Interreg Baltic Sea Region

EUROPEAN UNION

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ChemSAR

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Operational plans and procedures for maritime search and rescue in HNS incidents

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EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION FLAGSHIP

Main ChemSAR objective

…is to create uniform operational plans and SOPs to save human lives in maritime HNS incidents in a safe manner.

Photo: Päivi Söderholm

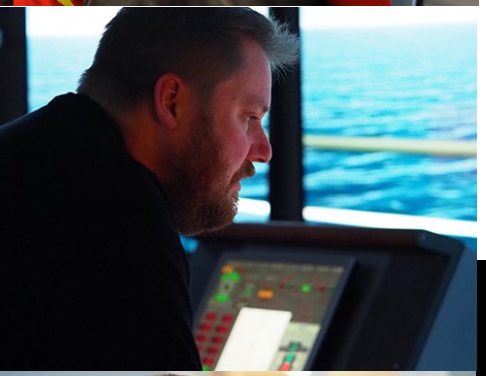
Main ChemSAR results

- **Safer and more efficient rescue operations at sea**
- Enhanced transnational co-operation in rescue operations
- Increased capacity and competence of maritime actors
- More efficient use of rescue facilities in the Baltic Sea Region
- Decreased harm to the environment

Main achievements so far

- Draft Standard operational procedures and related Checklists
- Proposal for the chemical databank and its contents
- Technical application for the e-learning platform chosen and creation of e-learning material ongoing
- Pilot activities: table-top & simulator exercises, external experts involved
- Draft SOPs and some features of the chemical databank tested in the held exercises
- Several dissemination events towards target groups, stakeholders and decision makers

M/V Regal Star, en route from Tallinn to Kapellskär in Estonian SRR, crew detects an oil spill on the 3rd enclosed car deck, in vicinity of a group of truck-trailers. Initial investigation points to an additional fuel tank, damaged when driving on board. Crew prepares for oil spill response and seals the scuppers as initial response. After initial actions as per SOPEP, chemical leakage from the trailer with damaged fuel tank is noticed and reported to ship command centre. Further, radio communication is lost between oil spill response team and ship command centre. Master sounds general alarm and makes the distress call to JRCC Tallinn. Caused by crew emergency response activities, some passengers start to indicate signs of panic.



Experiences, lessons learned, challenges so far

- ✓ In the run table-top and simulator exercises, observations for improvement and alterations for draft SOPs gained
- ✓ However, it has proven to be difficult to concentrate on the testing of SOPs and chemical databank features as
- ✓ the exercising itself seems to need more exercising
- ✓ Joint transnational exercising of the ChemSAR outcome is needed

Also achieved: raised awareness and exchange of experiences

- ✓ Current policy issues in Maritime and Port Safety and Security event in Brussels, April 2017
- ✓ Joint 3-project workshop on HNS Preparedness & ChemSAR, DiveSmart Baltic and HAZARD project partners observing the HAZARD large scale exercise in Hamburg, May 2017
- ✓ Co-hosting a workshop on Preparedness at Sea at EMD in Poole, May 2017
- ✓ Vice-President Katainen and Commissioner Creţu visiting ChemSAR on board FBG OPV Uisko in Helsinki, June 2017
- ✓ Joint ChemSAR & HAZARD workshop with EMSA chemical experts in Lisbon, August 2017
- ✓ ChemSAR presented to the Interreg BSR Monitoring Committee in Turku, September 2017
- ✓ ChemSAR partner took part in a HAZARD large scale exercise in Naantali, October 2017

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Next steps

- Evaluation report of the simulator exercises
- Further development of the SOPs and checklists accordingly
- Further development of the chemical databank
- Further creation of e-learning material for the e-learning platform
- Planning of the live exercise at sea for Autumn 2018
- ChemSAR Midterm seminar & next partner meetings in February 2018

Thank you!

Blogit.utu.fi/chemsar

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