

MARPART NEWSLETTER

MARITIME PREPAREDNESS AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP IN THE HIGH NORTH

NEW INTERNATIONAL PROJECT IS IN FORCE!



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The key purpose of this project is to assess the risk of the increased maritime activity in the High North and the challenges this increase may represent for the preparedness institutions in this region. We focus on cross-institutional and cross-country partnerships between preparedness institutions and companies. We elaborate on the operational crisis management of joint emergency operations including several parts of the preparedness system and resources from several countries.

PROJECT GOALS

- To increase understanding of the future demands for preparedness systems in the High North including both search and rescue (SAR), oil spill recovery, fire fighting and salvage, as well as capacities fighting terror or other forms of destructive action.
- To study partnerships and coordination challenges related to cross-border, multi-task emergency cooperation.
- To contribute with organizational tools for crisis management.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- High North Center at Bodø Graduate School of Business, University of Nordland (Norway)
- IFS-Norwegian Institute for Defense Studies, Norwegian Defense University College (Norway)
- The Norwegian Police University College (Norway)
- UIT The Arctic University of Norway (Norway)
- University Center in Svalbard (Norway)
- University of Greenland (Greenland)
- University of Iceland (Iceland)
- Northern (Arctic) Federal University (Russia)
- Murmansk State Technical University (Russia)



CONTACT INFORMATION

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September 23-25.2014: MARPART Project Workshop in Arkhangelsk (Russia)



The second MARPART project workshop gathered MARPART partners in Arkhangelsk, in September this year. The workshop program began with two very interesting visits. First, the workshop participants visited the Regional Rescue Coordination Center for the Arkhangelsk Oblast division of the Russian Preparedness Ministry (EMERCOM of Russia). The second visit was to the Arkhangelsk Regional Rescue Service (ARRS). During these visits organizations presented the coordination capacity of the Russian preparedness system on SAR operations, with emphasis on quick response.

The MARPART project workshop took place at the modern facilities of the Integrated Safety Institute at the Northern Federal (Arctic) University.

MARPART project partners had a good opportunity to learn about the crisis management education provided at the Institute, with emphasis to the use of IT tools used for table top exercises of specialized teams. The cooperation within the preparedness system across different institutions, including EMERCOM was illuminated. The workshop put emphasis on sea area activity from the Kara Sea to the Baffin Strait in Greenlandic waters. The experiences from the Exxon-Mobil and Rosneft joint venture in the Kara Sea are interesting cases in point, among others. The first MARPART reports will explore future acidity levels and risk in Arctic waters, as well as map the preparedness systems of Russia, Norway, Iceland and Denmark -Greenland.

MARPART Project Team at the Opening of Northern Sea Route Rescue Center and Participating at the EMERCOM Conference, Arkhangelsk (Russia)

MARPART workshop participants were international guests at the opening of one of the, in total ten, new rescue centers for the Northern Sea Route. At the following opening Conference «CHALLENGES IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN THE ARCTIC. STAFFING ISSUES» arranged by the EMERCOM of Russia, the Russian preparedness system and challenges were presented.



The conference provided a joint platform for debate and analysis connected to a variety of issues related to emergency preparedness in the Arctic as well as to training of professionals for work in the High North. The conference gathered representatives from Russian federal and regional authorities, international experts, regional rescue agencies, the Russian Northern fleet, local and international academia and businesses as well as local and federal mass media.

MARPART workshop participants took part at the conference, held presentations and gave lectures. MARPART project leader Odd Jarl Borch (Bodø Graduate School of Business at university of Nordland), Natalia Marchenko (The University Center in Svalbard and Valur Ingimundarson (University of Iceland) held presentations at the conference plenary sessions. In addition, Karsten Peter Jensen (University of Greenland) and Bent-Ove Jamtli (Director, Joint Rescue Coordination Center Northern Norway) gave lectures for students at the Northern Federal (Arctic) University.

September 16.2014: Round-Table Discussion in Murmansk (Russia)

Within the framework of the MARPART project, one of the Russian project partners - Murmansk State Technical University, organized a round-table discussion between actors involved in SAR activities in the Murmansk region. The round-table gathered leaders of local players, involved in SAR activities, both private and state owned. The main impression out of this round table is that SAR routines in Murmansk region is well coordinated as in the region itself, so through good cooperation with relevant Norwegian partners. The next MARPART project meeting will be held in Murmansk in Spring next year. SAR institutions in the Murmansk region will be invited to the meeting.

August 2014:

«Exercise Oslofjord» - Oil Spill Recovery Practice in the Oslofjord-region

Professor Odd jarl Borch (MARPART project leader) was an observer at the "Exercise Oslofjord". Even though the conditions in the Oslofjord are quite different from those can be found in the harsher environment of the High North the exercise provided a good opportunity to look into the interplay between the coast guards from three different countries (Norway, Sweden and Denmark). Fishing vessels were also involved in the exercise by towing oil spill recovery equipment. This is in accordance with the new strategy of the Norwegian Coastal Authority, which stipulates that local fishing vessels are to be hired in as an extra resource with local knowledge.

Participation in the exercise was a part of a meeting in the National Committee established by the Norwegian Ministry of Transport, which has been tasked with reviewing Norwegian oil preparedness competence and technology. The committee will deliver its report by the end of the year. This report will serve as input to a government white paper on safety at sea and oil preparedness to be presented for the Norwegian Parliament next Spring. The committee has a special focus on technology and competence pertaining to oil spill recovery operations in cold climate and ice covered areas of the High North.