



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

Acronym: SHIPSAN ACT

(Joint Action Agreement Number: 2012 2103)

Introduction

Maritime transport can impact population health in European Union (EU). In 2011, approximately 60 000 port calls of merchant ships were recorded in EU Member States (MS). Around 390 million ferry passengers passed through their ports in 2013, 6.4 million Europeans cruised in 2013 and about 62 400 European seafarers were employed in cruise ships. In 2013, 43 cruise lines with 198 cruise ships operated in Europe. Many different authorities (up to five) are responsible for conducting inspections within the same country without always having clearly defined roles and responsibilities. Lack of communication, knowledge and training in relation to hygiene inspections from competent authorities has been observed. The practices of hygiene inspections on board ships vary between European countries and many times and within the same country or even within the same port. Finally, difficulties occurred in Europe in the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) and issuance of Ship Sanitation Certificate (SSC).

To address these issues the European Commission funded two European projects: SHIPSAN (<http://www.eu-shipsan.gr>) and SHIPSAN TRAINET (<http://trainet.shipsan.eu/>) from 2006 until 2011. In February 2013, the new EU SHIPSAN ACT Joint Action started addressing health issues in maritime transport.

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 preventing the cross-border spread of diseases, improving citizens' health security. Actions will focus on prevention, identification, assessment and link with existing mechanisms for response coordination to serious cross border threats to health caused by CBRN agents. Actions will facilitate the implementation of EU legislation: a) Decisions 2119/98/EC, 2000/57/EC, linking SHIPSAN communication platform with existing systems, b) Directive 2010/65/EU, by supporting EMSA to implement Maritime Declaration of Health (MDH), c) Directive 2009/13/EC, by developing an outline of a risk assessment tool for occupational health on ships, d) the IHR, by supporting core capacities Annex 1 b by training, inspections, contingency planning guidance and IHR provisions for conveyances and conveyance operators including SSC.

The duration of the Joint Action is 45 months and 33 partners from 24 countries participate.

The **Specific Objectives** of the Joint Action are:

1. To produce a report describing evidence for events and consequences due to CBRN agents in all types of ships; training needs for core capacities under IHR and practices related to fishing vessels and inland waterways in at least 18 EUMS, by month 24
2. To develop guidance on risk assessment and response to chemical/radiological events (accidental/deliberate release) on ships, by month 16, to be used as part of the IHR contingency planning at points of entry of EUMS
3. To develop an outline of a risk assessment tool for occupational and public health risks per cargo ship type, by month 24
4. To increase port health staff and crew competencies on prevention/risk assessment/response to CBRN threats by training more than 5 trainers within each EUMS and by e-learning courses available to staff in all EUMS and companies operating in EU
5. To improve quality of inspections and bring a consistent/proportionate approach to inspection of all ship types, by providing on the job training, issuing yearly inspection schedule, operating information tools for recording/sharing inspection results.
6. To maintain and update SHIPSAN information tools for MDH transmission, risk assessment/response to events, issuance of SSC and information communication and support establishment of the National Single Window(Directive 2010/65/EU) in relation to MDH

Work Packages

Work Package 1: Coordination

Work package leader: University of Thessaly, Larissa, Greece

Work Package 2: Dissemination

Work package leader: University of Thessaly, Larissa, Greece

Work Package 3: Evaluation

Work package leader: Ministry of Health, Rome, Italy

Work Package 4: State of the Art covering sea and inland water vessels

Work package leader: National Institute of Public Health, Organisation, Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid, Spain

Work Package 5: Integrated Inspection Programme

Work package leader: University of Thessaly, Larissa, Greece

Work Package 6: Chemical and radiological incidents on ships risk assessment and management

Work package leader: Public Health England Agency, Chilton, United Kingdom

Work Package 7: SHIPSAN ACT information system (SIS)

Work package leader: University of Thessaly, Larissa, Greece

Work Package 8: Training

Work package leader: National Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Work Package 9: Occupational health and hygiene in maritime transport

Work package leader: Institute for Occupational and Maritime Medicine, ZfAM, Hamburg State Department for Health and Consumer Protection, Hamburg, Germany

Outcomes

The EU SHIPSAN ACT Joint Action:

1. Produced a state of the art report

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

2. Supports EUMS in conducting hygiene inspections on passenger ships

- European Manual for hygiene standards and communicable diseases on passenger ships
- European scheme for hygiene inspections on passenger ships providing a common inspection procedure, competency framework in EUMS and a commonly agreed annual EU inspection plan.

3. Developed guidelines and training material for for competent authorities on risk assessment and response to chemical/radiological events (accidental/deliberate release)

4. Operates the EU SHIPSAN ACT Information System

- Communication network platform for EU ports
- Information System for recording and issuing Ship Sanitation Certificates based on WHO
- Database for recording inspections conducted against the European standards as provided in the European Manual
- European Database for storing the Maritime Declaration of Health submitted in the National Single Window (Directive 2010/65/EU)

5. Delivers training (face to face, e-learning, on the job) to port health officers and maritime industry staff

6. Developed a risk assessment tool for occupational and public health risks per cargo ship type

7. Provides expert public health advice – PHEIC

- **Q&A about EVD for maritime transport:**
 - 15 specific practical questions were developed in regards to response measures by competent authorities and shipping industry
 - List of designated ports with the capacity to respond to EVD events was produced: 155 ports in 15 EUMS with the capacity to respond to an EVD event - SHIPSAN ACT informed 32 partners from 24 EU MS, DG SANTE, CHAFEA, WHO & CLIA
- **Interim guidance on maritime transport and Zika virus disease**
- **Advice to international travellers for a healthy voyage**
- **Other consultations**
 - Provides advice on:
 - preparedness and response to public health events (Legionnaire's disease outbreaks)
 - microbiological water testings
 - development of Water Safety Plans
 - Monitors and participates in research protocols
 - Participates in outbreak investigations

The partnership

Associated Partners

1. Regional Health Inspection, Burgas, **Bulgaria**, RHI-Burgas-BG
2. Regional Health Inspection, Varna, **Bulgaria**, RHI-Varna-BG
3. Institute for Occupational and Maritime Medicine, ZfAM, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE) and Ministry of Health and Consumer Protection, Hamburg, Germany in cooperation with the Hamburg Port Health Center, HPHC, Institute for Hygiene and Environment, Hamburg, **Germany**, UKE-DE (Leader for Work package 9)
4. Robert Koch-Institut, Berlin, **Germany**, RKI-DE
5. Laboratory of Hygiene and Epidemiology, University of Thessaly, Larissa, **Greece**, UTH-EL (Leader for Work packages 1, 2, 5, 7)
6. National School of Public Health, Athens, **Greece**, NSPH-EL
7. Directorate of Health, Reykjavik, **Iceland**, DOH-IS
8. Health Service Executive, Naas, **Ireland**, HSE-IE
9. Ministry of Health, Rome, **Italy**, MOH-IT (Leader for Work package 3)
10. Klaipeda Public Health Centre, Klaipeda, **Lithuania**, KPHCLIT-LT (Co-Leader for Work package 9)
11. National Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana, **Slovenia**, NIPH-SI (Leader for Work package 8)
12. National Institute of Public Health, Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid, **Spain**, ISCIII-ES (Leader for Work package 4)
13. Association of Port Health Authorities, London, **United Kingdom**, APHA-UK
14. Public Health England, Chilton, **United Kingdom**, PHE-UK (Leader for Work package 6)

EU Collaborating Partners

1. Ministry of Health, Vienna, Austria
2. Federal Public Service of Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, Brussels, **Belgium**
3. Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Directorate of Sanitary Inspection, Zagreb, **Croatia**
4. Ministry of Health, Public Health Services of the Medical and Public Health Services, Nicosia, **Cyprus**
5. Metropolitan Region of Thessaloniki, Region of Central Macedonia, **Greece**
6. Centre of Maritime Health and Society, University of Southern Denmark, **Denmark**
7. Health Board, Health Care Department, Tallinn, **Estonia**
8. Ministry of Labour, Employment and Health, Paris, **France**
9. Environmental Health Directorate, Port Health Services, **Malta**
10. Municipal Health Services Rotterdam, Rijnmond, **Netherlands**
11. National Center for Hygiene and Safety (LCHV), National Institute for Health and the Environment (RIVM), Amsterdam, **Netherlands**

12. Norwegian Directorate of Health, Oslo, **Norway**
13. Medical University of Gdansk, Interdepartmental Institute of Maritime and Tropical Medicine, Gdansk, **Poland**
14. Ministry of Health, Lisbon, **Portugal**
15. Ministry of Health - Department public health, Bucharest, **Romania**
16. Ministry of Health, social services and equality, Madrid, **Spain**
17. Public Health Authority of the Ministry of Transport, Bratislava, **Slovakia**

Non-EU Collaborations

1. Ministry of Health Directorate General of Health for Border and Coastal Areas, **Turkey**
2. Taiwan Centres for Disease Control, **Taiwan**

Advisory Board

1. Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (**DG SANTE**)
2. Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (**CHAFEA**)
3. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (**ECDC**)
4. World Health Organization (**WHO**)
5. Centre for Diseases Control and Prevention, Vessel Sanitation Program, USA (**CDC-VSP**)

Synergies with other organisations, agencies, projects

European Union agencies and projects

1. European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (**EU-OSHA**)
2. Advanced National Networks for Administrations (**AnNa**) project
3. EU AIRSAN project (**AIRSAN**)
4. Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (**MediPIET**)
5. European Chemical Emergency Network project (**ECHEMNET**)

International organisations

6. International Maritime Organization (**IMO**)

Non-EU organizations and projects

7. **EUROMED** countries
8. Brazilian Health Surveillance Agency (**ANVISA**)

Maritime Industry

9. Cruise Line Industry Association (**CLIA**)
10. European Community Ship-owners Associations (**ECSA**)

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