



Developing oiled wildlife response in Europe

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Oiled wildlife response: methods and opportunities
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The risk of an oil spill is ever present



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'Port of Rotterdam was not well prepared for oil spill Bow Jubail'

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The port of Rotterdam was insufficiently prepared for a calamity, as happened almost two years ago with the Bow Jubail. More than two hundred tonnes of fuel oil ended up in the water.

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The Dutch Safety Board states this in its report on the oil spill in the port on Thursday 23 June 2018. On that day, the chemical tanker from Odjell collided with a jetty in the Botiek. A fuel tank, which was in the double hull of the ship, was pierced. The outflow of the fuel oil proved unstoppable until the liquid level in the tank had dropped to the bottom of the hole in the hull.

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Rotterdam oil spill: Hundreds of birds hit after Dutch leak

25 June 2018



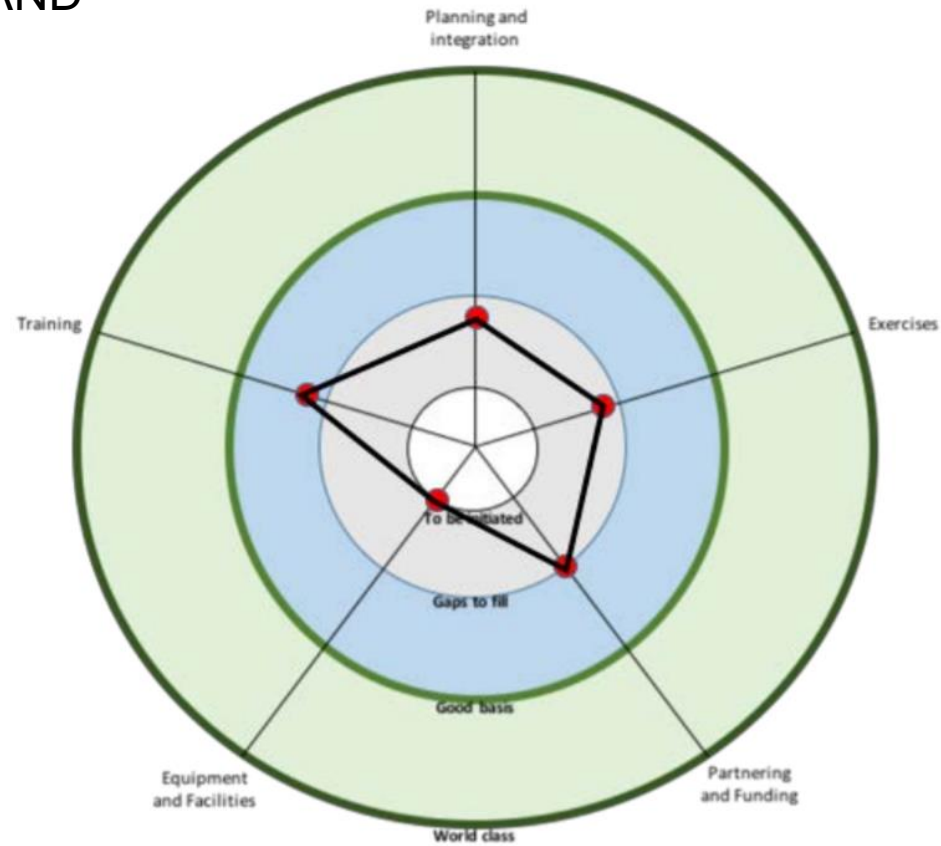
Rescue workers have been overwhelmed by the number of contaminated birds

- Maritime safety has improved, but accidents have not been completely eliminated
- Countries have little experience of managing large-scale incidents
- Big differences in preparedness, capacity to respond and resources available

