



Document title	HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP)
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Agenda Item	12 - Exercises
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Submitted by	Sweden
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Background

The HELCOM exercise framework, methodology and exercise planning has been under development for several years and has been a common topic for discussions at most Response Working Group meetings since 2016.

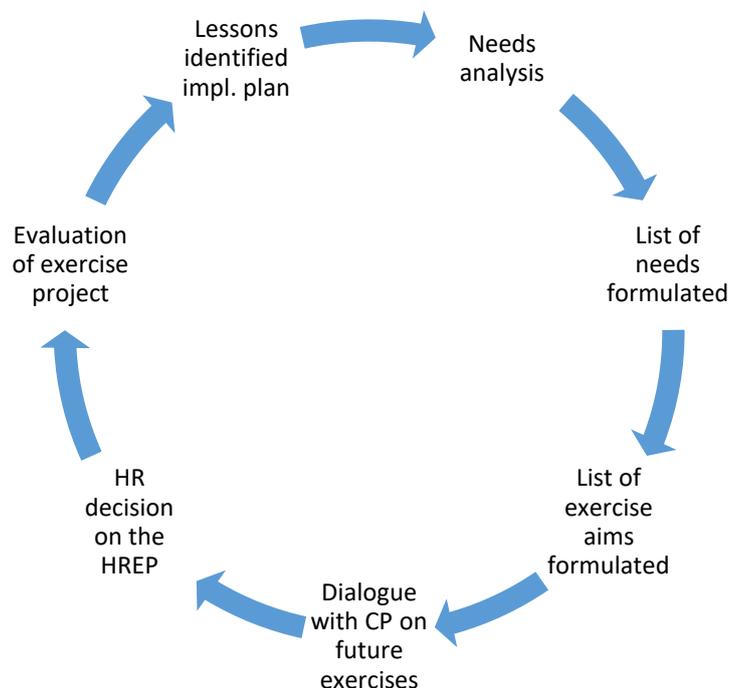
At HELCOM RESPONSE 27-2020 Sweden presented the report [Exercises with a purpose – A proposal for a new HELCOM Response Exercise Planning Process](#) as well as [suggestions on the way forward](#). The meeting tasked Sweden to continue taking lead and finalizing the work with the exercise framework and the HREP.

The exercise framework is presented under agenda item 13 as part of the revised Response Manual. Although the HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP) is part of the overall exercise framework it has been agreed that HREP should be a living document and not be part of the Manual itself. The HREP is adopted solely by the HELCOM Response.

The long-term HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP) will list identified development needs and outline the decided exercise projects. However, this first version remains incomplete and is meant to be filled with substance by the HEDMOT as they work in accordance to the HREP process (Annex 15, Response Manual). Thus, the first few years will be a testing period for the new HREP process and it will take until BALEX 2024 before the process cycle is completed.

That means the planning of the BALEX 2021-2023 exercises will only be marginally affected, instead these exercises will provide a basis for the needs analysis and future exercise aims as well as function as a testbed for the HREP process.

The first HELCOM Response Exercise Development and MONitoring Team (HEDMOT) is suggested to be established now at REPOSE 28-2020 and it will replace the former Exercise Evaluation Team (EET). The HEDMOT will both evaluate the Balex Delta 2021 as well as start the first needs analysis for future exercises



in accordance with the HREP process (Response Manual, Annex 15). The first needs analysis will be more comprehensive and thus it is suggested the HEDMOT is strengthened with an analyst during the its' first year. In 2021 HEDMOT is chaired by EE with participation, as a minimum, from DK, FI and DE, as stated in the Terms of Reference for HEDMOT (Annex 13, Response Manual).

