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Proposal on recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic for the cruise tourism sector & other blue economy sectors



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HEALTHY GATEWAYS Consortium



2018 - 2022 (48 months)

38 authorities/29 countries

Funded by the EU Health Programme

BENEFICIARIES

1. UTH, Greece (*Coordinator, Leader of WP7 MARITIME*)
2. MoH, Austria
3. MoCA, MoH-BA, Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. MoH-HPDPD, RHI-Varna, Bulgaria
5. CIPH, Croatia
6. UKE, Germany (*Leader of WP4 & Co-leader of WP6*)
7. MINSAL, ISS, Italy (*Leader of WP3*)
8. NVSC, Lithuania (*Co-Leader of WP5*)
9. EHD, Malta
10. NCPH, Moldova
11. RIVM, Netherlands (*Leader of WP9*)
12. NIPH-NIH, Poland (*Co-Leader of WP5*)
13. DGS, Portugal
14. IPHS Serbia
15. NIJZ Slovenia (*Leader of Work Package 2 and Co-leader of WP8*)
16. FOHM, Sweden (*Co-leader of WP6*)
17. UKHSA, United Kingdom (*Leader of WP8*)

COLLABORATORS

1. DG GS, Belgium
2. MoH, Cyprus
3. CMSS, Denmark
4. HB, Estonia
5. HTO, Finland
6. City of Porvoo, Finland
7. MoH, France
8. UNIWA, Greece
9. BPI, Greece
10. HSE, Ireland
11. SEMS, Latvia
12. DoH, Norway
13. GIS, Poland
14. PHA SK, Slovak Republic
15. MINDOP SK, Slovak Republic
16. MSSSI, Spain
17. ISCI, Spain
18. FOHP, Switzerland
19. Taiwan CDC

- Built on work of previous EU projects (2006-2016)
- Developed tools for strengthening preparedness and response capacities at ports, airports and ground crossings

PORTS: Actions for preparedness at ports and the maritime transport sector.



AIRPORTS: Actions for preparedness at airports and the air transport sector.



GROUND CROSSINGS: Actions for preparedness at ground crossings and the land transport sector.



HEALTHY GATEWAYS - contribution to restarting cruise operations in Europe & worldwide



January 2020:
First version **European guidance supporting ship operators** and competent authorities for COVID-19 preparedness and response

June 2020:
First version **European guidance supporting restart of cruise operations** after lifting restrictive measures (followed by ferries and inland river cruises)

- HEALTHY GATEWAYS guidance implemented by EU MS, adopted by the maritime transport industry & ports → contributed to **timely** and **successful** restart of cruise operations in 2020-2021
- Evidenced as cruise travel resumed in Europe (summers of 2020 & 2021) without major outbreaks
- In other countries cruise travel resumed months later (e.g. USA under CDC Framework for Conditional Sailing Order)



HEALTHY GATEWAYS guidance provided framework for shared protocols, to achieve common standards for COVID-19 response at ports & on board cruise ships in EU MS

HEALTHY GATEWAYS - response to COVID-19 pandemic



Activated emergency mode to support **governmental authorities' response** at points of entry and the **transport sector's resumption** of operations

- At European Commission request, 15+ evidence-based guidance documents developed on COVID-19 preparedness and response for all transport sectors
→ focus on **maritime** → focus on **cruise travel** and **ports**
- Supported **re-opening of cruise ports after the pandemic in MED countries (EU & non-EU), ensuring common cruise port protocols**
- Provided **rapid consults** to European Commission agencies, transport industry and EU MS on issues related to COVID-19 at points of entry and transport means
- Produced **training and exercise materials** to support capacity-building specific to COVID-19 preparedness and response



<https://www.healthygateways.eu/Novel-coronavirus#Interim>



EU HEALTHY SAILING

Controlling infections in large passenger ships

Funded by **HORIZON EUROPE:**

Research and Innovation Action – **CINEA**

BUDGET: approx. 5.5 million

25 partners

General Objective

To improve quality of passenger shipping services, facilitating recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, making the passenger shipping sector safer, more resilient, competitive and efficient



What we propose for MED...