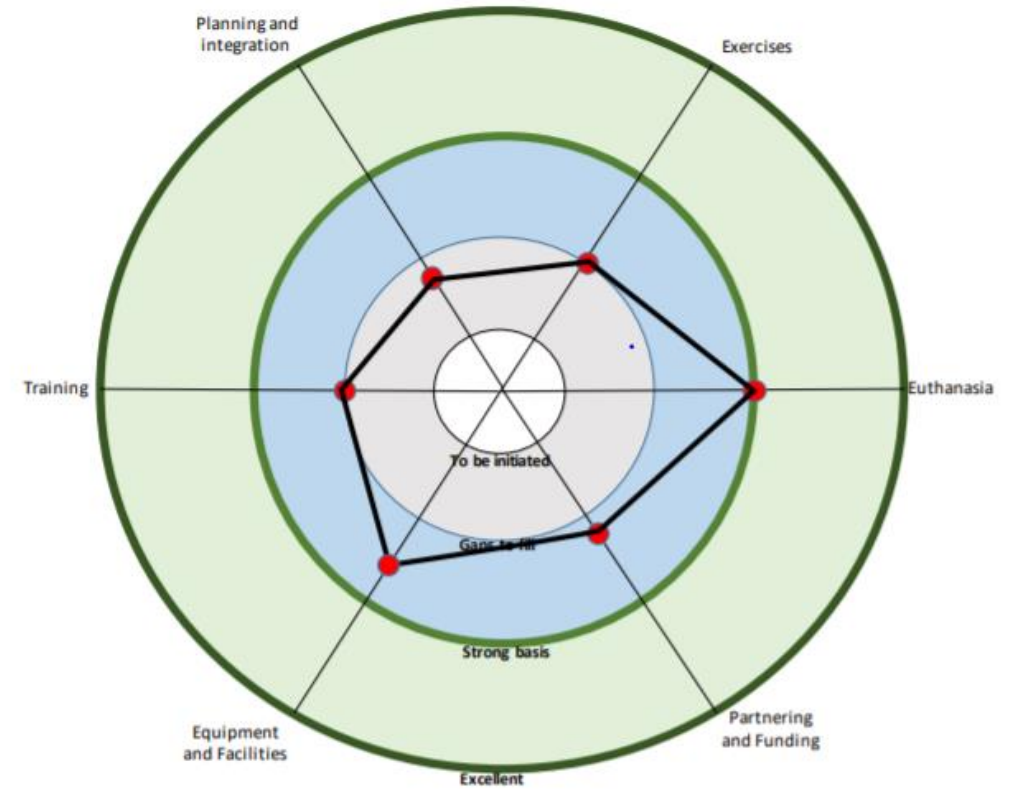
Preparedness?



