



Project progress - a note from the Management Team

The EROCIPS Partners had a very successful meeting in Porto in March 2007, marking the start of the final stage of the EROCIPS Project. The Co-ordination and Steering Committee meetings were very productive and many of the Project outputs to date were presented and approved. We are proud of the outputs produced by Partners so far and, over the remaining seven months, are looking forward to delivering even more useful tools and guidance for those responsible for responding to a shipping incident.

EROCIPS and the MSC Napoli

The recent MSC Napoli incident tested Devon and Dorset's response to shipping incidents. Here is how the EROCIPS outputs produced so far helped strengthen our Partners' response:

- A **review of booming plans** to protect sensitive estuaries has been carried out through the EROCIPS Project. These plans were implemented during the incident.
- **Beach survey forms** developed through the Project were used in the coastal response at Branscombe beach.
- **Training on oil pollution response**, provided in 2006 through EROCIPS, has been attended by many of those responsible for responding to and incident and greatly improved resilience.
- Though still in draft format, **waste management guidance** instigated by the EROCIPS UK Partners is being used and has proven to be an invaluable source of information for decision makers.
- **GIS datasets** developed and purchased by Devon County Council and Dorset County Council have been actively used throughout the response operations.

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- A **web-based GIS system** for accessing information developed by Dorset County Council's EROCIPS team has been used to share the latest data among responders.
- **Resource manuals** developed through the Project have been referred to during the incident.
- Napier, Devon County Council's **new Emergency Logging System**, funded through EROCIPS, is being used to log decision making process during the incident.
- The significance of work on **management of volunteers** to be undertaken in spring 2007 by the EROCIPS Partners, has been further highlighted through complications experienced during the Napoli incident.



Poitiers Seminar Feedback

The EROCIPS Project Coordinator and Project Finance Officer attended a transnational seminar for Lead Partners and Partners of Interreg III B Atlantic Area Projects in Poitiers on the 27th March 2007. The seminar was about writing the Final Report. The Secretariat emphasised that the Final Report will be completed by the Lead Partner with contributions from all Partners. They prefer the information included in the Final Report to be easy to read with separate annexes for technical and scientific information. The report will include information produced in the interim activity reports and newsletter contributions.

The final report will be submitted to the EC and is written in order to justify our achievements and the grant paid, to judge the impact that the results have had on the Atlantic Area and to state our achievements. The final report will also address the continuity of the Project and state possible next steps for the future.

Plans for next EROCIPS conference - Vigo, June 2007

The Spanish and Portuguese national EROCIPS conferences will be held in Spain on the 14th and 15th of June 2007. The conference will be at the Centro Social Caixanova, Vigo. The title of the conference is 'Emergency Response to Oil Spills: Regional approaches in a transnational framework: EROCIPS'. The draft preliminary programme was presented at the Partners' meeting in Porto and will be finalised shortly.



EROCIPS Partners at the Co-ordination & Steering Committee meetings in Porto - March 2007





EROCIPS Project Newsletter

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EROCIPS' achievements in Northern Ireland

The a review of EHS's Booming Plans has been completed by the contractor DV Howells and further discussions are planned in order to fine tune the final outputs. One of these booming plans was tested during an exercise in March 2007 at Whitehead, which is located at the mouth of Belfast Lough and is in a high risk area as identified by work undertaken earlier in the EROCIPS Project.

Another exciting development for EROCIPS in Northern Ireland is that a company has been contracted to construct a boat which will be used to carry out ocean current measurements and booming operations, and will act as a command platform in the event of an incident. The vessel will be completed by 31 October 2007.

Portuguese Partners' news

Our Portuguese Partners at HIDROMOD have recently published their EROCIPS work on the internet, using Google Earth. An Environmental Sensitivity Index, a Socio-Economic index, and other information was gathered for the whole of the Portuguese coast (excluding the Azores and Madeira). All of the data is accessible through a kml file which can be found on the interactive map on our website www.eroצים.org.

Another Portuguese Partner, CIIMAR, is managing WP7 which is concerned with environmental monitoring and environmental aspects of an oil spill. CIIMAR has now produced guidance, protocols and other common tools and methodologies for dissemination. Three protocols and one guideline document have been produced and disseminated regarding: Selection of monitoring area and monitoring sites, Type of monitoring and seasonality, Selection of sentinel species and collection of specimens, Guidelines for future long term monitoring programmes.

In addition, a monitoring programme has been carried out, on the seashores and estuaries, to validate two new sentinel species (the shanny - *Lipophrys pholis* and the common goby - *Pomatoschistus microps*). Baseline values have been determined and responses of several biomarkers on these species to hydrocarbon exposure were analysed. Also, the levels of contaminants (hydrocarbons and heavy metals) in the sediments and in the biota have been quantified.

The monitoring was carried out over 12 months and was completed in spring 2007. Results and conclusions of this study will be available soon.

Booming Plan Tool: French progress

On behalf of the French Partners, Le Cedre has conducted a study to examine the issues associated with implementing booming protection plans and to offer decision-making tools which meet the needs of local authorities in charge of response to accidental water pollution incidents. Information was gathered through questionnaires, filled in by Project Partners, and through a literature review. A summary of the different booms available (description, classification, definition of components) and their behaviour on water (buoyancy, vertical stability, reaction to swell) is followed by an explanation of their different limitations. The way each Partners determines the sites for protection and draws up protection plans are also documented. Finally, based on the present state of the art, a number of standard checklists and proformas are suggested as a tool to help select the most suitable equipment. A CD-ROM, available from http://www.cedre.fr/eroצים_wp22/ was designed by Le Cedre. This electronic document acts as a final annex to the report and provides access to the documents collected from Partners through the survey conducted.

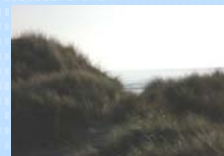


www.eroצים.org

The EROCIPS website continues to be updated and developed. It is becoming more and more popular and last month we had over 1000 hits for the first time. All of the EROCIPS Project approved outputs, newsletters, news articles and project information is easily accessible from the website, so it is a useful tool for Partners and anyone interested in the Project.



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News from Pembrokeshire

Welsh Partner Pembrokeshire County Council is currently developing and trialling their Command and Control System, Fortek

Comnet. The system allows the Local Authority to manage and record information on the incident such as a log of events, resources management, risk assessment, GIS interface, but also permits the use of tablet PCs to gather information from the scene with the use of GPRS or Wireless to connect back to the Comnet Server located within the incident room.

To this purpose, a specific software, MICAS, has been developed for use in the field, which allows greater input in terms of creating/ updating the scene and also to complete forms such as SCAT forms and relay the data instantly to a control point using GPRS or WIFI network.

The County Council has installed a series of antennae along the Milford Haven, which enables WIFI access to the council's own network, as well as fitted an aerial on a mobile vehicle unit. The WIFI network and connection will be tested in the next couple of weeks with the tablets.

This facility has generated a great interest amongst local partners, such as the MCA & Environment Agency, especially as the system would allow partner agencies to log in remotely via the internet through a secure web connection and be updated instantly on the incident and decisions made.

If you have any questions regarding the project, or require more information please contact:

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