

European Coast Guard Functions Training Network

Statement of Intent

by

European Coast Guard Functions Educational Institutions

on establishing

The European Coast Guard Functions Training Network

1. Introduction

This Statement of Intent, whilst recognising national sovereignty and acknowledging national regulation governing activities of the participating academies, schools and training centres (hereafter referred to as "educational institutions"), proposes that greater European cooperation should extend, where possible, to education and training for coast guard functions.

Coast Guard Functions are defined by the European Coast Guard Functions Forum as:

- I. Maritime safety, including vessel traffic management
- II. Maritime, ship and port security
- III. Maritime customs activities
- IV. The prevention and suppression of trafficking and smuggling and connected maritime law enforcement
- V. Maritime border control
- VI. Maritime monitoring and surveillance
- VII. Maritime environmental protection and response
- VIII. Maritime search and rescue
- IX. Ship casualty and maritime assistance service
- X. Maritime accident and disaster response
- XI. Fisheries inspection and control
- XII. and activities related to the above Coast Guard Functions.

2. Purpose

Considering and assuring the autonomous status of each participant body, the European Coast Guard Functions Training Network will create a voluntary association of educational institutions providing education in the field of coast guard functions in the member states of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum.

3. Name

This initiative shall be known as the "European Coast Guard Functions Training Network" (ECGF Training Network).

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4. Guiding Principles

- The network is independent and its membership is voluntary and non-political.
- This network will engage in open and transparent communication that ensures a common understanding of the goals and purposes of the co-operation.

5. Membership

The network is open to all officially recognized educational institutions involved in teaching, training and researching coast guard functions in the member states of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum. Members of the ECGFF and the training network can suggest other European academies and training centres be invited to become members. Membership is voluntary and can be ended upon request.

6. Task of Members

The network members commit to seek to promote collaboration in order to enhance educational cooperation and exchange of knowledge, skills and best practises in the field of coast guard functions. Members will

- Publish, through the ECGF Training Portal , information on their training courses and other educational programmes that are open to participants from other members of the network;
- contribute to developing a Sectoral Qualification Framework for Coast Guarding;
- be open to participating in expert, training staff, and students exchange programmes, and;
- contribute to developing international training and education programmes according to their interests and expertise.

7. Governance

The European Coast Guard Functions Training Network will be overseen by a Governing Board (GB) comprising voluntary representatives of the network members and representatives of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum. The Governing Board will choose a chair from among its membership. The term of the chairmanship for the same institution will be one year and can be renewed consecutively once-only by a decision of the Board. The Governing Board will adopt Terms of Reference for its work and adopt an annual work-programme. The Governing Board will monitor the progress and results of the collaboration and will formulate recommendations for improvements in the cooperation. The chair of the Board will arrange Governing Board meetings at least once a year.

The Governing Board can appoint a small secretariat comprised of representatives of the Network which will be responsible for implementing the programmes and initiatives agreed by the Governing Board. The number of secretariat members is defined in the Terms of Reference.

The Chair of the Governing Board will present an informal annual report on the activities and initiatives of the Network to the Plenary Conference of The European Coast Guard Functions Forum, which follows and discusses the network's activities and offers support to its members.

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8. Resources

Financial arrangements will be agreed between the network members and the academies, schools and training centres undertaking the particular training or education programme. The network aims to apply for external funding for its activities.

9. Amendment and Modification

This Statement of Intent may be amended and modified in writing in consultation with the European Coast Guard Functions Forum and agreement by the network members.

10. Founding Members

The founding members of the network are:

1. Spanish Maritime Safety Agency, JOVELLANOS CENTRE (Spain)
2. AEAT Department of Customs DAVA (Spain)
3. Cyprus Police Academy (Cyprus)
4. Meriturva, Maritime Safety Training Centre (Finland)
5. Guarda Nacional Republicana, Unidade de Controlo Costeiro (Portugal)
6. Romanian Naval Academy "Mircea cel Batran" (Romania)
7. Federal Police Directorate Bad Bramsted, Maritime Training Center (Germany)
8. Finnish Border Guard - Border and Coast Guard Academy (Finland)
9. Aboa Mare Training Center (Finland)
10. Spanish Navy (Spain)
11. Fiscal and Borders Command of the Spanish Guardia Civil; Guardia Civil's Headquarters (Spain)
12. Italian Coast Guard Headquarters (Italy)
13. Armed Forces of Malta Headquarters (Malta)
14. HCG Harbour Guards Academy (Greece)
15. HCG Petty Officers Academy (Greece)
16. HCG Ensigns Academy (Greece)
17. Direction générale des douanes et des droits indirects (DGDDI, France)
18. Maritime and Coastguard Agency; National Maritime Administration (United Kingdom)