



EU SHIPSAN ACT Joint Action - Agreement Number: 2012 2103

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

Table top exercise “Mapping the communication routes for information sharing in response to public health events in the maritime transport”, Friday 4th March 2016, Larissa, Greece
SIS – Table Top Exercise, Thursday 20th October 2016, Larissa, Greece

Summary of the TTE report

1. Background

This table top exercise is one of the planned activities of the EU SHIPSAN ACT JA using the SHIPSAN ACT Information System (SIS). SIS has been upgraded and a table top exercise (SIS – TTE) took place in order to pilot test the system’s functionalities.

SIS records data of ship inspections and data on management of public health events on ships (names of ships, hygiene inspection results, description of public health events on ships, names of ports and names of officers working in EU ports). The system enables ship-to-port, port-to-national authorities and port-to-port communication. Data are recorded by officers working at port health authorities in EU countries and by ship operators/Captains of ships sailing in EU.

The purpose of SIS is to update and maintain a communication system that can improve consumers’ (passengers and crew) health protection through:

- recording of information related to communicable diseases by the ship using web based standardized diseases recording forms. This information can be used for the risk assessment conducted by EU competent authorities (e.g. port health authorities, National authorities, EWRS NFPs),
- facilitating communication by maintaining registries including contact details for ships, competent authorities and inspectors,
- creating an alert system to ensure that outbreaks and other public health events can be investigated and controlled in a timely manner without over reaction,
- facilitating the exchange of information between ports during outbreak investigation,
- sharing of information on hygiene inspections, sharing epidemiological information among competent authorities at ports in a standardized and confidential way.

2. Type of exercise

This was a web-based table top exercise that took place online through the DEMO version of SIS web platform (<http://sisdemo.shipsan.eu>). The Adobe Connect web platform (<https://shipsan.adobeconnect.com/sistte/>) was used for the live demonstration and the progress of the SIS-TTE to every participant. The instructions to participants can be found in Annex **Σφάλμα! Το αρχείο προέλευσης της αναφοράς δεν βρέθηκε..**

Two scenarios of public health events that occurred on cruise ships or cargo ships were simulated by participants. During the table top exercise, four (4) Port Health Authorities and three (3) National Focal Points from four (5) different EUMS (Greece, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Austria) were participated playing the role of "Player".

University of Thessaly (UTH) played the role of the cruise ship and the four (4) Port Health Authorities the role of the ports of call competent authorities. During this scenario, the participants were informed about the evolving situation on board through SIS. The scenarios can be found in Annex **Σφάλμα! Το αρχείο προέλευσης της αναφοράς δεν βρέθηκε.**, which includes the versions used by players and observers respectively. Annex **Σφάλμα! Το αρχείο προέλευσης της αναφοράς δεν βρέθηκε.** includes the web forms on SIS and the information that should be completed by the players, for each scenario, step by step. Annex **Σφάλμα! Το αρχείο προέλευσης της αναφοράς δεν βρέθηκε.** shows the maps used by players to map the communication flows and to observe the ships' routes.

3. Aim and objectives

The main objectives of the SIS Table Top Exercise were to:

- investigate how a public health event can be reported, updated and disseminated between competent authorities (e.g. ports, port health authorities, public health authorities, ships, crew, inspectors, other competent authorities) as accurately and quickly as possible in order for appropriate actions to be taken.
- test the overall functionality of the upgraded Information System, its response and tolerance to simultaneous access of many users, the modules that have been incorporated and user accessibility.
- provide EU SHIPSAN ACT JA with comments and suggestions for improvements and further developments to the system's functionality.
- familiarise the potential users with the usage of the platform of SIS and its working environment.

4. Participants roles and function

Thirty six persons participated in the exercise.

Function of participants



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The roles and responsibilities of participants were the following:

Controller

Responsible for exercise project management, including delegation of responsibilities. Instructs the players and is a passive participant in the conduct of the exercise, responsible for injects during the exercise and ensuring that the exercise runs smoothly.

Facilitator

Responsible for keeping participant discussions on track and in line with the exercise objectives. This includes making sure all issues and objectives are explored as thoroughly as possible within the available time.

Evaluator

Develops evaluation criteria, logs exercise activity, evaluates exercise activity, analyses results, writes exercise report.

Players

Participate as players in the exercise. Players will be given the following role:

- Administrator
- Cruise ship
- ELDSNet Focal Point
- National authority at central level
- Port Health Authority

Observers

- Participate as observers in the exercise.