



POSOW

Preparedness for oil-polluted
Shoreline cleanup and
Oiled Wildlife interventions



Decentralized Administration of
Crete – Civil Protection
Directorate

Report on the POSOW Crete National Pilot Training



13 – 14 December 2013



POSOW is a project co-financed by EU under the [Civil Protection Financial Instrument](#) developed in cooperation with [ISPRA](#), [Cedre](#), [See Alarm](#) and [CPMR](#) and coordinated by [REMPEC](#) a regional Centre of the [Barcelona Convention](#).

Introduction

In May 2013, two “Train the Trainer” Courses were convened in Brest, France as a part of the Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline cleanup and Oiled Wildlife interventions (POSOW) project (Task E).

POSOW aims at establishing a regional cooperation synergy through the enhancement of knowledge and capacities of operators (professionals and volunteers) in the field of marine pollution, in European coastal countries of the Mediterranean Sea, namely Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Spain.

In order to create this regional synergy and build regional task forces of trainers, a training team (Civil Protection, regional / local authorities and specialized wildlife response NGO) received a dedicated “Train the Trainer” Course on Volunteer management, Oiled Shoreline Assessment and Cleanup and Oiled Wildlife Response.

National Training

Following the “Train the Trainer” Courses, a 3-day National Pilot Training Course was organized in each of the eight beneficiary countries. (Task F)

Volunteers from regions of each country were invited to participate in the course, with the contribution of the trainers previously trained during the “Train the Trainer” Courses. The course was attended by one representative of the project to support the regional entities involved.

The National Training in Crete was organized by the Decentralized Administration of Crete in cooperation with the NGO ANIMA and the Heraklion Port Authority S.A. Fifty (50) participants, including fifteen (15) observers, came from different organizations as Civil Defense, environmental NGO's, institutes etc. The list of participants is attached in **Annex I**.

The training was spread over 2 days, as shown in the Programme in **Annex II**, with on the second day demonstrations and an exercise. All material except for the manuals was previously translated into Greek. The presentations were given in Greek, except for the introduction by the Sea-Alarm partner who was given in English.

The presentations by the Hellenic Coastal Guard about the National Response System and by the Port of Heraklion about the pollution plan were welcomed by the participants who got familiarized with the system in place. Additional presentations were delivered on the NEREIDS project and the role of the volunteer and by the Environmental Protection Engineering S.A., which sponsored the seminar.

For many participants, this was a unique opportunity to get into discussions about the country's preparedness to marine pollution.



At the end of the event, all participants were provided with a certificate and the Project USB-key with the materials in English and Greek as well as pictures from the exercises.

The presentations were delivered in the building of the Decentralized Administration of Crete, close to the harbor where the exercise organised in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Engineering S.A took place.

Practical Exercise

The demonstration in the harbor simulated a spillage from a ship. Cleanup and containment operations were very much appreciated by the participants and observers. It illustrated and ideal cooperation between the fire fighter ship and the cleanup company, ambulance and security operators that were on site as well.



The beach exercises, where all participants took part in assessment and cleanup of an oiled beach, wildlife capture and stabilization, brought a lot of inspiration and food for discussion.



During the breaks, all participants were asked and given the opportunity to register themselves on the POSOW volunteer database.

Due to this heavy program, there was not enough time to present the wildlife theoretical part of the POSOW course as expected.

Conclusion of the training

Evaluation of the training

The participants were asked to fill in an evaluation sheet.

The following graph summarizes the evaluation given by 32 participants. The rating is based on a scale from 1 to 5, 1 being bad and 5 being excellent.

