

## EU - Courses in the Field of Marine Pollution

### Introduction

The protection of the marine environment and the reduction of its pollution has been recognised as one of the most vital tasks to save our basis of life. It represents a difficult task due to reliance of modern societies on various types of utilisation and exploitation of the sea. A major source of marine pollution is resulting from ship operation, either accidents causing massive oil spills, or routine operations accompanied by spills of ballast water, water from tank washing and engine room effluent discharges. These threats to the environment, the sea and the coastlines require adequate response not only by national authorities. Due to the complex nature of the sea and the causes for pollution, marine pollution needs to be dealt with at an international level.



### Community Framework

Following the first Council Resolution of 1978, the present role of the European Community in response to marine pollution is expressed by the Community framework for cooperation in the field of accidental or deliberate marine pollution, which has been established for the period of 01.01.2000 to 31.12.2006.

The programme covers initiatives dealing with preparedness and response to marine pollution, whereby a focus is set on specific thematic priorities every year. The actions include workshops, training courses, exercises and pilot projects.

For detailed information please click:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/civil/marin/mp01\\_en\\_introduction.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/civil/marin/mp01_en_introduction.htm)

Since 2002 the *Institut für Kreislaufwirtschaft* constantly organises and implements courses under the Community framework for cooperation in the field of accidental or deliberate marine pollution.

### Courses

The courses address a specific issue with orientation to the focus set by the programme for each year. For example in 2005 and 2006 one focus was set on environmental damage. In these years the *Institut für Kreislaufwirtschaft* organised and implemented two workshops on "Guideline Development for Minimisation of Environmental Damage in Case of Marine Pollution"

Generally the superior aims of the workshops/courses are:

- to promote the exchange of knowledge, experience and opinions among professionals, institutions, legislative staff and dedicated organisations
- to contribute to the build-up and extension of European expert networks in this field in order to shorten communication times and paths in emergency situations and to promote implementation of necessary improvements

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- to promote the increase of the managerial and organisational capacities of the European institutions involved in marine pollution response
- to exchange and discuss countries approach, problems and needs and to develop possible solutions/good practices



### Partners

The *Institut für Kreislaufwirtschaft* implemented the courses in co-operation with:

- BLG Consult GmbH, Bremen, Germany 
- EMPA, Bremen, Germany 
- Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK 

### Funding

The courses are co-funded by the European Commission within the framework of Community cooperation against accidental or deliberate marine pollution.

### Participants

The courses and their outcomes address a wide range of experts from maritime European member states, Norway and Iceland who are involved in the field of marine pollution, combating strategies and contingency planning.

The participants hold positions as decision-makers or/and work in the middle management. They have administrative, nautical, technical or scientific backgrounds.

Since the start of the programme the *Institut für Kreislaufwirtschaft* welcomed participants of 17 maritime member states Norway and Iceland.

### Implementation of the courses

The courses took place in Bremen, Germany at the premises of the University of Applied Sciences. The 3 day events involved lectures with integrated discussion sections, site visits and group work. The lectures were held by external national and international lecturers, who work in research and development, industry or governmental institutions. Thus a good mix of European perspectives is guaranteed. The group work part include simulation exercises, discussions and the presentation of findings.



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### Results

The following outcomes of the courses are expected:

- Building up and intensifying existing networks of European experts involved in technical, organisational and scientific aspects of marine pollution
- Exchange of up-to-date knowledge and information concerning this subject

For the workshops carried out in 2005 and 2006 the results were summarized and documented as guidelines. These guidelines also perform an evaluation of past experiences and lessons learned, as there are:

- Identification of benefits and existing problems
- Identification of solutions and best practices
- Formulation of recommendations and identification of further actions



### IKrW - Courses in the field of marine pollution

- International liability and compensation regimes (May 2002)
- Bioremediation of wastes from marine pollution (Nov. 2002)
- Treatment of pollution waste (Dec. 2002)
- Response to oil pollution (July 2003)
- Minimisation of environmental damage (Sept. 2005)
- Minimisation of environmental damage II (Oct. 2006)
- Response to chemical pollution (July 2007)

### IKrW - Other Related Projects

- *International Project:*  
**Bioremediation of oil spills in Vietnam, development of guidelines** (Co-funded by EU, Asia Pro Eco-Programme) 2005
- *Applied R&D project:*  
**Bioremediation of TBT-contaminated harbour sediments** (for local port authority)
- *Applied R&D project:*  
**SUMMA** Concepts for safe and environmentally sound management of materials and wastes of the operation and maintenance of off-shore wind power plants