FINLAND



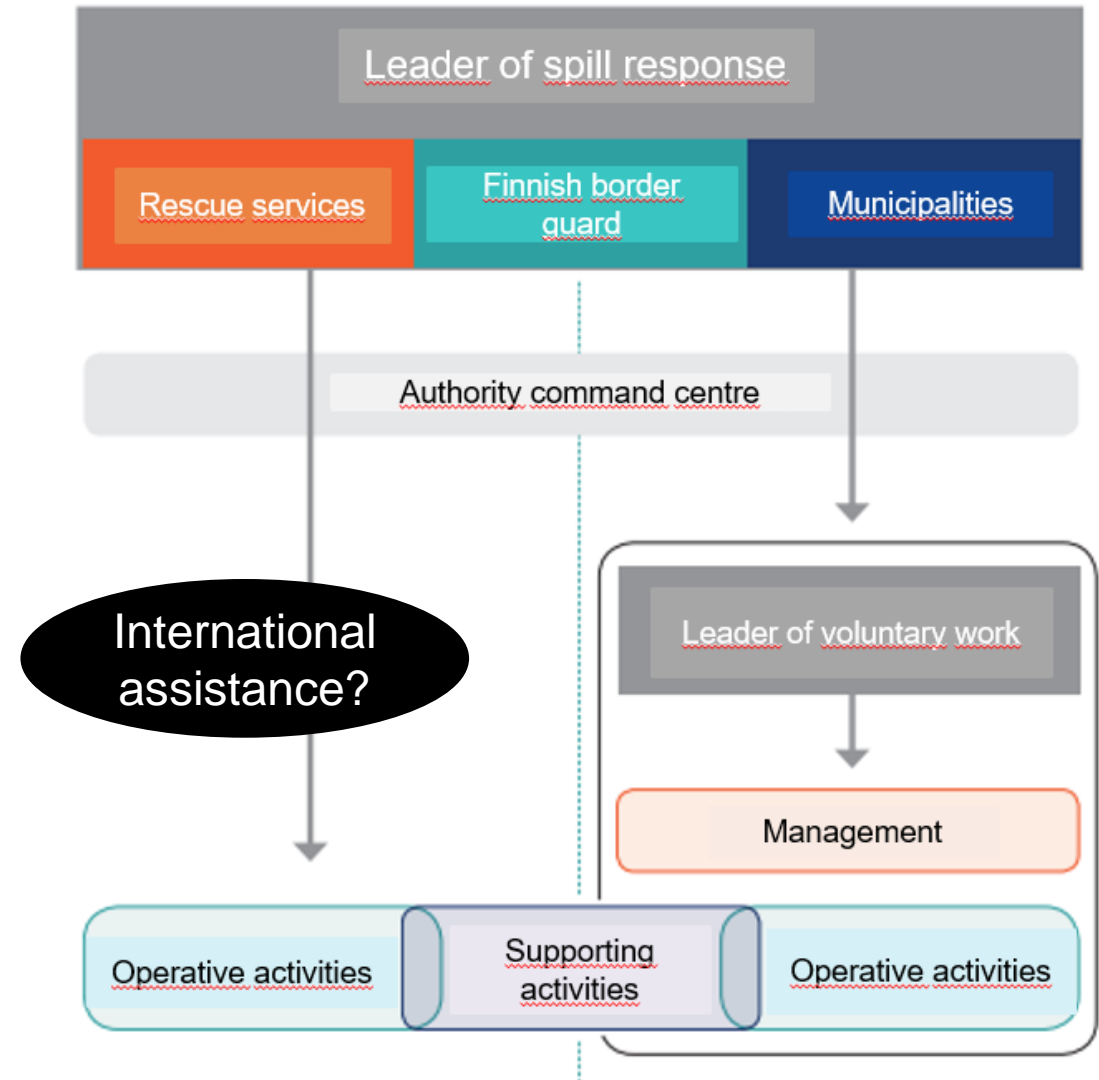
GERMANY



Incidents require swift action



- National response groups to mobilize quickly
- International experts to assist with management and expert tasks
- Cooperation with national oil spill response authorities key
 - Resource allocation
 - Decision-making
 - Logistics
- How does it all fit together?



Preparedness on a national level

- Know the sources (shipping, harbours, industry)
 - Locating and quantifying the risks these sources pose
- Know where your sensitive areas lie
 - length of shoreline, habitats, accessibility
- Know where your bird populations are and how big they are
 - Breeding areas, migration routes, endangered species



Preparedness on a national level



- Build relationships
 - Authorities
 - Experts (vets, ornithologists)
- Train volunteers and experts, at least to a basic level
 - Labour-intensive work requires lots of man-power
 - Decision-making requires trained experts
- Keep a stock of emergency equipment, know where to get more



Preparedness on a regional level



- The Baltic Sea as a case-study
 - Long history of cooperation in oil spill response
 - Mostly focused on at sea, cooperation on shoreline response and wildlife response has developed over the past 10+ years
 - Growing realisation of need for integration
 - Good model area for development of regional wildlife response system



Preparedness on a regional level



- Continuous work under Oiled wildlife response expert working group (HELCOM RESPONSE)
 - Facilitate development of OWR plans
 - Exchange information and organise trainings/information sessions
 - Produce annual reports on wildlife activities
 - Involve NGOs and private sector



Preparedness on a regional level



- Update of the Helcom Baltic Sea Action Plan; 3 new measures to support OWR
 - Develop a framework for holistic/integrated management of marine pollution incidents to enable coordinated response operation at sea and on shore.
 - Strengthening mutual assistance for oiled wildlife response in the Baltic Region.
 - Undertake monitoring and pollution risk assessment regarding species and habitats in the Baltic Region.