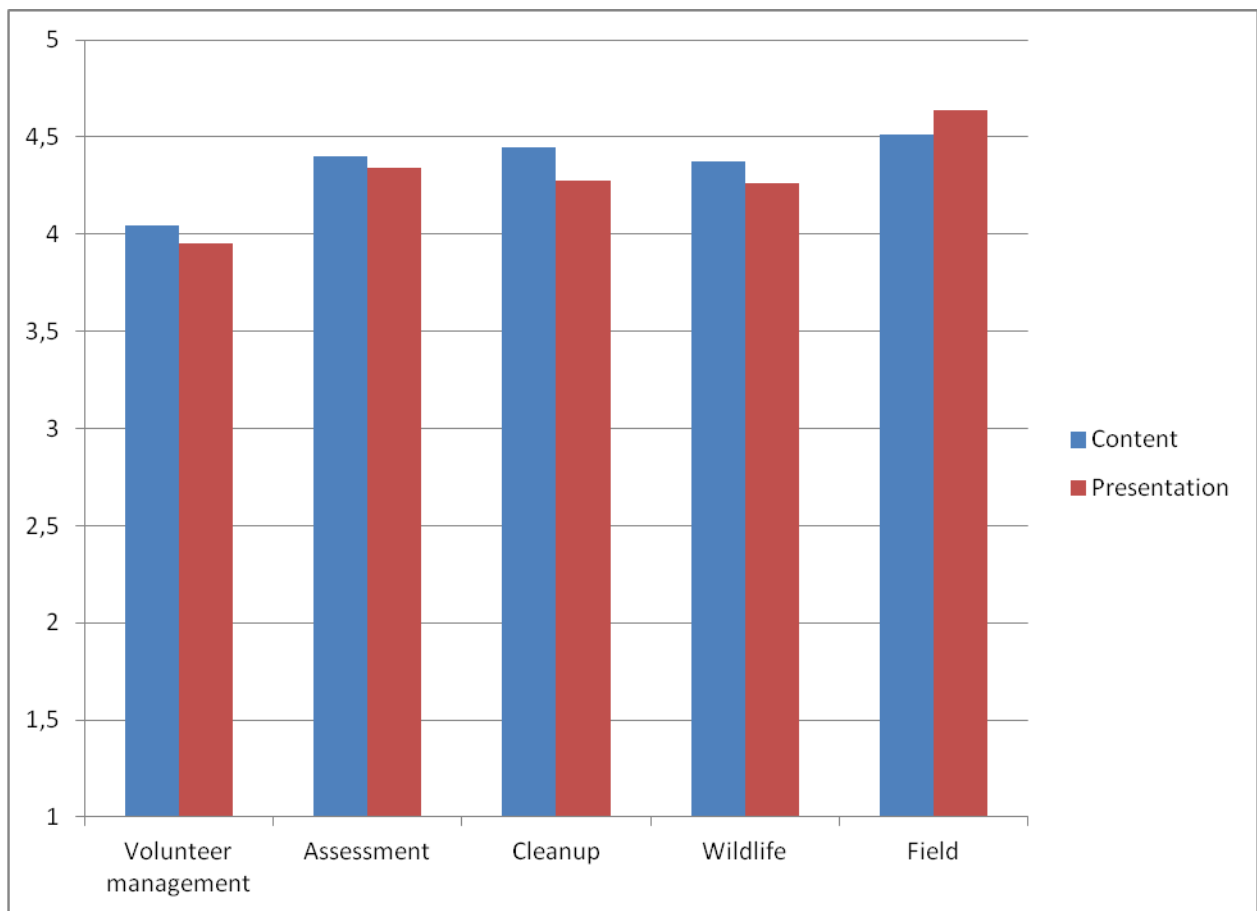


Figure 1: Evaluation of the training by the participants

Conclusion

A lot of discussions and interactions between speakers and participants demonstrated the high level of interest of the participants. Participants emphasized that it was the first time that environmental NGOs cooperated with Civil Defense in a very efficient way. Most participants saw this training as the start of a new process in Crete and even in Greece. ANIMA envisages organizing a second national training in Athens.



ANNEX II: POSOW Seminar Program

Day 1: Friday 13/12/2013

9.00-9.15	Registration	
9.15-9.30	Welcome address	
	Presentations	
	The POSOW project - Overview	Claude Velter
9.30 - 9.45 9.45-10.00	National Response System - Legislative framework - procedures - other???	CommanderTheofanis Kourkoulos, Hellenic Coastal Guard
10.00-10.15 10.15 - 10.30	Prevention and response to marine pollution - the role of the Port Authority	Ioannis Bras, President and Managing Director of Heraklion Port Authority S.A.
10.30-10.45 10.45-11.00	Program NEREIDs – Theoretical exercise to tackle oil pollution in South Crete - Conclusions	Michael Gkorgkoulis, Directorate of Decentralized Administration of Crete
	Oil spill response in the Mediterranean	Irini Mariaki, Environmental Protection Engineering S.A.
	Volunteer Civil Protection in Greece	George Tzikas, Hellenic Red Cross
11.00-11.20	Coffee Break	
11.15- 12.30	- Volunteer Management - Logistics management - Chain of command	Aikaterini Tsoukala, General Director of the Decentralized Administration of Crete
12.30-13.00	Oiled shoreline Assessment	Margarita Tzali, Association for the Protection and Welfare of Wildlife ANIMA
13.00-14.00	Lunch	
13.00-15.30	- General principles of cleanup - Cleanup techniques - Health and Safety	Michael Gkorgkoulis, Directorate of Civil Protection Decentralized Administration of Crete
15.30-16.30	Discussion	

Day 2: Saturday 14/12/2013

8.45-9.00	Registration	
9.00-9.20	Treatment of wildlife affected by oil-spill marine pollution – Challenges and endangered species in Crete	Petros Lymperakis Natural History Museum of Crete
9.20-9.40	Oiled wildlife response – General introduction	Margarita Tzali Association for the Protection and Welfare of Wildlife ANIMA
9.40-10.00	Set up and running a command center for oiled wildlife	Aikaterini Tsoukala General Director of the Decentralized Administration of Crete
10.00-10.15	Coffee Break	
10.15-11.15	- Search and collection – capturing of oiled live animals - transportation - Oiled wildlife treatment - Facilities	Margarita Tzali Association for the Protection and Welfare of Wildlife ANIMA

11.15-11.30	Transition by bus to the port of Heraklion	
11.30-13.15	Demonstration of means, equipment and cleanup techniques	Environmental Protection Engineering S.A. - Heraklion Port Authority S.A. – Fire Service - Coastal Guard – National Emergency Aid Center
13.15-14.00	Transportation by bus to a sandy beach + lunch	
14.00-16.30	Health and Safety. Exercise in clean up and oiled bird collection equipment and techniques	Environmental Protection Engineering S.A. – Sea-Alarm ANIMA
16.30-17.00	Return by bus to Decentralised Administration Crete - Heraklion - End of training - Certificates	