

ENHANCING OIL SPILL RESPONSE CAPABILITY IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION 2019–2021



Photo: Mariikka Whiteman

OIL SPILL PROJECT CONTINUES UNTIL THE END OF 2021

The Interreg BSR Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat (MA/JS) offered a possibility to apply for project prolongation due to the pandemic and the distractions entailed. After discussing this option with the Partners, the OIL SPILL Project Office at the **University of Turku** sent the application to MA/JS in Rostock. The requested prolongation of the project duration by six months was accepted. Thus, the implementation phase of the OIL SPILL project will last until 31 December 2021 instead of ending in June 2021. Prolongation enables the execution of the postponed events as well as to plan alternatives for those activities that are impossible to implement in current circumstances.

ONLINE MEETINGS

Although the pandemic prevented us from visiting each other, online interaction increased between Project Partners. Besides occasional meetings, two regular discussion sessions were established in Period 4. The OIL SPILL voluntary sector gathers at the beginning of each month to exchange ideas and experiences and plan cooperation. For the whole consortium, a routine of monthly morning coffee meetings was set. It is a casual event that enables discussions both on and off-topic and imitates the informal meetings at a workplace.

NEWS FROM LITHUANIAN RED CROSS

The **Lithuanian Red Cross** is currently renewing many of its procedures and practices. The new Disaster Preparedness program also takes oil spills into account, and a decision to establish a preparedness team near the coast of Klaipėda was made. Also, the processes of recruiting and training the volunteers are reviewed and updated. Since oil spill response is a new activity for the Lithuanian Red Cross, participation in the OIL SPILL project is important and support from other Project Partners is provided when needed.

MAIN EVENTS IN THE 4th PROJECT PERIOD (JULY – DECEMBER 2020)

Nov 2020	Online Oil Protection Conference in Sweden
Nov 2020	Participation in the planning meetings of the Port of Refuge exercise
Oct 2020–	Casual monthly OIL SPILL morning coffee meetings
Oct 2020–	Monthly online meetings of the OIL SPILL voluntary sector

NEW PROJECT PUBLICATIONS

Three new OIL SPILL publications were issued in Period 4:

Kasepõld K, Suzdalev S, Kuzmenko I & Treffner I
Tallinn University of Technology, Klaipėda University
CONDUCTING OIL SPILL COMBATING TRAINING WITH
STATE-OF-THE-ART MARITIME SIMULATORS

Petersen K
Danish Civil Protection League
THE BALTIC CARRIER ACCIDENT IN DENMARK 2001;
MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PREPAREDNESS IN DENMARK

The documents can be downloaded from our website:
blogit.utu.fi/oilspill/publications



OIL PROTECTION CONFERENCE (SE)

Östra Götaland Fire & Rescue Service organized a national oil protection conference with other Swedish stakeholders. The online conference was arranged on 26–27 November 2020. The focus was especially on the changes in the risks in the Baltic Sea, costs of the environmental damage, and places of refuge.

PORT OF REFUGE TTX (FI)

If a ship in distress needs a place of refuge, the process has to be clear for all parties. OIL SPILL Project has been initiating a national tabletop exercise on port of refuge operations together with **Finnish Border Guard, Finnish Transport & Communications Agency** and other stakeholders, incl. some Finnish OIL SPILL Partners. The exercise takes place in Finland in 2021 (date TBD).

UPCOMING EVENTS IN SPRING 2021

14 January 2021
21 January 2021
3 February 2021
9 March 2021
3–8 May 2021
26–27 May 2021

Twitter conference: Oil spill response in the Northern Baltic and Arctic Areas
Online tabletop exercise for authorities and NGOs in the pilot area (FI)
Webinar on voluntary oil spill response
Incident Management & Communication webinar
Vellamo large-scale exercise in Southwest Finland
KOPOS 2021 large-scale exercise in Palanga, Lithuania

For more information and updates, visit: blogit.utu.fi/oilspill/events

**UTU PROJECT OFFICE
IS CLOSED:
21 DEC 2020 – 7 JAN 2021**

*Happy holidays &
all the best for 2021!*

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