

ACTS Project Newsletter - Issue 1



In this newsletter:

- *An Introduction to the ACTS project*
- *Updates on the project questionnaires and workshops*
- *An update on our review of collision and near-miss reports*

A new venture to develop an e-learning course for COLREGs

A recent study by the ACTS project team of the existing 1972 collision rules, and of real life accident scenarios involving Collisions revealed some very interesting outcomes. This research clearly indicates that the existing rules have to be taught precisely so that they are understood in the same way by everyone, as current accident scenarios show a wide range of interpretations of the rules. The research also shows that more guidelines are needed to standardize the education, training and assessment of COLREGs through new teaching and learning approaches and materials as current research shows inconsistencies in navigators level of understanding of COLREGs

The research evidence and expert opinions also justify the view that the COLREGs model course should be an integral part of the STCW (Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping) for Seafarers.

***"The ACTS Project
will support
navigation at Sea
and make the Sea's
safer for all"***

***Dr Martin Ziarati,
C4FF***



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A study to Identify the European COLREGs training needs was undertaken and it consisted of four tasks:

1. Development of a generic questionnaire to identify knowledge gaps of and deficiencies in the application of COLREGs by the target groups.
2. Running workshops in each partner country to validate the results of questionnaires.
3. A review of the collision and near-miss reports published in each partner country.
4. A report on training needs to identify knowledge gaps and deficiencies in the application of COLREGs in the Partner Countries.

Questionnaire design

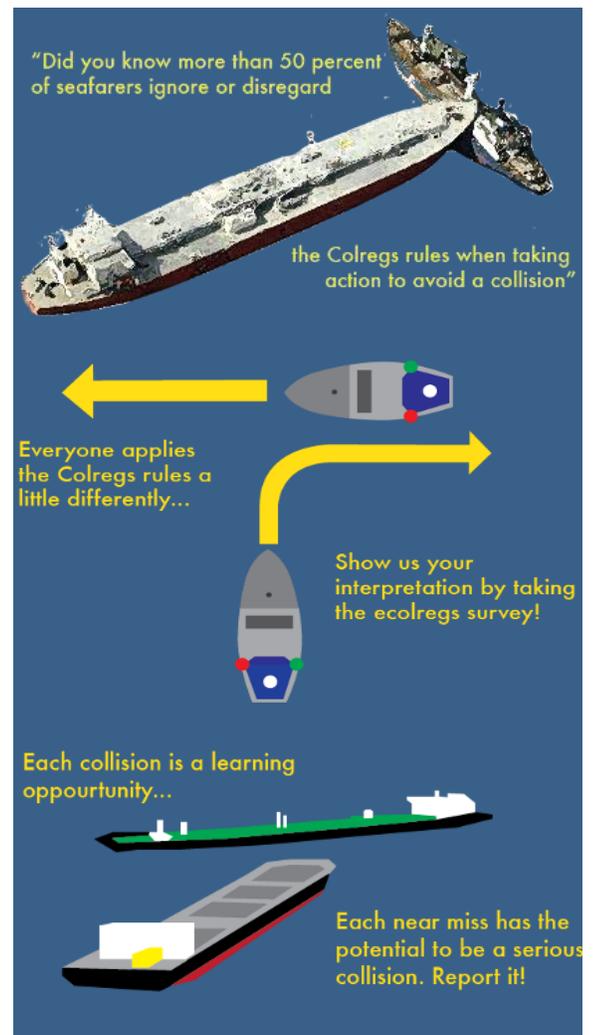
Questionnaires were carried out between January to March 2014 targeted to both professional and non-professionals. After statistical analysis of the questionnaire responses workshops were organized in all partners' countries where the research results were presented, discussed and validated.

Workshops

Once the results of the questionnaires had been analysed each partner hosted a workshop attended by the target groups to present, discuss and validate the results of questionnaires and the findings (skills gap analysis) carried out by the ACTS project team. Each partner prepared a workshop report.

Attending the workshops were a mix of teachers and professors of maritime high schools and faculties, seafarers, representatives of government authorities, maritime companies, pilots and members of various professional associations related to maritime shipping.

At the workshops the review by the ACTS project team of the collision and near-miss reports was presented and further discussions were held to receive external feedback regarding the project teams interpretation of these scenarios in order to validate the project findings. The outcomes of these discussions were included in the workshop reports written by each partner. The workshop reports were collated and presented in a Joint report and which was used in the identification of training needs and the obtained results enabled the identification of the knowledge gaps of target groups, as well as the deficiencies in the teaching, learning and application of COLREGs. In parallel, a knowledge-base was created to house the analyses of the questionnaires and reviews of collision and near miss reports.



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Database scenario collection of accident and near-miss reports

The collisions and near miss reports from each partner country were collected and reviewed. In order to facilitate this process a database from each partner country and national agencies such as MAIB (the UK's Marine Accident Investigation Branch) and MARS (The Nautical Institute's Mariners' Alerting and Reporting Scheme), as well as any other reports and papers available to the partners was created. Analysed collisions and near-miss reports were compiled in an excel form and the final report was prepared.

Further Project News

More news of the progress of the ACTS project will be available in the next ACTS newsletter.

If you would like to participate in our ACTS Questionnaires then please visit:

http://www.ecolregs.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35&Itemid=306