Expansion of the established and successful EU scheme to MED

Promoting a common and coordinated approach for:

- prevention, monitoring and response to extraordinary emergency events on cruise ships and at ports
- common standards for inspections of cruise ships, staff competencies and training

Utilization of common digital tools for emergency event management



Proposal – objectives

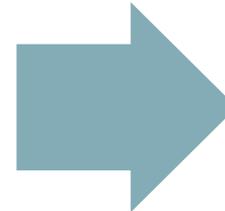
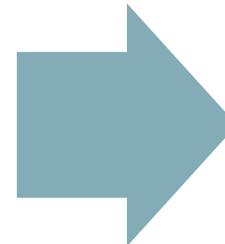


UfM Ministerial declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy (§57)*

a. Promote policy coordination, stakeholder collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to strengthen the resilience of the tourism sector in the Mediterranean

b. Develop comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and statistics schemes and promote the digitalization of the sector

f. Promote fiscal and investment policies to support sustainable coastal and marine tourism



Proposal objectives

Coordinated stakeholder collaboration and cooperation mechanisms, to prevent and respond to extraordinary emergencies related to cruise tourism in MED

Utilization of common databases by all MED countries for information exchange on preventing and responding to extraordinary emergencies

Expand the EU network/establish a MED network to support sustainable coastal and marine tourism, uninterrupted by extraordinary emergencies such as COVID-19

Why MED cooperation on cruise tourism?



1. Resuming cruise tourism

- Contributing to regional economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
- Putting people back to work





2. Current gaps that jeopardize full recovery

- Different/variable response protocols to extraordinary events in Mediterranean countries
- COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated gaps in response capacities of governments, port authorities and the cruise industry
- Gaps still exist, outbreaks still occur and some cruises have been canceled due to outbreaks in 2022
- Challenges with information exchange and lack of formal communication channels





3. Preparing for current & future emergencies

- Lessons learned from the pandemic should be considered to:
 - prevent COVID-19 in the short term
 - get prepared for future extraordinary emergencies, preventing any potential future devastating consequences



Why MED cooperation on cruise tourism sector?



4. A common approach in MED is the only way

- Ships sail rapidly between countries
- The same extraordinary event on board a cruise ship should be managed in different ports in the same itinerary, by different authorities
- A common MED approach is the only effective way to deal with extraordinary emergency events on cruise ships and can support:
 - Avoiding contradicting requirements from port-to-port
 - Avoiding border closures and cancellation of cruise ship calls





5. Ensuring uninterrupted cruise tourism

Cruise ships can

- **effectively deal with extraordinary** events only if all countries in the itinerary apply measures in a **harmonized and coordinated way**



1. Common protocols for:
 - Preparedness and management of extraordinary events on board **cruise ships and ferries**, to ensure compatibility of protocols when ships sail between countries
 - Standards for preventing and responding to extraordinary events
2. **Safeguarding healthy tourism** and cruising throughout the region



3. Ensuring cooperation for the application of common protocols for **all types of ships** between countries in the region
4. Common protocols for **port responses** to extraordinary emergency events on cruise ships



5. Operation of a **Common Database**, including communication network platform for information exchange between ports and national authorities from different MED countries, in case of extraordinary events on board cruise ships
6. Conduct of **cruise ship inspections** using common standards



7. **Training and exercises** for event management on board ships, to increase response capacities and promote a harmonized approach



Safeguarding the health of communities,
ensuring economic growth and
sustainable development

Proposal



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



MED NETWORK

- Expanding the existing EU network for prevention, monitoring and response to extraordinary emergency events to **ALL MED COUNTRIES**

HUBS OF EXCELLENCE

- Establishment of hubs of excellence in 4 MED countries
MED North, East, West, South

Network HQ

- Establishment of the network's HQ secretariat service for maintenance of information systems etc. (e.g. Greece)





<https://shipsancongress2022.eu/>

EU HEALTHY GATEWAYS Joint Action

Preparedness and action at points of entry (ports, airports, ground crossings)

Joint Action 04-2017 / Grant Agreement Number: 801493

Thank you for your attention



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