

POSOW

Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline
cleanup and Oiled Wildlife interventions



LAYMAN'S REPORT

A DG ECHO - Civil Protection Financial Instrument Project

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



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Project Background

KEY POINTS

- 24 months duration
- 5 partners
- Target: National and local authorities & NGOs
- Total budget: 606,112 €
- EC Contribution (75%): 453,770 €
- 8 European countries: Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Spain



Due to increasing oil traffic and offshore activities, the risk of oil spills in the Mediterranean region exists. When reaching the coast, oil pollution can affect natural and human coastal resources, and become a threat to wildlife. The level of preparedness and the management of human resources, as well as the choice of techniques, equipment and facilities are one of the key elements for an effective oil spill response.

The project Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline cleanup and Oiled Wildlife interventions – POSOW, aimed to improve all response aspects following an oil spill reaching the shoreline and to strengthen regional cooperation through the enhancement of knowledge and capacities of operators (professionals and volunteers) in the field of marine pollution. The project addressed European coastal countries of the Mediterranean Sea namely Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Spain.

The project, co-financed by the European Commission under the Civil Protection Financial Instrument, was implemented by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) and its partners:

- The Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre);
- The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR);
- The Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA);
- Sea Alarm Foundation (SAF).

By providing training courses and material to civil protection professionals and volunteers, in cooperation with local competent authorities, the project aimed at improving the effectiveness of emergency response to shoreline pollution following an oil spill in the Mediterranean Sea.



Objectives & Activities

Objectives

The POSOW project's activities were aimed at:

- Improving the effectiveness of emergency response by enhancing the preparedness and awareness of civil protection professionals and volunteers.
- Supporting and complementing the efforts of the participating States for the protection of citizens, environment and property in the event of natural and man-made disasters.
- Facilitating reinforced cooperation

between the participating countries in preparedness for civil protection and marine pollution.

This project contributed to the harmonization of procedures and tools useful to respond to shoreline pollution following an accidental or operational spill at sea. A training package and manuals were developed for the essential preparation of NGOs and volunteers to work promptly and safely to support authorities in charge of the response operations in case of a spill.

Themes

The project addressed four topics to which common approaches will facilitate cooperation and response:



Oiled shoreline assessment

Surveying polluted sites and assessing the level of oiling are crucial when responding to accidental oil spills. A thorough survey is the only way to assess the extent of the spill in addition to deciding which areas should be given priority for cleanup and helping decision-makers deciding which techniques and equipment are most suitable.



Oiled wildlife response

When a large spill occurs, many logistical tasks and cleanup operations must be implemented on the shoreline. In most cases, these activities need huge manpower. Some shoreline cleanup activities can be implemented by non-specialised personnel such as volunteer teams supervised by a trained team leader.



Volunteer management

Volunteering can be an important aid during an oil spill response, through spontaneous offers or an integrated approach using pre-identified skilled volunteers. Nevertheless there are a number of essential aspects which must be considered to benefit in the most appropriate manner from this resource and to be prepared for managing the contributions of a large number of volunteers.



Oiled wildlife response

Some marine animals, such as marine and coastal birds, sea turtles, seals and otters are extremely sensitive to oiling. The effects of oiling may be lethal and many animals affected by the oil would die at sea. Large numbers of animals arriving ashore may cause a serious challenge to the country affected by an oil pollution and this needs special consideration as part of the oil spill response activities. It needs an integrated oiled wildlife response, often utilising a volunteer workforce, which is best if planned within the framework of a local or national oil spill contingency plan.

Activities

The main targets groups of the activities were operators (professionals and volunteers) working in the national civil protection services, in municipalities (local community) and in established NGOs along the coasts of the Mediterranean Sea. The

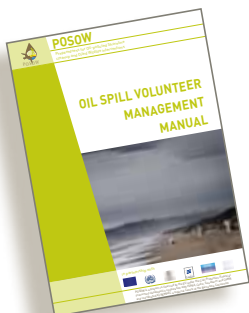
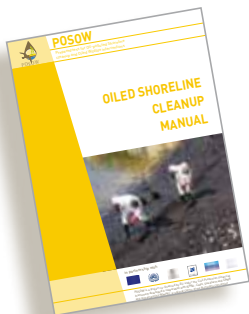
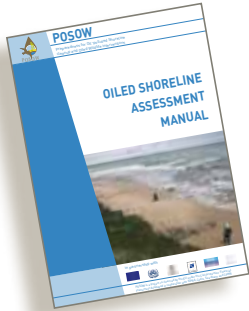
following activities were carried out under the project:

- Manual Publication
- Capacity Building
- Information Dissemination



Results & Achievements

Manual publication



Four Manuals were developed based on the partners' knowledge and existing material, and published by the POSOW Project. These manuals serve as guidelines on the four topics of the project and provide the professional and volunteer operators with the basic knowledge needed during an emergency situation with particular emphasizes on safety related issues.

