

Newsletter: Volume 3

COVID-19 Update

We at ARCSAR are aware of the COVID-19 pandemic that spread throughout the world and are carefully monitoring the situation and the impact it has in the Arctic. With that said we also share the concern of the public health and of our members, therefore while the project continues as normally, all upcoming open events are postponed until further notice. We would like to share with you a collection of brief resumes created by The Barents Observer's media partner, Eye on the Arctic. This is a great way to stay informed how different governments in the region are tackling the situation. Here are the latest updates.

ARCSAR Activities past months

On October 17-th the first External Advisory Board (EAB) meeting was held at Gardermoen airport in Oslo. A total of 7 from the EAB attended, in addition to the coordinator (JRCC NN) and three of the WP-leaders (JRCC I, UP and LAUREA). The network of external partners/associated partners is growing, counting around 80 + institutions thus far. All associated partners are specially invited to join open ARCSAR events and have access to the **ARCSAR Innovation Arena**.

ARCSAR has been active in several events such as the Arctic Shipping Summit in Hamburg, Germany, the International Emergency

Management Society (TIEMS.org) annual conference in Goyang, Korea and several other workshops and informative sessions held in Norway and other partner countries.



ARCSAR also was present at the International Security Expo, London in December 2019. We are glad to have interacted and exchanged ideas and discussions with so many participants ranging from professionals in security, government agencies, consultants, academics and so on.

It was also a great opportunity to network with several other EU funded projects that are operating in the same domain. During these discussions, we were able to learn a lot from other projects about potential solutions to ARCSAR as discovered during our research and the Innovation Arena.

Our partners engaged in several exercises and live rescue activities. ARCSAR observed the M/S Gann Mass Rescue Operation Exercise, outside Bodø, Norway. This exercise was lead by ARCSAR partner Maritimt Forum Nord. Over 100 pax

evacuated in two lifeboats and one liferaft. Testing space limitations in the lifeboats as all pax were carrying polar code rescue equipment according to the regulations. (IMAGE) Lessons learned from these incidents are taken as case examples in workshops and exercises in order to improve each time SAR and Oil spill activities.

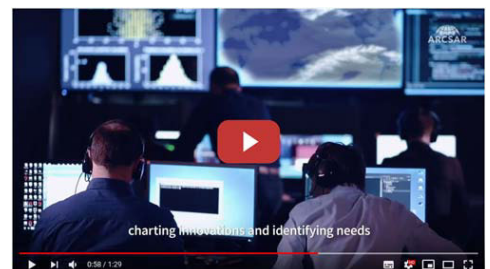


Policy brief #1 & #2

During the past months, two policy briefs have been published tackling the latest findings in the project as well as the current needs and challenges that require more focus.

Download Policy briefs here: <https://arcsar.eu/publications/newsletters/>

A short video about ARCSAR



<https://arcsar.eu>

Innovation Arena updates

You spoke and we listened! During November 2019 – January 2020, Based on your feedback, the Innovation Arena received a complete redesign to the interface as well as a number of features. Innovation Arena now is semi-public – in other words, visitors no longer need to create accounts in order to read challenges, ideas and discussions in the platform. However, a user account is still required in order to engage and interact with the site content and users. From now on minimum information is asked at the registration point and we have introduced a better spam filtering system and overall improved security. Social sharing is also implemented and now users are encouraged to share content with others outside the project. These updates were performed in order to facilitate better information sharing and increase the overall innovation potential.

Visit the Innovation Arena at : <https://arcsar-innovation.eu>



ARCSAR Innovation and knowledge exchange event in New Zealand

The beginning of the year was characterized with the second Innovation and knowledge exchange event held in Wellington, Auckland. New Zealand on 24-27 February, 2020. The event was named: From Antarctic to Arctic: Seminar on innovations and solutions for coordination and emergency response in remote areas. The aim of the seminar was to highlight experiences, best practice and shared knowledge from the Antarctic to the Arctic, and vice versa. Participants included representatives from practitioners, professionals, the industry and academia. The seminar covered a range of topics, among others:

- SAR in New Zealand and Antarctic region,
- innovation and technology transfer in oil spill response,
- indigenous population involvement and response,
- emergency management,

New Zealand (RCCNZ), the maritime radio, the Whenuapai Air Force Base of Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) and to the Marine Pollution Response Service (MPRS) of New Zealand.