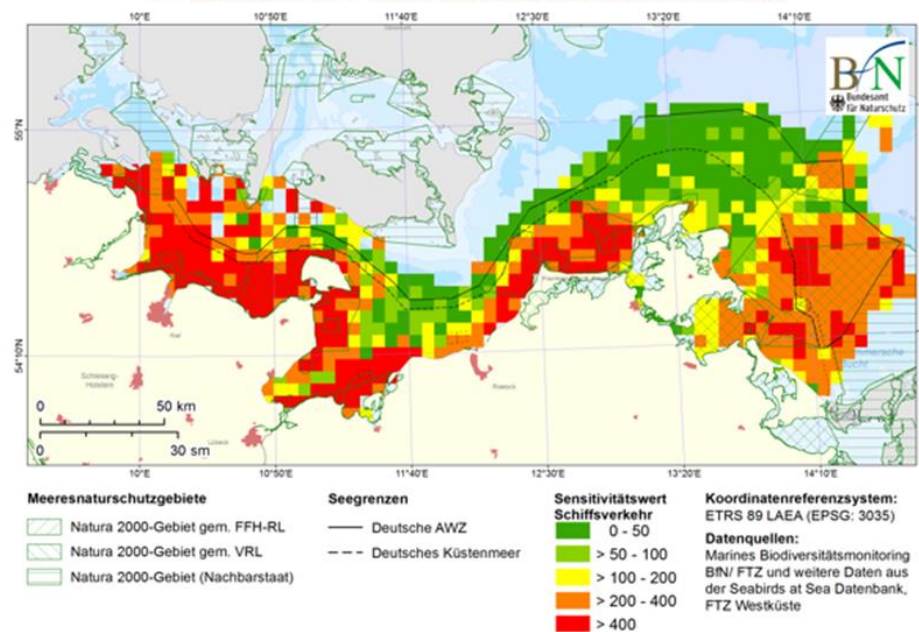
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Importance of data for informed decision-making

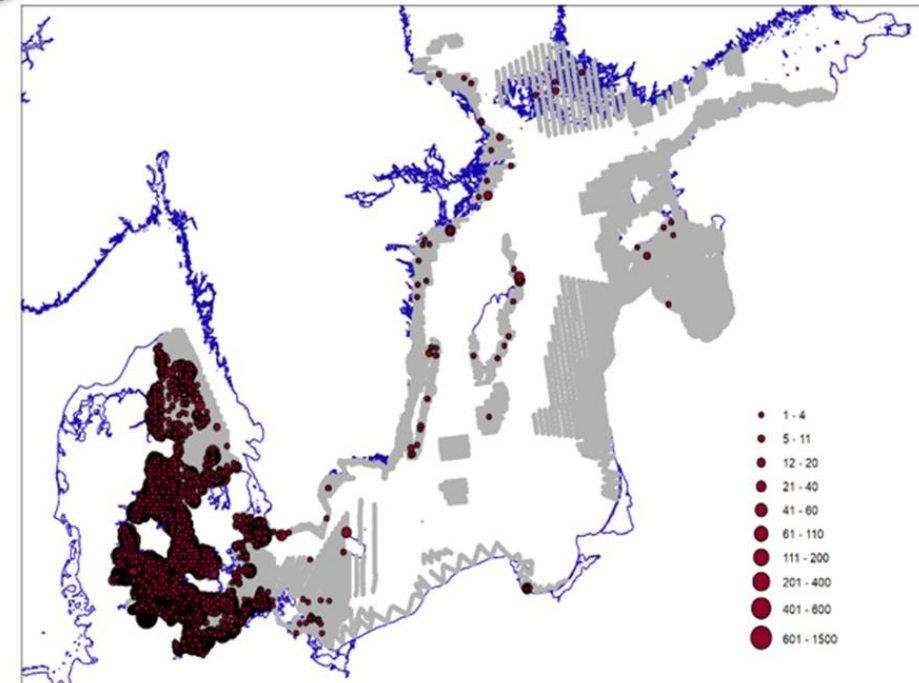


Sensitivity maps

Example: Sensitivity of seabirds to ship traffic in the German Baltic Sea
in winter (all key species aggregated)