Oiled Shoreline Assessment Manual

This document is designed to help teams of volunteers to understand and be able to undertake shoreline surveys to provide key information for authorities during the first or 'reactive' phase of the response. The manual is divided into three parts:

Part 1: Assessment principles and methodology: methodology and instructions for completing the assessment form

Part 2: Forms and guidance datasheets to carry out assessment

Part 3: Further Information

Oiled Shoreline Cleanup Manual

This Manual is designed to help teams of volunteers to understand and implement on the field the tasks which have been assigned to them by authorities in charge of response. The manual is divided into two parts:

Part 1: background, general principles of cleanup, presentation of cleanup techniques and logistical tasks which can be undertaken by volunteers

Part 2: technical sheets to be used on the field

The Manual targets volunteers and all responders working on shoreline clean-up sites who have little or no previous knowledge of pollution response and who may be involved in shoreline cleanup operations

Oil Spill Volunteer Management Manual

This document is designed to assist competent authorities and NGOs to efficiently manage volunteer contributions as well as to brief volunteers on tasks assigned to them. The manual is divided into two parts:

Part 1: background and general principles of volunteer management, preparedness for oil spill response and possible tasks carried out by volunteers

Part 2: field technical sheets template for authorities and volunteers

A number of oil spill response activities should not be carried out by volunteers as they require in-depth training and experience to ensure safety and efficiency of operations. Throughout this manual, volunteer and expert tasks are differentiated.

Oil Spill Response Manual

This manual is designed to assist teams of volunteers to understand and implement field wildlife response operations which have been assigned to them by authorities in charge of the response. The document is divided in two parts:

Part 1: provides backgrounds, general principles of oiled wildlife response and presentation of wildlife response actions and tasks which can be undertaken by volunteers.

Part 2: provides technical sheets to be used in the field.

The manual is designed for volunteers and all wildlife responders who:

- are working at onshore wildlife response operational sites
- have little or no previous knowledge of wildlife response
- may undertake certain wildlife response activities .

The manuals are available for download in the documentation section of the POSOW Website.

Capacity Building

Training package

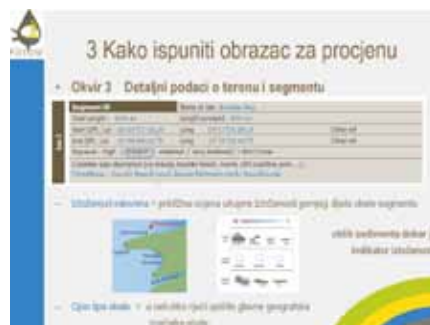
In order to build oil spill response capacity of national and local Mediterranean operators, the project developed a set of training material and courses on the four topics of the project.

Power Point Presentations and Posters were published in the seven languages of the beneficiary countries of the project.

Presentations

As part of the training material developed under the POSOW project, presentations were prepared by the partners on the four main themes of the project. The presentations underline the most important aspects of shoreline assessment and cleanup, wildlife response and volunteer management and were designed to ensure the acquisition of this information through training sessions.

The presentations, complementing the manuals and posters, were used during the Train the Trainer Courses. They were disseminated to the regions of the beneficiary countries in the national language, as supporting materials to train professionals and volunteers at a local level.



CROATIAN



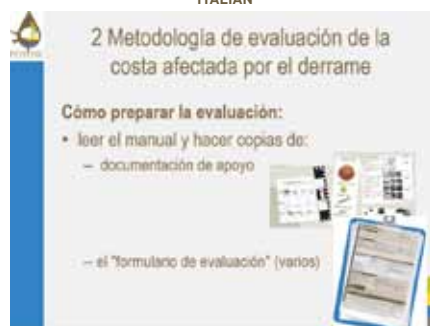
GREEK



ITALIAN



SLOVENIAN



SPANISH



FRENCH

Posters

Eleven posters on the four themes of the project were developed by Cedre, ISRPA and Sea Alarm, with the collaboration of all the partners. The posters were designed for their use in the field. They summarize and illustrate key messages to be considered by response operators (professionals or volunteers) when res-

ponding to an oil spill. The posters were introduced to the trainers during the Train the Trainer Courses and disseminated to the regions of the beneficiary countries in their national language, as a supporting material to train volunteers at a local level.



Capacity Building

Train the Trainer Courses

Following the training package development under the POSOW Project, two 3-day 'Train the Trainer' courses were organised in Cedre's facilities, in Brest between the 21 and 23 and between the 28 and 30 May 2013 and were attended by participants from regions of the 8 beneficiary countries of the Project. In order to create this regio-

nal synergy and build regional task forces of trainers, a training team (Civil Protection, regional / local authorities and specialized wildlife response NGO) from the following regions received a dedicated Train the Trainer Course on Volunteer Management, Oiled Shoreline Assessment and Cleanup and Oiled Wildlife Response.

