



ACTs – Avoiding Collisions AT Sea

With increasing concerns over human safety, environmental damage and commercial loss, 6 maritime education and training providers across Europe have been awarded around €0.4 million by the European Commission to participate in a European research and development project into collisions at sea.

Due to the increasing number of collisions attributed to human error, there is a need to develop new skills and also provide means to understand the collision rules fully. The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 (Colregs) are a set of rules to be followed by navigation officers to avoid collisions at sea. It is one of the most important International Conventions that all seagoing Officers must possess full knowledge of, as well as having the skills needed to apply them correctly.

Building on its previous project M'aidar and SOS (Safety On Sea), a €0.4 million European Commission-funded study into collisions, the new project ACTs will continue this research, development and pilot the intended ACTs course during the project lifetime. It is the intention of the ACTS project to create an online course for seafarers to fully understand and correctly interpret the collisions rules.

A case law, as stated in the MARS and MAIB reports, indicated that many of the basic principles of the rules are improperly understood and applied. It is also common practice to use the VHF Radio, although it is not prescribed or stated to use this in collision avoidance (Acar et al 2011). A recent study undertaken by Acar et al (2011) showed that almost 50 percent of seafarers throughout the world disregard/ignore the Colregs at sea when they are taking action. It supports the previous report of Ziarati (2006) that there are rules in place, but they are generally ignored. In order to create safer and securer seas, it is essential that seafarers should have mutual understanding of these rules and their application (Acar et al, 2011).

Partners will carry out research to find out the deficiencies in the training of these rules with surveys and workshops. Shipping companies, seafarers and VET providers etc. will be invited to participate in the development of ACTs course.

Professor Reza Ziarati who is one of the key partners for ACTs consortium from Piri Reis University says:

“Recent research has shown that accidents at sea can be reduced by learning from previous accidents and by interpreting the collision rules correctly. Project ACTS is expected to make significant contributions to making seas safer by preventing collisions in the first place”.

Led by University of Rijaka, the consortium will include: the Centre for Factories of the Future in UK, the Piri Reis University in Turkey, the SeaTeach in Spain, N.Y. Vaptsarov Naval Academy in Bulgaria and Spinaker d.o.o. in Slovenia.

There are a number of associated partners that will support the development which will include: Turkish Chamber of Shipping, Turkish Maritime Education and Training Centre, MarEdu, MariFuture and so on.



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