



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

*Photo: Southwest Finland Emergency Services*

### VIRTUAL TOUR ACROSS THE BALTIC SEA REGION

The **OIL SPILL project** strengthens the oil spill response capability in coastal and shallow water areas in the Baltic Sea Region.

Together, 13 Project Partners aim to benchmark the best oil spill response practices, clarify key legal issues, build up training schemes, and organize relevant training events.

In spring 2020, we traveled virtually across the Baltic Sea Region and visited each Project Partner in Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia as they introduced themselves.

The 30 Partner Introduction posts can be read from the OIL SPILL website.

In addition to the actual Project Partners, seven Associated Organizations are involved in the OIL SPILL activities. They are introduced in autumn 2020.



### MAIN EVENTS IN THE 3rd PROJECT PERIOD

- Mar 2020     Tabletop exercise for volunteers in Naantali, Finland
- May 2020     Small-scale oil spill simulator exercise in Tallinn, Estonia
- May 2020     Online meeting: Planning Incident management & communication event for spring 2021
- Jun 2020     Online workshop: Mapping current operational procedures in partner countries
- Jun 2020     Online meeting: Midterm Partner Meeting

## M/S HAVERI TABLETOP EXERCISE FOR VOLUNTEERS IN NAANTALI (FI), MARCH 2020

Together with other Voluntary Rescue Service organizations, **the Finnish Red Cross** organized an oil spill response exercise “M/S Haveri” for volunteers in a leading position. It was a tabletop exercise held in Naantali, Finland, on 8 March 2020.

The volunteers discussed and went through their roles during an oil spill incident the facilitators had planned. This one-day event covered four days of oil spill response activities.

OIL SPILL Partners from **the Lithuanian Red Cross Society, Danish Civil Protection League, Finnish Environment Institute, and the University of Turku** observed the fictional chain of events as well as how this kind of training is organized in Finland.



Photo: Minna-Liina Ojala

## PLANNING INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION EVENT

**Danish Civil Protection League** and **Southwest Finland Emergency Services** will organize a joint OIL SPILL Incident Management and Communication seminar in 2021. All Project Partners were invited to an online meeting on 20 May 2020 to discuss and plan the event further.

The 2-day event will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in March 2021. It will include presentations and workshops focusing on best practices and lessons learned from previous oil spill accidents. The idea is in capacity-building and to come up with recommendations for the future.

## MAPPING OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

To map the current oil spill response operational procedures country-wise, **the Ministry of Environment of Estonia** collected questionnaire responses and started to prepare a comparative overview based on them. The questionnaire concerned, i.e., legislation and other regulatory issues, response coordination, and the involvement of non-governmental organizations.

The draft was introduced and discussed in an online workshop on 2 June 2020. Each OIL SPILL Project Partner was represented in the meeting.

## OIL SPILL SIMULATOR EXERCISE IN TALLINN, ESTONIA, MAY 2020



Photo: TalTech

On 21 May 2020, **Tallinn University of Technology** organized a small-scale simulator exercise in oil spill response. It was based on the scenario created for the Balex Delta 2020 but shortened and modified to meet the simulator capacity.

Representatives from the Police and Border Guard and the Estonian Maritime Administration were invited to participate in the simulation. The training was considered useful and a very important addition to live field-exercises.

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## OIL SPILL MIDTERM MEETING ONLINE, JUNE 2020



OIL SPILL Midterm Meeting was held online on 11 June 2020, and 24 participants from different organizations were able to attend the meeting. **The Project Office** provided an overview of the OIL SPILL project and discussed topical issues related to communication and a possible prolongation of the project.

The Work Package and Group of Activities representatives – **Agni Kaldma** (Ministry of Environment of Estonia), **Jorma Rytönen** (Finnish Environment Institute), **Miikka Toivonen** (Southwest Finland Emergency Services), **Heta Hyvärinen** (Finnish Red Cross), **Kadi Kasepõld** (Estonian Maritime Academy) and **Aleksandrs Pavlovičs** (Latvian Maritime Academy) – went through the past activities and those forthcoming.

Although the Corona crisis has led to the postponement or cancellation of many events, Project Partners have stayed active and developed alternative ways to organize the activities that require face-to-face contact. **Project Director Lauri Ojala** concluded the meeting by thanking all members of the OIL SPILL Project consortium for the great work during the uncertain times.



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