



ARCSAR Newsletter: Volume 8

Main points in this volume:

- Greetings from the project consortium
- LIVEX exercise was held in Svalbard autumn 2022 and the evaluation report will be published by the end of April.
- Short reports on the Final Conference and three Stakeholder Events.
- Stay tuned for the upcoming publications!

Greetings from the consortium

As the 5-year project has come to its end, we reflect on what has been accomplished during this time and the lasting impact the project has left on us. It has been an eventful journey, connecting actors across borders and among different operators, and really, meeting and connecting with the people behind the organisations. Through these connections and friendships, we have collaborated, organised joint exercises, various workshops and events, including research. We got familiarised with the real issues faced by the SAR practitioners in the ANA region, and we looked together for innovations to overcome obstacles. These collaborations between practitioners, academia, industry, and research have formed a network that has been crucial to the success of the ARCSAR project.

We would like to thank all those involved in the project, the consortium and the external stakeholders who have always been ready to support and facilitate our activities, and we express the wish to continue and expand the network in the future to further strengthen the capabilities of SAR practitioners, not only in maritime domain, but also on land and in other important areas.



Final Stakeholder Event in Brussels in February 2024

The final ARCSAR stakeholder event was held on 21 February in Brussels. It was great to see many of you one more time before the end of the project.

In the event, Mikel Dominguez from JRCC Norway summarized the achievements and events of the project, Annaleena Sevillano and Katja Silvasti from Laurea presented the LIVEX Evaluation Report and Andrey Kazakov from Nord University introduced the Practitioner-led guidelines for interfaces between emergency and security practitioners in ANA region.

Dylan Jones from the University of Portsmouth presented the Case Study book that brings together project's success stories, Benjamin Strong from the USCG introduced the USCG Policy for Arctic, Donatella Giampaolo from e-Geos spoke about the role of European EO Radar Satellite Technologies, and Ashraf Labib from the University of Portsmouth presented the D.2.5 Innovation Report and Kevin Fitzgibbon from MTU presented the D4.2 Policy & Standardisation.

Finally, the panel discussion concluded with reflections on for example project's successes and ideas for the future.

Final Conference in Reykjavik in September 2023

The ARCSAR final conference in Reykjavik in September 2023 brought together members of the industry, responders and academia. It highlighted the main objectives and results of the project and provided an opportunity for knowledge dissemination and discussion.

The conference topics reflected the main objectives of the project and offered lectures such as:

- Exercise Design, Collaboration and Complexity in the Arctic and North Atlantic Region
- Lessons Learned from Exercises and the way Forward
- An Overview of Arctic and North Atlantic Maritime Safety and Security Innovation Needs
- Oil Response in the Arctic and North Atlantic Region
- Innovation for Arctic and North Atlantic Search and Rescue
- Book Presentation: The ARCSAR Case Study Book
- Policy on Future Needs for Innovations and Knowledge
- Starting to define guidelines and framework for future



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education and training needs

- Policy and Standardization: Opportunities and Challenges
- Current Priorities and Research in Cold and Sea Survival



LIVEX - international MRO exercise in the Arctic

One of the most crucial parts of the project has been the LIVEX exercise which was held on 28th to 31st of August 2022 in Svalbard. The international MRO exercise gathered together many organisations and participants from several countries. The participants represented practitioners, academic institutions and industry as well as authorities. This was a unique opportunity for all participants to train together, learn and innovate for the future.

LIVEX consisted of two parts. VEEEx (Voyage Events and Exercises) included smaller exercises and technology tests and the MRO part had the narrative of a 'Cruise Ship Catastrophe' based on a 'major fire on board' incident in the polar region. This represented a worst-case scenario for the cruise sector and the emergency and security services. During the MRO, passenger role-players were evacuated from the vessel in distress to a vessel of opportunity.



LIVEX was a success for the parties involved and demonstrated the need for and benefits of close cooperation of

different operators. The exercise highlighted the need for clear communication, understanding each other's procedures and innovating new practical solutions for the operators.