Several presenters at the event highlighted the importance of relations and communication as the key to incident response. There are a number of actors having a role in Antarctica, and each agency has different information that is needed to get a broad picture of various incidents. Thus, they all work closely and focus on being coordinated both before, during and after the season.

During this event coincidentally a distress call was received from a capsized yacht taking in water to which the Rescue Coordination Centre NZ in close cooperation with the French Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, deployed a



- and innovative technology for use in SAR response.

The seminar also included visits to the Rescue Coordination Centre

Royal New Zealand Air Force P3 Orion at the scene. The P3 Orion was able to drop a package of essential supplies, including a life-raft, food, water and a radio.

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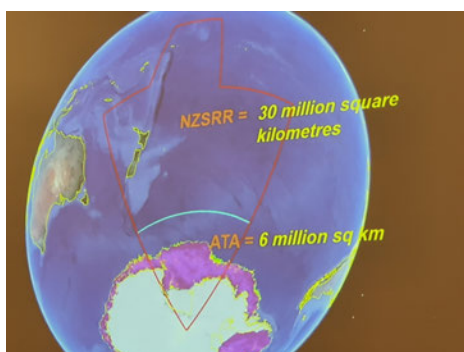
This goes to show that the need for strong collaboration of all SAR and oil spill response actors is paramount in these situations.



Search and rescue (SAR) in New Zealand and Antarctica

New Zealand's SAR region is 30 million km², whereof 6 million km² is in Antarctica. In New Zealand, the responsibility for SAR-incidents is divided between the police and RCCNZ, while a range of other organizations also assist when needed. Among important partners, the contact and communication with the Maori, the indigenous people of New Zealand, is highlighted as important for decision making in incident response.

New Zealand's Antarctic SAR-region is characterized by challenging environment and long distances.



A visit to the Royal New Zealand Air Force Base in Whenuapai, Auckland

showed the participants how military aircrafts are crucial for SAR operations in the Antarctica. The 5th squadron, consisting of six P3

Orion aircrafts, can drop emergency supplies such as life rafts and survival kits or assist in searching. Today, they mostly do patrolling in the Antarctica.

The participants were given pres-

are volunteers. In an off-shore oil spill, the governmental agency will take lead and coordinate the response, while the industry will provide the immediate on-scene response.



entations of the capabilities of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, as well as a tour in one of the P3 Orion aircrafts being used for search and rescue in Antarctica.

Oil spill response and oiled wildlife response in New Zealand

New Zealand's oil spill response is based in Auckland because of the closeness to the Whenuapai Air Force Base and the closeness to many of the manufacturers of equipment. The Maritime Pollution Response Service (MPRS) is responsible for oil spill response at the regional and national levels, among others to maintain equipment and for training. Most lot of the response force at the regional level



Next Steps:

Arctic Innovation Day

ARCSAR is planning to organise an Arctic Innovation workshop, involving the ARCSAR university partners and students, with the main goal to engage students in a race for best innovative ideas and solutions offered towards ARCSAR identified gaps and challenges. The best idea will of course be receiving a reward which will be agreed later on. The event is still on the planning phase and more information will follow as we progress.

Innovation and Knowledge Exchange postponed!

Due to the pandemic situation the next Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Event, originally planned for October 2020, has been postponed for early 2021. We are monitoring the pandemic situation closely and will announce more information through our social media channels.

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Live Exercise 2021

ARCSAR is planning to conduct a live ‘Cruise Ship Catastrophe’ exercise based on a ‘major fire on board’ incident in the polar region. The exercise is planned to take place in the year 2021 in Svalbard area and will take several days to complete. This represents a worst-case scenario for the cruise sector and the emergency and security services. Such an incident would require rapid evacuation of large numbers of people, in an extremely remote area, on to ice in a cold climate, requiring specialised survival gear and equipment, with significant limitations on survival time, and a requirement for cooperation between practitioners across functions, borders, and countries. Follow our social media and website to stay updated on this.



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