Thirty-four trainees followed the training session

ORIGIN	REGION	COUNTRY
CIVIL PROTECTION, NGO	Northern Croatian Littoral	CROATIA
CIVIL PROTECTION, NGO	Southern Croatian Littoral	CROATIA
CIVIL PROTECTION (2), NGO		CYPRUS
NGO (2)	Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	FRANCE
NGO	Languedoc-Roussillon	FRANCE
NGO (2)	Attica	GREECE
NGO	South Aegean	GREECE
CIVIL PROTECTION, LOCAL AUTHORITY	Crete	GREECE
LOCAL AUTHORITY (3)	Marche	ITALY
CIVIL PROTECTION	Apulia	ITALY
CIVIL PROTECTION, NGO		MALTA
CIVIL PROTECTION, NGO	Obalo-Kraška	SLOVENIA
CIVIL PROTECTION, NGO	Catalonia	SPAIN
CIVIL PROTECTION, WILDLIFE INSTITUTE, PORT INSTITUTE	Valencia	SPAIN
CIVIL PROTECTION (2), WILDLIFE INSTITUTE	Andalusia	SPAIN
WILDLIFE CENTRE (2)	Balearic Islands	SPAIN
SASEMAR	National level	SPAIN



Capacity Building

National Pilot Training Courses

Following the training of regional task forces during the Train the Trainer Courses, nine National Pilot Trainings were organised in the eight beneficiary countries of the project, between Septem-

ber and December 2013, to replicate the acquired knowledge of the trainers in their respective regions. A total of 252 professionals and volunteers were trained.

COUNTRY, REGION	DATES	NBR
MALTA	4, 5, 12 October	22
FRANCE, PACA	23, 24 October	12
ITALY, MARCHE	29, 31 October	27
CROATIA, SOUTHERN CROATIAN LITTORAL	9, 10 October	32
SLOVENIA, OBALNO-KRASKA	21, 23 November	24
SPAIN, VALENCIA COMMUNITY	25, 27 November	32
SPAIN, BARCELONA COMMUNITY	27, 29 November	28
CYPRUS	5, 7 December	35
GREECE, CRETE	16, 17 December	40



CROATIE



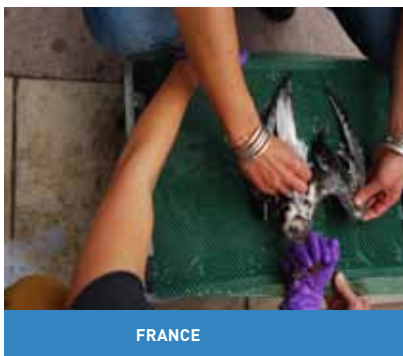
SPAIN



GREECE



ITALIA



FRANCE



SLOVENIA



CYPRUS

The POSOW Online Volunteers Database

POSOW website
www.posow.org



To ensure the availability and prompt response of volunteers in case of an oil spill, a database gathering data on trainers and volunteers within the Mediterranean region is available online for national and regional decision makers.

Volunteers and professionals can register online when an incident occurs, or just after being trained.

The database provides information about the availability, previous experiences and trainings, as well as the specific skills of the registered volunteers, which allows

To ensure that information about the project is made available and to promote the project during relevant events, a set of dissemination tools were used to reach the interested public.

decision makers to reinforce their response teams, in case of a major incident requiring important human resources.

Regional authorities or NGOs involved in the local shoreline response can directly contact the volunteers to be part of the response team when needed.

Following the National Training Courses 276 Volunteers and Trainers were registered in the database of the project!

All the material developed under the project is made available through its website

 www.posow.org

POSOW
 Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline cleanup and Oiled Wildlife Interventions

Information on the project and its topics are available

The section news was regularly updated with events, trainings and recent publication

Volunteers and professionals are invited to register in the POSOW Volunteers Database, and can visualise the current pool of available volunteers in the Mediterranean regions through the Map of Volunteers and Map of Trainers.

The documentation section includes the manuals, posters and presentations, together with the training reports which are freely downloadable.

Planned training and incidents in the Mediterranean are published by the regional users of the eight beneficiary countries in the Events page. Registration to the event could be done directly on this page.

Home | Project | Partners | Documentation | Themes | News | Events | Volunteers database | Search Site

Volunteers database
 Access the POSOW volunteers database or display the regional map

NEWS
 POSOW Project promoted during COP15-Instambul Dec 04, 2013
 POSOW Presentations now available in all the languages of the project! Dec 04, 2013
 More news...