Action requested

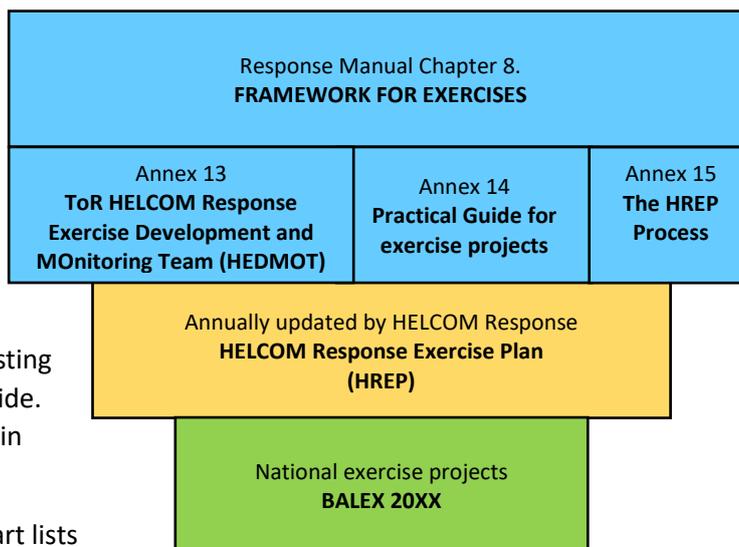
The Meeting is invited to:

- consider if the HREP should be an independent document under the HELCOM Response or, for example, included as an annex to the Work Plan for HELCOM Response Working Group.
- establish the HEDMOT as a replacement for the EET.
- nominate or propose an analyst to complement the HEDMOT for the needs analysis part.
- consider to include a standing agenda item on the Response meeting agenda for the HEDMOT team leader to present proposals for the Response WG
- approve the draft HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP).

HELCOM Response Exercise Plan

All HELCOM Response exercises – at sea, on the shore and combined – support the development of HELCOM cooperation on the response to marine pollution. The *HELCOM Response Manual*, chapter 8, provides a broad picture of the exercise framework and helps establish its foundation. The long-term *HELCOM Response Exercise Plan* (HREP) lists identified development needs and outlines the decided exercise projects.

The process in which needs are identified, aims and host nations are proposed, and lessons are developed into improvement plans is described in Annex 15 to the HELCOM Response Manual, *The HREP Process*. In addition to the Manual and the HREP, the *Practical Guide for HELCOM RESPONSE exercises*, Annex 14 to the HELCOM Manual, describes the methodology for designing, planning, conducting, and evaluating exercise projects. The HELCOM Response Exercise Development and Monitoring Team (HEDMOT) has a central role in evaluating and monitoring exercises as well as in suggesting revisions in the HREP and in the Practical Guide. The HEDMOT Terms of Reference are found in Annex 13.



The HREP consists of three parts. The first part lists identified exercise needs, the second lists proposals for aims together with suggestions for an exercise type, and the third part presents the coming HELCOM Response exercise activities that have been adopted.

Identified Exercise Needs

This section lists exercise needs, identified in the needs analysis carried out by the HEDMOT in accordance with HREP process as defined in the HELCOM Response Manual, and adopted by HELCOM Response. *The text below represents illustrative examples of such needs, and should not be regarded as prioritized needs adopted by HELCOM Response.*

- Cooperation between operations at sea, on the shore and for the protection of wildlife has not been trained or tested together in exercises.
- The set-up for achieving situational awareness needs to be further developed, using previously identified best practices. (BD 19)
- The procedures for alarming as well as for requesting and offering assistance, are not tested in a comprehensive manner that includes all steps necessary, including national ones. (BALEX BRAVO 19)

Proposed Exercise Project Aims and Suggestions for Corresponding Exercise Types

In this section, exercise project aims endorsed by HELCOM Response are listed as inspiration and starting-points for future Exercise Project Lead Countries. For each proposed exercise project aim, suggestions for the choice of exercise type are offered.

The following is an example, and not an aim adopted by HELCOM Response.

- Develop the framework for holistic/integrated management of marine pollution incidents that enable a coordinated response operation at sea and on shore.
 - Table-top exercises focusing on sea/shore coordination or prioritization of resources.
 - Functional exercise focusing on common logistics.

Adopted HELCOM Response Exercise Projects

In this section, the exercise projects agreed by HELCOM Response are listed in a table together with the Lead Country and the exercise aim.

Year	Lead Country	Aim
20XX	X-land	Implement the framework for holistic/integrated management of marine pollution incidents
20XY	Y-land	YYY