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ARCTIC COUNCIL

The Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among Arctic States and Arctic indigenous communities:

- Eight Arctic States
- Six Permanent Participants

Activities of the Arctic Council are conducted in six Working Groups:

- Arctic Contaminants Action Program ACAP
- Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme AMAP
- Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna CAFF
- Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response EPPR
- Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment PAME
- Sustainable Development Working Group SDWG

 A circular diagram representing the Arctic Council's structure. At the center is the Arctic Council logo, which includes a stylized polar bear and the text "ARCTIC COUNCIL". Surrounding the center are six groups of stylized human figures, each representing a different working group. The groups are labeled: "8 MEMBER STATES" at the top, "6 INDIGENOUS PARTICIPANT ORGANIZATIONS" on the left, "6 WORKING GROUPS" on the right, and "OBSERVER STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS" at the bottom.

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EPPR MANDATE

While not an operational response organization, EPPR is mandated to contribute to the prevention, preparedness and response to environmental and other emergencies, accidents, and search and rescue (SAR) in the Arctic.



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EPPR FACTS

- Conducting projects to address gaps
- preparing strategies
- share information and collecting data
- collaborating with relevant partners on capabilities and research needs
- developing guidelines and toolboxes
- coordinating response exercises and training

Chair: Kingdom of Denmark
Vice-chairs: Norway and Canada
Secretariat: Tromsø, Norway



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EXPERT GROUPS

EPPR has three Expert Groups:

- Marine Environmental Expert Group
MER EG
- Search and Rescue Expert Group SAR EG
- Radioactivity Expert Group RAD EG
(established in 2019)



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SAR EXPERT GROUP

- Evaluating exercise reports, identifying lessons, developing mitigation recommendations
- Supporting complementary operational fora in their action oriented efforts (eg. SAR exercises)
- Communication and collaboration with other relevant bodies, fora, WGs and academia to identify and disseminate pertinent information



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MER EXPERT GROUP

- Focusing on implementation of the MOSPA and ensuring corrective actions/recommendations: updating the Operational Guidelines
- Developing recommendations for future exercises and workshops based on lesson learned
- Strengthening cooperation, coordination and mutual assistance on oil pollution preparedness and response through joint exercises and training



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RAD EXPERT GROUP

- Facilitating the implementation of the EPPR mandate and strategic plan framework with regard to radiological and nuclear emergencies
- Cooperating with other relevant external bodies to disseminate and complement existing work in EPPR
- Minimizing overlap with existing work and ensuring the incorporation of the most relevant international approaches



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MOSPA AND SAR AGREEMENTS

EPPR is responsible for implementing two legally binding agreements:

- The Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic (**MOSPA**)
- The Agreement on Cooperation in Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic (**SAR Agreement**)

MER and SAR Expert Groups facilitate the follow-up of the Agreements



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ON-GOING EPPR PROJECTS

- **ARCSAFE/RADEX 2019 TTX** (cross-country cooperation network(s) to improve emergency prevention, response and the safety of rescue workers in case of a maritime accident involving a potential release of radioactive substances in the Arctic), sub-project **RADSAR**
- **Prevention, Preparedness and Response for small communities Phase III Risk assessment methods and metadata – development of guideline and tool**
- **Circumpolar Oil Spill Response Viability Analysis (COSRVA) Phase II**
- **Arctic Rescue**
- **Safety Systems in the Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural projects**
- **Research and Development Initiative**



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ON-GOING EPPR PROJECTS

Two EPPR-PAME joint projects:

- Compendium for Arctic Shipping Accidents (CASA)
- Overview of Low-Impact Shipping Corridors & other Shipping Management Schemes in the Arctic



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DELIVERABLES APPROVED AT THE 2019 ARCTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MEETING

- MOSPA Table-Top Exercise After Action Report (6-8 March 2018, Oulu, Finland)
- MOSPA Exercise Planning Guidance
- Review of Legal Challenges to the MOSPA Agreement (Summary Report)
- Prevention, Preparedness and Response for small communities (Animated outreach videos)
- ARCSAFE Summary Status Report
- Status of Implementation of the FPOPP Report



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NEW PROJECTS AND AREAS OF WORK

- Two new projects approved in 2020:
 Circumpolar Wildland Fire Cooperation Project
 New Low-Sulphur Fuels – Behaviour and Fate in Cold Water Conditions
- New Expert Group on Radioactivity was established in EPPR-II 2019 meeting in December 2019



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MEETINGS

2019

- EPPR-I 2019, 3-6 June 2019, Bodø, Norway
- EPPR-II 2019, 3-5 December 2019, Reykjavik, Iceland

2020

- EPPR-I 2020, 18-22 May 2020, Torshavn, Faroe Islands
- EPPR-II 2020, December 2020, TBC



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