator, pointed out the difficulties faced by a team coming from a Maritime Administration when on location after an accident when many different types of investigators (judicial authorities, class societies, P&I clubs etc.), all looking for the same elements, but from a different perspective, are present.

The lecture of the fourth day by Mr. Kaufmann was devoted to securing and analysis of evidence in marine casualty investigations. It described the various elements to be looked for by investigators and in particular material elements such as documents, photographs, plotters, electronic chart systems, voyage data recorders and so on. This presentation was substantiated by numerous multimedia components and focused on the practical aspects, such as the technical knowledge required to be able to read data from voyage recorders, sometimes in sub-optimal conditions.

The afternoon sessions were devoted to a practical case study regarding a collision between two vessels, inspired from an actual case. The objective of this exercise was to put participants in a marine casualty investigation situation and make them aware of the issues they would have to face in their job as casualty investigators.

4. Course Conclusions

Overall, participants obtained an in-depth knowledge of the basics of the process of casualty investigation. The Course helped to raise awareness amongst them of the specificities of the domain. Although not all participants were directly involved in casualty investigation, it can safely be said that all of them benefitted from it. As for the quality of the course as dispensed by WMU, it can be said that the quality of the Course content and delivery was of a high level. It is thus recommended that, when relevant, collaboration between the SAFEMED Project and WMU be pursued. The use of the Universities' facilities, including the Henrik Smith Residence, is also an element very much appreciated by the participants.

5. Attachments

- 1) Course Agenda
- 2) List of participants



World Maritime University

**Professional Development Course on
Maritime Casualty Investigation**

Course Plan

Day / Time	Monday 6 Oct	Tuesday 7 Oct	Wednesday 8 Oct	Thursday 9 Oct	Friday 10 Oct
09:00 – 10:30	1. Introduction and welcome	5. European legislation with regards to maritime casualties Correia (EMSA)	9. Getting evidence Ghirxi (MMA)	13. Getting evidence Kaufmann (BSU)	17. Findings and recommendations Schröder (WMU)
11:00 – 12:30	2. Background to maritime casualties and incidents Schröder (WMU)	6. EMCIP Correia (EMSA)	10. Getting evidence/interviewing Ghirxi (MMA)	14. Getting evidence Kaufmann (BSU)	18. Final briefing and course discussion
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	3. International obligations to carry out casualty investigations Schröder (WMU)	7. Maritime accident investigations Schröder (WMU)	11. Maritime accident investigations Schröder (WMU)	15. Human Element in maritime casualties Schröder (WMU)	
15:30 – 17:00	4. Types of investigations Schröder (WMU)	8. Maritime accident investigations Schröder (WMU)	12. Maritime accident investigations Schröder (WMU)	16. Human Element in maritime casualties Schröder (WMU)	

Lecturers:

Mr. Paulo Correia, Senior Project Officer, European Maritime Safety Agency
 Mr. Kevin T. Ghirxi, Malta Maritime Authority, Malta
 Mr. Jörg Kaufmann, Director, Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU), Germany
 Dr. Jens-Uwe Schröder, World Maritime University

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ANNEX II

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