

PROJECT

## Drill for oil spill removal in the Gulf of Varna

### In the Gulf of Varna was carried out a drill for oil spill removal

**Funding:** National (Bulgaria)

**Duration:** Jan 2017 - Dec 2021

**Status:** Ongoing



#### Background & policy context:

In 2012 the first vessel to fight oil spills in Bulgaria's territorial waters was equipped and its contract with the European Maritime Safety Agency expired last year. With the efforts of the managements of the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications and the Executive Agency "Maritime Administration" an agreement was reached with the European institution for the conclusion of a new contract for the equipment of a new vessel - second for the Black Sea border of the European Union. The practice is to have only one in a region, and in the Black Sea there is already a vessel of this type in Constanta, Romania. Following this agreement, EMSA opened a procedure to equip a commercial vessel, which to be at disposal in case of a spill.

#### Objectives:

"EMSA Oil Spill Response Services" project aims to establish a network of stand-by oil spill response vessels through arrangements with commercial vessels. In this regard Bulgaria has hired "Galaxy Eco" for the period 2017-2021 with the South Black Sea as a region of activity.

The EMSA vessels are specially adapted for oil spill related operations and are on a stand-by basis while doing their normal business. Currently, EMSA maintains 17 full-service oil spill response vessels across Europe.

#### Methodology:

In the case of oil spills under the terms of the contract, the vessel should terminate its normal business and direct to the requesting country fully equipped to combat oil spills, under established conditions and tariffs. The maximum time for mobilizing the vessel and proceeding to the affected area is 24 hours after the assistance is requested.

Regardless of the area of the commercial operation, all vessels in the EMSA network can be mobilized to fight oil spills anywhere in European waters and general sea basins.

**Other funding sources:** Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications

Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and  
**Organisation:** Communications

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**Organisation Website:** [Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications](#)

**STRIA Roadmaps:** Other specified

Water transport (sea &

**Transport mode:** inland)

**Transport sectors:** Passenger transport, Freight transport  
Environmental/Emissions aspects, Other

**Transport policies:** specified