

20th Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission Conference

(Draft) Agenda Item C.6.1. FAMOS project general report

2015-07-10

1 Summary

- The FAMOS project is on-going according to plan.
- On 10 July 2015, the final decision was taken at EU level to co-finance the project with almost 12 MEUR from EU CEF Transport funds for the time period 2014-2016.
- Operative work in all project activities has been on-going since 2014.
- Planning for submitting a second, follow-up proposal for additional CEF Transport funding (mostly after 2016) has started.

1.1 Project setup

The FAMOS project will be split into several phases, covering the time from 2014 to 2020. The first phase, FAMOS Freja, is ongoing and covers 2014-2016.

Presently, the project consortium includes the Hydrographic Offices of all BSHC countries except Poland and Russia, as well as national geodetic authorities and institutes (sorted by decreasing budget):

- Swedish Maritime Administration
- Danish Geodata Agency
- Finnish Transport Agency
- Estonian Maritime Administration
- Maritime Administration of Latvia
- GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences
- Danish Technical University Space Institute
- German Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy
- Lantmäteriet (Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority)
- German Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency
- Lithuanian Maritime Safety Administration (associated partner without budget at present)

Please note that the consortium could be extended to include other organisations in the future.

1.2 Project activities

The FAMOS project focuses on BSHC-HELCOM CAT I and II surveys as well as preparations for the common Baltic Sea chart datum as proposed by the BSHC Chart Datum Working Group. Specifically, the project activities are as follows:

1.2.1 Hydrographic surveying

Hydrographic surveying of approx. 90 000 km² of areas important for commercial shipping in the Baltic Sea (HELCOM CAT I and II); and corresponding production of nautical charts. Approx. 35 000 km² will be surveyed during FAMOS Freja until 2016.

1.2.2 Harmonizing vertical datum

Actions for implementing a common vertical Baltic Sea chart reference level in line with the BSHC Chart Datum Working Group goals. This includes measurements of gravity during hydrographic surveys, verification of existing gravity data, and the computation of a new, more accurate geoid model. FAMOS Freja includes gravity measurements and preparations for the other tasks.

1.2.3 Surveying infrastructure

Improvements of the surveying infrastructure in terms of survey boats and hydrographic equipment for the Baltic countries. The improved capacities are needed for these partners to achieve the goals set in the BSHC-HELCOM Scheme during later phases of the project. FAMOS Freja includes the procurement of survey boats and hydrographic equipment.

1.2.4 Data workflow from sounding to chart

Improve and streamline the workflow from Hydrographic survey of depth information to distribution of final nautical products. This includes the redesign of depth databases, procurement of new Chart Production Systems, studies of new IHO standards and the design of a Nautical SDI.

1.2.5 Coordination and communication

Project coordination, communication and outreach.

1.3 FAMOS CEF proposal

The **FAMOS project CEF proposal** for 2014-2016 has been finalized in the first half of Q1, was approved by all participating organisations and member states, and was submitted to the European Commission on February 24. It comprises a total budget of 33.9 MEUR, including **11.9 MEUR of CEF co-financing** applied for. A summary of the planned work can be found below.

After evaluating all proposals, the European Commission put forward a list of projects recommended to be funded to the CEF Coordination Committee. The FAMOS proposal was evaluated positively and proposed for funding. At the Coordination Committee meeting on 10 July 2015, the Commission's list was approved by the member states, which means that **the project will receive the requested EU funding for the planned activities 2014-2016**.

The FAMOS proposal competed with 53 other proposals under "Motorways of the Sea", which asked for about 613 MEUR of co-financing in total. In the call for proposals, 250 MEUR of co-financing are available. Until now, **all TEN-T and CEF proposals coordinated by the Swedish Maritime Administration have been successful**, securing over 90 MEUR worth of co-financing since 2010 for many different project partners.

1.4 Operative work 2014-2015

Even without fully secured funding, the implementation of the project started already in 2014. All specified milestones have been reached until now.

Regarding **activity 1 (hydrographic surveying)**, the survey season 2014 has been completed successfully with surveys of 8750 km². The 2015 surveying season is on-going with both project internal and externally procured resources.

Activity 2 (vertical datum) started in 2015 with a dedicated German gravity measurement campaign south of Bornholm (see BSHC20 Agenda Item C.6.2. presented by Germany). At the end of July 2015, the Swedish

survey vessel *Jacob Hägg* has been equipped with a Danish gravity meter and started to conduct measurements during transit to the Gulf of Bothnia.

Regarding **activity 3 (surveying infrastructure)**, the Latvian Maritime Administration has successfully procured, equipped and tested their new survey boat *Sonārs*.

Under **activity 4 (data workflow)**, the procurement of software for the Estonian Maritime Administration in 2014 has been completed. Other tasks, such as the procurement of a new Swedish chart production system, are ongoing.

Regarding **activity 5 (coordination and communications)** the project has been presented to the European Commission on several occasions. Furthermore the project was presented at the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2015 as well as the TEN-T Days 2015.

2 What happens next, result?

2.1 Operative work

Activity 1: Hydrographic surveying and chart production continue according to plan, i.e. what is specified in the proposal until 2016 and in the BSHC-HELCOM Scheme until 2020.

Activity 2: A gravity campaign onboard a Swedish survey vessel is being carried out in late summer 2015. Furthermore, a Finnish contracted vessel will carry a German gravity meter on a dedicated two-week campaign in the Gulf of Bothnia in autumn. Another German campaign is planned for the beginning of the 2016 survey season. Ship-borne GNSS measurements are being collected and will be evaluated in order to determine the actual sea surface height for geoid verification. A mean sea surface model will be computed from satellite altimetry data.

Activity 3 (surveying infrastructure): The Estonian Maritime Administration will procure a survey boat until the end of 2015.

Activity 4: SMA continues with the new chart production system project. Several minor subactivities have started and will continue.

Activity 5 (coordination and communication): Planning of project management structures is ongoing and will continue. A steering group will be established formally, likely in Q3 2015. SMA will soon start to require quarterly (short) financial and technical reports from all project partners in order to keep track of the project implementation. A project web site will be set up in Q3 2015.

2.2 Preparations for the next phase of the FAMOS project

The Commission will launch new calls for proposals for CEF Transport in autumn, with a total volume of 350 MEUR for Motorways of the Sea. The plan is that the calls will open in September 2015, with eligible project period starting 1 January 2015. This was very unexpected news in the end of June 2015 – so far the plan was to have the next calls in 2016. Probably there will also be calls in autumn 2016.

With the upcoming calls, planning has started for the continued “proposal strategy” 2016-2020. One near-term goal is that the Lithuanian Maritime Safety Administration will join the project as a full partner. For that reason it is very likely that we will submit a second FAMOS proposal already in autumn 2015. This would also give other potential project partners a possibility to join.

The meeting is invited to

- Take note of this report;
- Discuss future possibilities and opportunities to use the project as a platform for implementing BSHC goals until 2020;
- Consider possibilities to extend the project consortium in order to further strengthen the operative collaboration between BSHC members.
- Be aware of the approaching deadline for a second CEF Transport co-financing proposal, likely before the end of 2015.