



Press release

Training on the YARIS platform to facilitate maritime surveillance off Cameroon and neighbouring countries

[Douala, 23 April 2021] The Head of Maritime Multinational Coordination Centre (MMCC) zone D will chair the closing ceremony of the YARIS (Yaoundé Architecture Regional Information System) advanced training programme, held at the seat of MMCC D, in Douala, 23 April 2021.

The **YARIS** platform (Yaoundé Architecture Regional Information System) aims to share information of maritime interest and enable an eventual coordination of responses. It was developed in partnership with the EU GoGIN project and officials from the Yaoundé Architecture (YA) with the support of the European Union. The MMCC zone D is the second MMCC (after the one in zone F located in Ghana) to benefit from a tailored-made coaching to exploit all the potentialities of YARIS.

From 12 to 23 April, sixteen participants from MMCC zone D and Betseng patrol boat (patrol boat provided by Gabon) received advanced training on YARIS, delivered by a mixed team of three instructors from GoGIN and from the ICC- Interregional Coordination Centre. They thus join the community of YARIS user centres, in particular that of the three operational coastal surveillance centres (COSCO Douala, Kribi and Limbe), which received the same training at the beginning of April.

The aim of in-person training is to give staff working in maritime centres the opportunity to use YARIS in an operational context. Delivered in this manner the entirety of the platform's features are showcased and the centre is supported in integrating this tool into its own operational procedures. Participants are put in a position to work on fictitious scenarios on different topics (combatting maritime pollution, illegal fisheries, tracking contacts of interest or responding to acts of piracy..) in order to facilitate the appropriation and integration of YARIS and to measure its value in daily missions.

Cdr Sylvestre Fonkoua, Head of MMCC zone D, was able to follow the advanced training and observed that:

"The YARIS tool allows us to have precise information on the suspect quickly and on time and facilitates the optimization of our response capacity. I welcome this judicious training and urge my staff to capitalize on the lessons received to fight more effectively against maritime piracy which abounds in the maritime space of the Gulf of Guinea. "

In the coming weeks, this personalised support will be rolled out by a mixed pool of trainers (GoGIN and YA centres) in Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal, Sao Tome & Principe.

In time, trained teams will be able to use the YARIS platform to ensure on a daily basis, improved maritime surveillance, sharing of operational or institutional information, and effective coordination of operations when necessary.

To learn more about the [YARIS training programme](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

GoGIN and the YARIS platform

The EU GoGIN project (Inter-regional network for the Gulf of Guinea) has as its purpose to contribute to maritime security and safety in the Gulf of Guinea in order to promote the blue economy and the economic development of countries in the region. The project provides technical support to the national and transnational structures of the Yaoundé Architecture, in accordance with their roles and responsibilities. It is a 5 year programme (2016 to August 2021) with a budget of €9,2 million, funded by the European Union and the government of Denmark, and implemented by Expertise France. GoGIN is part of the Programme of Critical Maritime Routes, initiated and funded by the European Commission.

The project contributed to the shaping and implementation of the YARIS platform (Yaounde Architecture Regional Information System), designed to be a key information sharing tool between the 27 maritime centres of the Yaoundé Architecture, its partners and stakeholders.

For more information follow the Twitter account @GoGIN_Project, visit the [website](#), or contact Communication Manager, Isabelle Gachie Vinson, isabelle.gachie@gogin.eu

Maritime Multinational Coordination Centre Zone D (MMCC / D)

The MMCC Zone D has been established on 6 May 2009, following the agreement signed between ECCAS (Economic Community of Central Africa States) and countries of the maritime zone D (Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome & Principe), and under the authority of CRESMAC (Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa) based in Pointe Noire (Congo). It belongs to the Yaoundé Architecture system.

Based in Douala, and managed by Captain Sylvestre Fonkoua, he coordinates lectured courses and training and resources sharing during operations at sea. It can count on three patrol boats made permanently available by Cameroon, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea to monitor the maritime space and lead the fight against various illegal acts.

Contact : CV Sylvestre Fonkoua

The **Yaoundé Architecture**, formulated by Heads of State and Governments of Central and West Africa during the 2013 summit, is designed to organise maritime security operations in the Gulf of Guinea via a network of 27 national or multinational centres coordinating between each other.

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