



FROM ANTARCTIC TO ARCTIC: EXCHANGING KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

From the 24th to the 27th of February 2020 the Arctic and North Atlantic Security and Emergency Preparedness Network (ARCSAR) will host a seminar on innovations and solutions for coordination and emergency response in remote areas. The seminar, which will be held in Wellington and Auckland, New Zealand, aims to highlight experiences and best practice from the Antarctic region that can be transferred to the Arctic and North Atlantic region.

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Photo: KV Svalbard,
Håkon Kjølmoen,
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The seminar, which is entitled "From Antarctic to Arctic: Seminar on innovations and solutions for coordination and emergency response in remote areas", will gather practitioners and academia from North America, Europe and New Zealand. The event is co-organized by the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) and Nord University, Bodø, Norway.

"New Zealand's search and rescue region which includes a large part of the Antarctic region face similar challenges in emergency response and coordination when compared to the Arctic region, and the seminar will focus on best practice within search and rescue, oil spill response and cooperation with stakeholders such as indigenous peoples and research institutes," Mr. Mike Hill says, manager at the RCCNZ.

Invited speakers will address New Zealand's approach to search and rescue and oil spill response in different sectors, give examples of the use of technology in training, and discuss risks and response under Antarctic conditions. In addition, there will be visits to the RCCNZ, the Whenuapai Air Force Base, and the Marine Oil Pollution Service.

"This seminar will be an important arena to highlight the differences and similarities between the Antarctic and the Arctic. We are looking forward to bring home new insights

and reflections from government agencies, research institutions and operational environments, not the least related to the increased cruise traffic in both regions" says Professor Odd Jarl Borch at Nord University.

Director of the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Northern Norway and project coordinator of the ARCSAR project, Bent Ove Jamtli, explains why the ARCSAR network is so important: "In light of rapidly increasing human activity in the Arctic and North Atlantic, increased cross-sector and cross-border cooperation and innovation in technology, methods and procedures are crucial to improving the safety and security for humans and environment in the region. Learning from the Antarctic and developing best practice for Arctic conditions will be beneficial and interesting for the network."

ABOUT ARCSAR

The ARCSAR project is funded by EU Horizon 2020 and aims to establish a network of security and emergency preparedness practitioners and stakeholders across higher education, research, industry and government.

The ARCSAR project aims to gain an increased understanding of target areas for improvements in security and emergency capabilities across the Arctic and North Atlantic (ANA) region, monitor innovation and research, and identify common platforms and opportunities for joint emergency response.



Photo: Jonas Selim / Norwegian Armed Forces



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 786571