Evaluation of the exercise promotes additional learning, creates possibilities for future innovations and enables reflecting current procedures. LIVEX was evaluated by trained evaluators who reported their findings to Laurea University of Applied Sciences. Laurea team has been compiling Evaluation Report which will be published by the end of April 2024.

Stakeholder event September 2022

The 2nd stakeholder event took place in Longyearbyen, Svalbard on 1 September 2022, after the LIVEX exercise. The event was organised by the University of Portsmouth, in cooperation with Joint Rescue Coordination Centre Northern Norway. Timing of the event was advantageous, as participants could draw on the insights and experiences gained from the LIVEX exercise, although the scope of the LIVEX was smaller in comparison to the main focus of the stakeholder event.

The stakeholder event aimed at increasing understanding and discussion on the local community responses to a major SAR incident involving significant numbers of evacuees and/or casualties. Keynote speakers from various backgrounds enriched the discussions. Lars Fause, Governor of Svalbard, gave a presentation on emergency preparedness and response in Svalbard, and Kristin Furu Grotting, Head of Longyearbyen Hospital spoke about the hospital capacities in Longyearbyen. Elke Morgner from Red Cross discussed the roles and capabilities of Longyearbyen Red Cross, whereas Martin Indreiten shared information on training and education in the university centre in Svalbard.

Themes of triage and passenger tracking, protocol for liaising with local community, and communication in a multi-lingual incident were discussed in roundtable discussions. During these fruitful discussions, some of the key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were identified and discussed. For example, across all discussion groups, a good level of awareness, training and mutual support across small and isolated communities in the Arctic and North Atlantic (ANA) region was considered as a key strength.

The report can be read on [ARCSAR's website](https://arcsar.eu).

Stakeholder event February 2023

The 3rd stakeholder event, aimed at mapping and developing a standardised approach to innovations related to Search



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and Rescue and Marine Environmental Response activities in the Arctic, took place on 8-9 February 2023 in Cork, Ireland. The event focused on the need for standardisation, methods of achieving it, and the challenges and barriers involved in SAR and MER activities in the Arctic. The hybrid event featured participants from 15 countries, including JRCC, coastguards, academics, and companies.

Key outcomes included identifying the need for standardisation of different categories of innovations, and discussing means of standardising new innovative products, procedures, regulations, or policies that may add value to the current capabilities. Existing challenges and barriers for standardisation and means of overcoming them were explored, and the standardisation of learning from incidents, and simulation exercises were discussed.

The event included a series of presentations. Anders Martinsen from UAS Norway talked about air coordination and standardisation, whereas Mikel Dominguez from JRCC Norway presented an overview of LIVEX exercise and Natalia Andreassen from Nord University concluded with the LIVEX Evaluation findings. Kevin Fitzgibbon from MTU presented LIVEX videos and interviews, as well as a report ARCTIC SAR into the Future.

The event also included group discussions on a variety of topics related to standardisation, with facilitators leading conversations on live saving equipment, incident investiga-

tion, oil spill prevention, and ensuring compliance with regulations. Overall, the 3rd ARCSAR stakeholder event was an important opportunity for stakeholders to collaborate, learn, and develop a shared understanding of best practices for search and rescue and marine environmental response operations in the Arctic.

The report can be read on [ARCSAR's website](#).

Upcoming publications

Stay tuned with upcoming publications! The work carried out by the consortium is still continuing, and there are interesting reports and deliverables to be published shortly on project's website.

These include:

- ARCSAR Practitioner Success Stories Case Study Book, Edited by Md Zahirul Islam Robin, Dylan Jones, Ashraf Labib and Mikel Dominguez Cainzos (Deliverable D2.5).
- Final Report on Uptake of Innovations and Knowledge (Deliverable D2.4)
- Final Report on Policy & Standardisation (Deliverable D4.2)
- LIVEX Evaluation Report



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