The MARPART R&D project focuses on cross-border partnership within the maritime preparedness system and the management of complex emergency operations in the sea areas of the High North. In particular, we emphasize incidents demanding combined actions, including search and rescue, oil spill operations and police action. The project includes about 20 researchers from nine universities in Norway, Russia, Iceland and Greenland. Lead partner is the Business School at the University of Nordland. Financial support is provided by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the regional authorities of Nordland. A broad Advisory Board provides a close dialogue with the main industries and the most important government agencies responsible for the preparedness systems in the High North.

MARPART “ON SCENE”
This spring the MARPART project partners have been busy collecting data and meeting with industries and government agencies in the cooperating countries. Our team has been in contact with advisory board members, observed exercises and participated in conferences in order to enrich the project with new ideas, insights and data. Some events are planned for the summer as well.

MARPART in Murmansk
The MARPART project team and advisory board members visited Murmansk 7–11 April 2015. During the visit project partners, including project advisory board members, took part in the conference “Arctic Logistics”. We were also responsible for the “MARPART-SEBS Conference on Maritime Preparedness Partnership and SAR in the High North” together with MSTU, Murmanshelf and Akvaplan-Niva.

The MARPART project team and advisory board members met on board of the first Russian nuclear-powered icebreaker “Lenin” in Murmansk on 10 April 2015 to discuss the project status and plans. The advisory board members expressed their expert opinions on future MARPART activities.

OBSERVING INTEGRATED VIOLENT ACTION COMBAT AND SAR OPERATION — THE EXERCISE UNIVERSITY OF NORDLAND, BODO
A large emergency exercise was held on 23 April 2015 at the University of Nordland (UIN). This year one of the largest exercise in Norway included participants from Salten Police, Salten Fire Brigade, Nordland hospital, Bodø municipality, the Civil Defence Force, the Joint Rescue Coordination Center, the State Radiation Protection, the 330 Rescue helicopter squadron and the 337 Coast guard helicopter squadron, and the UIN crisis management team. These agencies exercised cooperation and combined action based on the scenario of multiple threats at the campus. The MARPART team participated as observers. Professor Odd Jarl Borch was at Local Rescue coordination Center and Natalia Andreassen watched the exercise from the campus.


CONTACT INFORMATION
Project Leader:
Odd Jarl Borch, Professor,
Bodø Graduate School of Business,
University of Nordland
odd.jarl.borch@uin.no
Phone: +4773517616, mob: +4790192674

Project Administration:
Andrey Kazakov, Advisor,
High North Center, Bodø Graduate School of Business,
University of Nordland
andrey.kazakov@uin.no
Phone: +4773517176, mob: +41412810
The Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB) was responsible for initiating and planning the civilian cross-sectorial exercise “HarbourEx15” on 28 April 2015. This large-scale exercise involving 4000 persons had a scenario of fire, evacuation and oil pollution at the Sydhavna. Host nation support was practiced with support from Sweden, Finland and Austria. A large number of observers from several countries were present. Professor Odd Jarl Borch joined as an observer and studied the organization and coordination of the response. [http://www.dsb.no/nn/HarbourEx15/About-the-exercise/](http://www.dsb.no/nn/HarbourEx15/About-the-exercise/)

**OBSERVING THE COORDINATION OF COASTAL OIL SPILL RESPONSE AT HELGELAND**

The exercise “HELGELAND 2015” was held in the period of 5–7 May 2015. According to the scenario, a tanker “MT LIV EXERCISE” had run aground north of Sandnessjoen at the coast of Helgeland in Northern Norway.

The exercise “HELGELAND 2015” was held in the period of 5–7 May 2015. According to the scenario, a tanker “MT LIV EXERCISE” had run aground north of Sandnessjoen at the coast of Helgeland in Northern Norway. The Norwegian Coastal Administration led the governmental response and mobilized actions from the Inter-Municipality Committees for acute pollution (IUA) in Helgeland and Rana. The Norwegian Maritime Authority, Norwegian Nature Inspection, NOFO, the county governor of Nordland and external advisors from different institutions participated. Professor Odd Jarl Borch was as an observer at IUA Helgeland and Natalia Andreassen visited the Preparedness head quarter of the Norwegian Coastal Administration in Horten to learn how these institutions use their command and coordination system. [http://www.kystverket.no/Beredskap/Opplaring/Kursoversikt/2015/Ovelse-Helgeland-2015/](http://www.kystverket.no/Beredskap/Opplaring/Kursoversikt/2015/Ovelse-Helgeland-2015/)

**ARCTIC SECURITY ROUNDTABLE IN REYKJAVIK**

This multinational tabletop exercise for Arctic nations on command, control and coordination was arranged in Iceland in May 2015. Professor Odd Jarl Borch joined the exercise to observe Host Nation Support issues and civilian-military cooperation. The scenario this time was a major volcanic outbreak limiting the use of air-based forces. Response capacity and response time for military forces in the North Atlantic were highlighted. Odd Jarl Borch also visited the Icelandic Coast Guard Head quarter and the Police Command Centre in Reykjavik during his stay.

**WORKSHOP ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING AND THE USE OF SIMULATOR CAPACITIES**

An important part of the education of managers and commanders for the emergency response agencies is the use of simulator training. During a workshop – arranged by the University of Nordland – leaders from the fire and police brigades and the rescue coordination center discussed the need for training capacities. Representatives from the Norwegian Joint Operational Headquarter of the Armed Forces talked about the use of simulators for training and exercises in the military, and teachers and researchers from The Royal Norwegian Naval Academy Navigation Center, the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment and the Police Academy recounted their experiences of both civilian and military educational programs. Future developments in simulator technology were also highlighted.
Achieving complete domain awareness in the High North was the topic of this year’s Arctic Patrol and Reconnaissance conference held in Oslo 26-28 May 2015. UiN arranged a plenary workshop “Maritime Cooperation and Partnerships in the Arctic” together with IFS (Norwegian Institute for Defense Studies). Professor Frode Nilssen, researcher Natalia Andreassen, research fellow Ingvill Moe Elgsaas and research fellow Andreas Østhagen contributed to the discussion on Maritime Cooperation and Partnerships in the Arctic.

http://www.arcticpatrolandrecon.com/

EXPERT GROUP ROUNDTABLE IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
During the official visit of King Harald V of Norway to Alaska in May, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs commissioned an Expert Group Roundtable on safety and preparedness in the Arctic. The Roundtable was hosted by the Institute of the North and Barents Watch. Professor Odd Jarl Borch, together with managing director Tor Husjord from the Maritime Forum North, gave speeches on preparedness challenges in the Arctic, and Odd Jarl Borch led the expert group discussions on safety and preparedness. During the stay, there was a meeting with the US Coast Guard and Department of Homeland Security of Alaska discussing safety issues in the region, not the least related to offshore oil and gas exploration in State.

CHINA - NORDIC COOPERATION SYMPOSIUMO

http://www.cnarc.info/index.php/symposia#

MARPART web
The new webpage for MARPART has been launched. Here you will find news from the Marpart project, links to the publications, and information about the project team. We welcome any comments and suggestions.

http://www.uin.no/no/om-uin/fakulteter-og-sentre/handelshogskolen/senter/nordomradesenteret/Sider/MARPART.aspx

OUR PUBLICATIONS THIS SPRING

Some activities
- Project participants from Norway and Russia will join the “Exercise Barents 2015” in Murmansk, Russia, 3-4 June 2015.
- Research Associate Nataly Marchenko will present a paper at POAC conference in Trondheim, Norway, 15-18 June 2015.
- Professor Odd Jarl Borch and researcher Natalia Andreassen will present a paper at TransNav conference in Gdynia, Poland, 17-19 June 2015.
- NARFU team will join regional exercises on SAR in the White Sea, July–August 2015.
- Several researchers from the Marpart-project will present papers at the World Maritime University conference “ShipArc 2015” on safe and sustainable shipping in Arctic environment in Malmo 25-27 August 2015.
- Project participants from Greenland will join the “Arctic Response” exercise in Nuuk 19-27 September 2015. An observation team from Marpart-project will participate at the Exercise Barents Rescue in Finland from 28 September to 2 October 2015.
- Several reports will be ready this autumn, including reports on future sea area activities, risk levels and the structure of the preparedness system in the participating countries.