

# ACTs Project Newsletter - Issue 2



## Project Progress

Partners of the ACTs project have been working on the production of new e-learning training modules for COLREGs. As part of this process, a partner meeting was held in Bulgaria. At the meeting the template for the COLREG's learning scenarios was formalised based on the draft template for rule 15 that had previously been produced by partners. In the coming months each partner will use the template to produce learning scenario's for their assigned COLREG's.

Based on the outcome of the workshops, it was concluded that there is a strong need for some general changes and updates to COLREGs materials accordance with evolving teaching technologies and learning approaches to ensure the current and next generations of seafarers have a better understanding of the Rules. One key area for improvement identified in the workshops was that in different situations some COLREGs rules give priority to others. These situations, and the rules which give, and are given, priority need to be clearly identified and taught so that navigation officers

are be able to apply the COLREGs without difficulty.

The workshops also established the need for a common understanding of individual rules through guidelines for the education, training and assessment of COLREGs. This can be delivered through the ACTs e-learning modules. The ACTs Partners are of the view that COLREGs Model Course should be an integral part of the STCW.

The partners have collated further collision and near miss reports in their country where mis-application and mis-interpretation of the COLREGs was a factor in the accidents.

The animated scenario template for Rule 15-has been developed and its credibility and application were tested to make sure that the method adopted is correct at an additional ACTs workshop at Plymouth University attended by professional seafarers of all ranks including lecturers and maritime lawyers.

### *In this newsletter:*

- *Progress since our last newsletter*
- *IMLA's view on a proposed COLREGs Model Course*
- *The ACTs training approaches have been finalised*

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

***Dr Martin Ziarati,  
C4FF***





## IMLA's View

In the latest IMLA Newsletter (The International Maritime Lecturers Association) it was disclosed that the Maritime Safety Committee had reviewed and provided their comments on the development of a specific model course for the 1972 Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs) as proposed by the Turkish Maritime Community to "ensure global standards on the understanding, interpretation and application of the provisions of COLREG".

In response IMLA have stated that it believes that the IMO has provided a clear COLREGs text and that the relevant organisations have developed interpretations of these regulations and have used them in their teaching and training activities. It is a common view that many collision-near miss accidents have pointed to the poor training of seafarers in the COLREGs. Although IMLA disagreed with the need to design a whole specific COLREGs model course they did respond positively to the need to improve COLREGs training, and it's clear that IMLA and ACTs partners should work together.

## Policymakers

The ACTs project partners are gathering feedback from, and disseminating to, all elements of the Maritime Industry. One of the most high profile dissemination activities of the project partners in this period was the UK Partner being invited to attend the UK Parliament and to meet with leading Shipbuilders and Ship-owners, representatives of maritime education and training providers, as well as prominent policy makers such as the Minister of State for Transport (Rt Hon John Hayes MP) and the co-chair of the UK Marine Industries Leadership Council (Gregory Darling). This event allowed the UK Partner to discuss the COLREGs deficiencies identified by the project with UK Maritime Industry leaders and policymakers whilst raising awareness of the new teaching approaches and materials for COLREGs that the ACTs project currently designing.



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## Training Approaches

In the partner meeting in Varna (October 2014), the pedagogical framework to develop appropriate methods and methodologies for designing training course content and delivery approaches was finalised. It was agreed that the framework would include by multimedia learning techniques to reflect new learning technologies and learning approaches.

It was decided that a single training course approach would be used for all seafarers except Ratings. The ratings training approach will be different with a special disposition and training approach focusing more heavily on : Rule 5 – Lookout, Rule 7 – Risk of Collision, Rule 21 – Definitions, Rule 22 – Visibility of Lights, Rule 32 – Definitions, Rule 36 - Signals to attract attention.

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