Preliminary maps: Common Eider



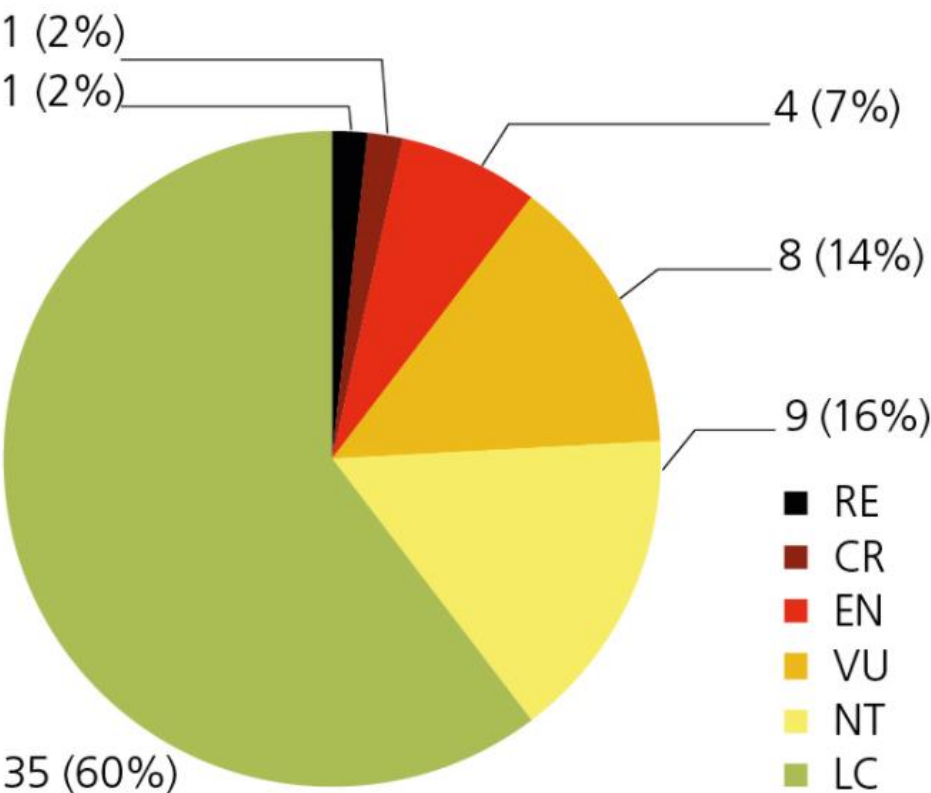
Evaluation & visualisation: Katharina Fließbach, FTZ, Kiel University, Germany

Maps by: Dr. Ainārs Auniņš, University of Latvia, Riga, ainars.aunins@lu.lv

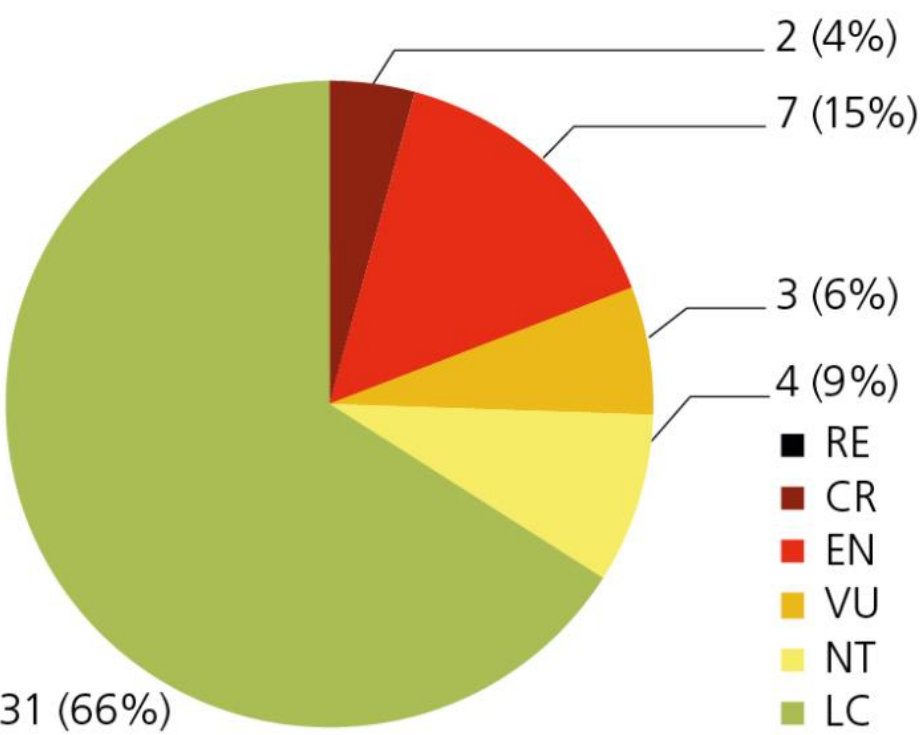
Importance of data for informed decision-making



Breeding birds



Wintering birds



Preparedness on a European level?