Oil spill management
 Oiled shoreline assessment
 Oiled shoreline cleanup
 Oiled wildlife response

Documentation, Research and Experimentation in Accidental Water Pollution (CEDRE), the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISFRA), Sea Alarm Foundation, and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR).

By providing training courses and material to civil protection professionals and volunteers, in cooperation with local competent authorities with the support of CPMR, the project aims at improving the effectiveness of emergency response to shoreline pollution following an oil spill in the Mediterranean Sea.

Follow us!  
 POSOW Introduction Video



Information dissemination




Country / Territory	Visits	Pages / Visit
Spain	535	6,58
Italy	448	5,36
Croatia	314	6,15
United Kingdom	310	4,05
United States	309	2,50
Greece	296	4,39
Slovenia	226	5,17
Cyprus	160	8,53
Belgium	114	4,01
Australia	105	2,67
Canada	97	3,08
Brazil	70	2,89
India	69	1,90
Norway	69	3,13
Ireland	60	2,02
South Korea	51	3,49
Turkey	46	5,20
Portugal	35	3,06
Netherlands	33	4,48
Singapore	33	2,76
[not set]	32	1,94
Germany	30	2,93
Finland	30	3,47
Poland	27	2,48
Saudi Arabia	27	1,63
	3933	4,50

Visits from France and Malta were not included to avoid a bias due to Project partners visits for maintenance and update of the website

Social Networking

 Facebook: The POSOW Project
www.facebook.com/pages/The-POSOW-Project

 Twitter: @POSOWProject
twitter.com/POSOWProject

In addition to the Project website, a Facebook Page and Twitter Account were created to enable volunteers and stakeholders to share their views on the Project and its activities. Pictures of the training and live information were communicated through the POSOW social networks.

Promotion in Events and media

Captions:

Left: promotion in the Ancona Newspaper of the National Training organised by the Civil Protection of Marche



Right: promotion of the POSOW Project at the Contracting Parties Meeting of Barcelona Convention in December 2013



Bottom: poster of the project that will be presented during International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) 2014 in May.



Brochure and Video

Achievements and future

To promote the POSOW project in various events and during the Train the Trainer Courses and National Pilot trainings, a brochure and a video summarizing the objectives and outcome of the Project were published and widely disseminated.

By improving awareness and knowledge on oil spill shoreline response in the Mediterranean, the POSOW Project identified future key actions, which could be implemented in the Mediterranean region to continue enhancing the level of preparedness and response:



DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

OTHER NATIONAL COURSES

VOLUNTEERS DATABASE

TRANSLATION OF THE 4 MANUALS

EXTENSION OF THE PROJECT

- **Communication on the project** and its material will continue after the end of the project. A poster will be presented at the International Oil Spill Conference 2014, in Savannah, GE, USA.
- The organisers of the National Pilot courses expressed their willingness and interest in **replicating the training** to extend the pool of trained volunteers available in their region. Regional stakeholders involved in the project will continue using and promoting the **Volunteers Database**.
- **The Translation of training material:** The English version of the posters and presentations were translated in 6 languages (Croatian, French, Greek, Italian, Slovenian and Spanish) to respond to the need expressed by the regions to ensure full comprehension and application of the knowledge provided by the POSOW material.
- **Gaps in national and regional Emergency Plans** were underlined during the National Pilot Trainings
 - Each beneficiary country response system is different and the competent authority for shoreline response is not always the civil protection authority.
 - Some competent authorities do not have sufficient resources to respond to shoreline pollution
 - National legislation does not always reflect the role and responsibilities for shoreline response and in some cases do not assign the roles to any national authority.
 - The interaction between shoreline response plans when it exists and at sea response require further integration and co-operation amongst the concerned authorities.
 - It is recommended that NGOs who would act as wildlife volunteers and responders are integrated within the local or national oil spill contingency plan.
- **In most countries, it was the first time that the different entities (Civil Defence, NGO`s) met, were trained and worked together.**
- The achievements of the project and its **possible expansion at Mediterranean level** could benefit other Mediterranean coastal States who expressed their interest in the project.

Key figures of the Project

- 4 Manuals; 11 posters and 14 presentations in 7 languages
- 252 Volunteers and professionals trained, in 9 regions of 8 Mediterranean countries
- 34 Trainers available in 14 regions of the 8 Mediterranean countries
- 276 Volunteers and Trainers in the POSOW Volunteers Database
- Around 4,500 visits of POSOW Website

The POSOW project gathered 23 partners representing 8 beneficiary countries, 15 regions and 4 external partners.

The POSOW team is grateful to all the organisations involved in the project, drivers of the regional dynamics created through the implementation of the project:

