Istituto Idrografico della Marina Centro di Coordinamento MBSVRENC



Italian Hydrographic Service MBSVRENC Coordinating Center

CHRIS17-10.1C

17th CHRIS MEETING Rostock, Germany, 5-9 September 2005

Virtual RENC in the Mediterranean and Black Sea Region -Status Report



PROJECTS SITUATION

Istituto Idrografico della Marina Centro di Coordinamento MBSVRENC



MBSVRENC Coordinating Center Secretariat

The Italian Hydrographic Office, in accordance to art. IV.2 and IV.3 of the MBSVRENC MoU and with the complete approval of the Italian Ministry of Defence, has appointed a dedicated Secretary of the MBSVRENC Coordinating Centre, Miss. Cristina Tirone.

Miss. Tirone, one of the most experienced cartographer of the Italian HO, will support and assist the Director Adm. Pierpaolo Cagnetti and Cdr. Nannini in all the activities related with MBSVRENC maintenance.

Italian ENC Coverage and Distribution

As previously announced, the Italian Hydrographic Office started the distribution of national ENC coverage, in accordance with the circulated "MBSVRENC Distribution Policies" since last October 2004. Currently 140 ENCs are commercially available and other few tens are in progress of validation, assuming their availability on the market during 2005.

New Accessions to MBSVRENC

On the last months new-coming MBSHC Countries have expressed to the MBSVRENC CC the intention of accessing the MBSVRENC.

The Italian HO has sent them the Memorandum of Understanding and general information waiting for a formalization of such request of adhesion.

MBSVRENC Coordinating Center activities

Strongly motivated by the above considerations, the Italian HO, in his role of MBSVRENC Coordinating Center, wants to reinforce the concept of implementing MBSVRENC policies and strategies on technical and administrative level, as stated in the MBSVRENC MoU.

On the technical side, the Italian HO, as MBSVRENC Coordinating Center, has decided to implement, based on its own premises, personnel and funding, a "Quality Assurance and Data Consistency MBSVRENC Department".

Such Department will take care of performing a complete and independent quality assurance of all of the ENCs it will receive by the MBSVRENC Participants.

Hydroservice dKart quality control tools will be used, along with at least two widely used ECDIS systems.

This process will ensure that finally released ENCs are compatible with the biggest number of ECDIS commercially available.

The "Quality Assurance and Data Consistency MBSVRENC Department" will also support MBSVRENC Participants to produce consistent and harmonized ENCs.

This process will be based on the CHRIS / TSMAD document "Improving ENC Consistency" and the new IHO Special Publication S-65 "ENC Production Guidance", specifically referring to Stage 7 (Edge Match Data) and Stage 8 (Verify and Validate Data)(formerly named "ENC Production Cookbook/Guidance).

It has been released, by the Italian HO, a technical document where the most relevant aspects of the above mentioned documents has been summarized and highlighted.

Issues being considered are ENC's content, boundary consistency, optimal scales and cell schemas.

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EUMEDIS MedChartNet Project Status

It is relevant to mention some news about the development of the EUMEDIS MedChartNet Project, which involves many of the MBSVRENC Participants.

The Project is moving forward in its technical phases:

Two series of Training Courses have been completed at International Maritime Academy premises.

Each one was dedicated to Electronic Nautical Cartography and more specifically to ENC Production, Validation, Updating and Distribution.

The first series of courses have been carried out between the 1st of October and the 28th of November 2003, while the second have been carried out between the 31st of March and the 28th of May 2004.

Algeria, Cyprus, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Palestine National Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey participated with their attendees.

According to the tasks of the MedChartNet Project two Open International Tenders have been successfully assigned, the first one concerning the supply of hardware and software for participating HOs intended for ENC Production, Validation and Maintenance, and the second one concerning the Production of a basic portfolio of ENCs covering the Mediterranean Waters of the participating HOs.

EUMEDIS MEDChartNet State of Advance

- 1. Delivery of equipment (HW and SW): has been completed for all Partners
- 2. Installation of equipment (HW and SW): successfully started. Italy, Tunisia and Malta done, Turkey and Greece in progress, Cyprus, Algeria planned to be visited by the end of September, Syria, Jordan, Israel and Palestinian Authority by the end of 2005.
- 3. Delivery of ENCs: started with the Italian Hydrographic Office, the first one that sent paper chart to be digitized, for which most of the production has been completed, validated and in progress to be officially distributed together with the rest of their ENCs already available in the market. Some ENCs has been produced for Turkey and there are also, advanced digitizing phase ENCs for Malta, Cyprus, Algeria, Jordan and Syria.