- There is a lot of expertise scattered over different organisations across Europe
- We need to ensure continuity, adequate resources and compatibility of training programmes and protocols



EUROWA network



- EUROWA is a network of European oiled wildlife response experts who have signed the **EUROWA Charter**
- Currently consists of 8 organisations and secretariat, working together to improve professionalism in the field of marine wildlife emergency response

EUROWA-1 project



- EU-funded project 2015-2016 (co-financed by the EU under the Civil Protection Financial Instrument)
 - Developed a “module” of qualified oiled wildlife response experts and their equipment
 - Defined a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
 - Created training course packages for different functions in a wildlife response team
 - Advanced oiled wildlife responder
 - Response Specialist
 - Section head
 - Specialist Veterinarian
 - Wildlife Response Managers



EUROWA-2 project

- 2021-2022, co-funded by the European Commission's Civil Protection Financial Instrument.
- Building on the work done in the previous project but adding new elements
 - Engaging national authorities via workshops and desktop study
 - Expanding the EUROWA network
 - Conducting developed trainings
 - Expanding expertise to sea turtles, and impact assessment

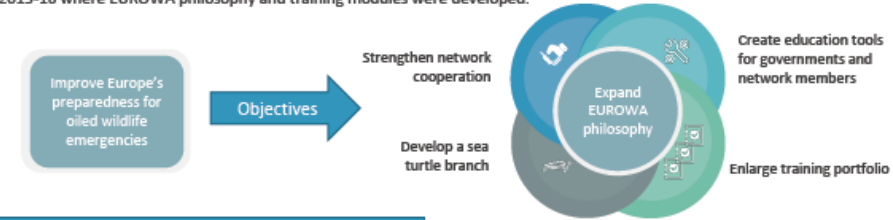


EUROWA-2

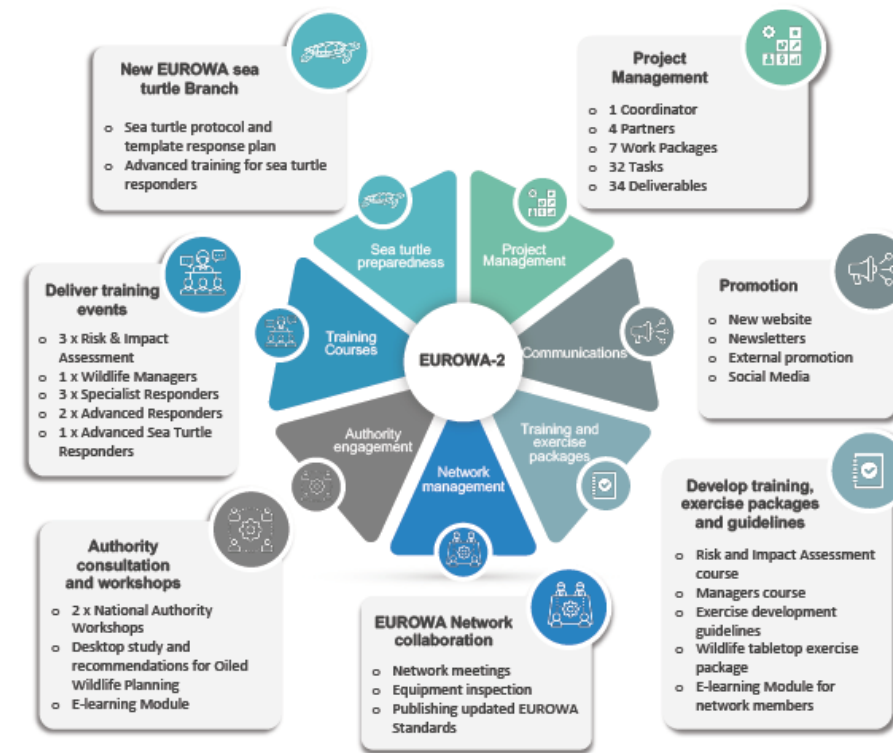


Overview

The EUROWA-2 project is a 2-year project (2021-2022), co-funded by the European Commission's Civil Protection Financial Instrument. The project is a follow-up to first EUROWA (European Oiled Wildlife Assistance) project co-funded by the EU in 2015-16 where EUROWA philosophy and training modules were developed.



Project Structure and Outcomes





**Thank you for your
attention!**

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ratkaisemme ympäristöongelmia
– luonnon ja ihmisten hyväksi**

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