



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

BALEX 2021 evaluation *(draft)*

Marit Mätik

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29SEP2021

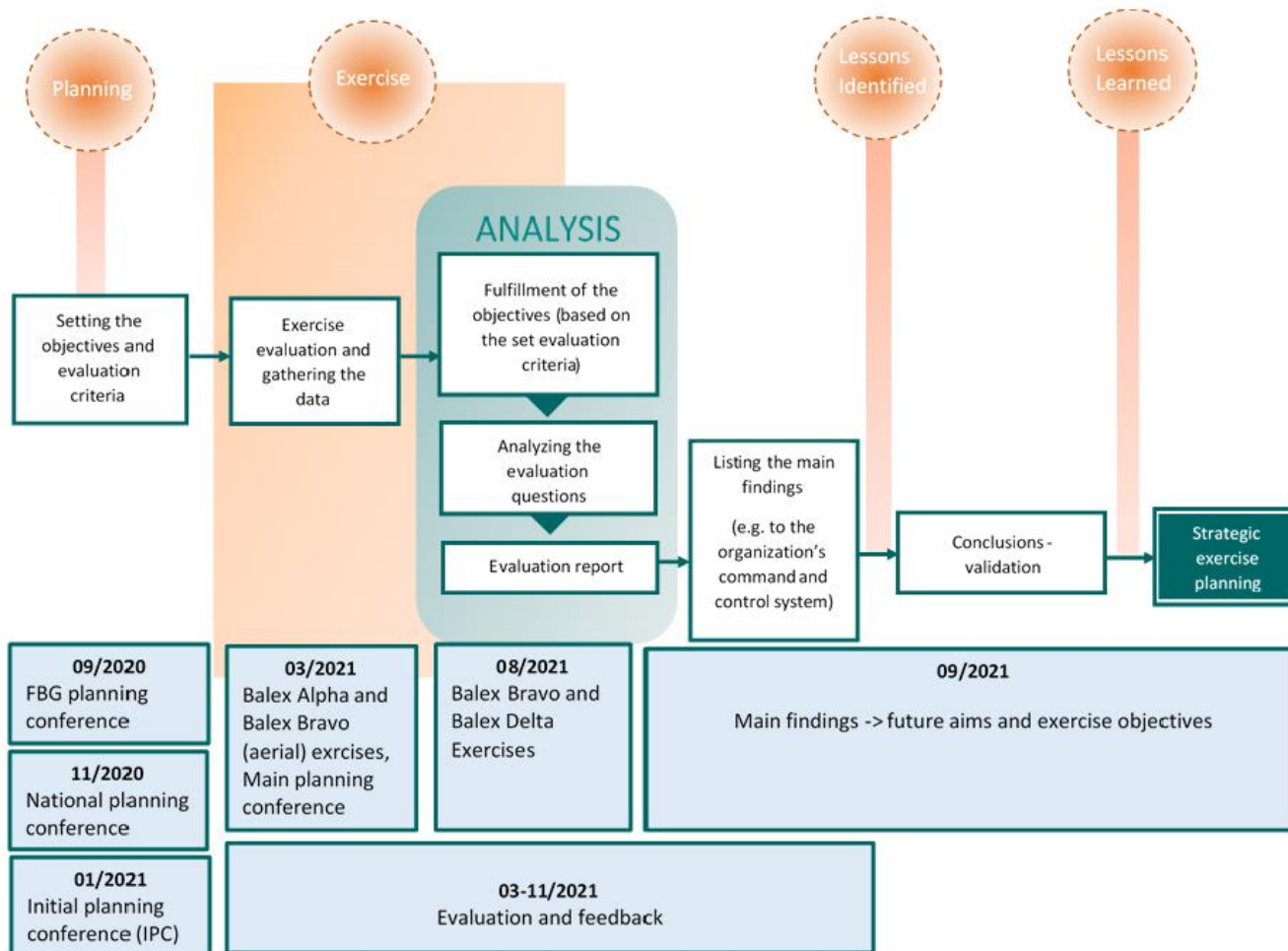


BALEX 2021 EXERCISE

- Balex Alpha tabletop exercise was executed online in 17.2.2021.
- Balex Bravo alerting exercise was executed in two phases:
 - 17.3.2021 (aerial assets);
 - 22.–25.8.2021.
- Balex Delta exercise was executed 24th and 25th August South-West from Kotka, Finland.



BALEX 2021 EXERCISE



EVALUATION (1)

- HELCOM Response Exercise Development and Monitoring Team (HEDMOT) was responsible of the BALEX 2021 exercises' evaluation.
 - HEDMOT team lead was Estonia.
 - HEDMOT team members were Finland, Germany and Latvia, with a supportive role of Sweden.
- OILSAREX project's exercise planning, executing and evaluation concept was tested during BALEX 2021 exercises (Alpha, Bravo, Delta).
- Exercise objectives were divided in three (3) levels:
 - tactical (Balex Delta);
 - operational (Balex Alpha and Delta);
 - strategic (Balex Alpha).



EVALUATION (2)

Evaluation of the BALEX DELTA 2021 exercise is based on the Evaluation Plan of the BALEX 2021 exercises and was carried out in the following three phases:

- Observations during the exercise.
- Lessons identified:
 - hot wash-up;
 - debriefings;
 - FIR;
 - evaluators.
- Lessons learned/best practices.

Evaluation report due date: 30th October 2021.

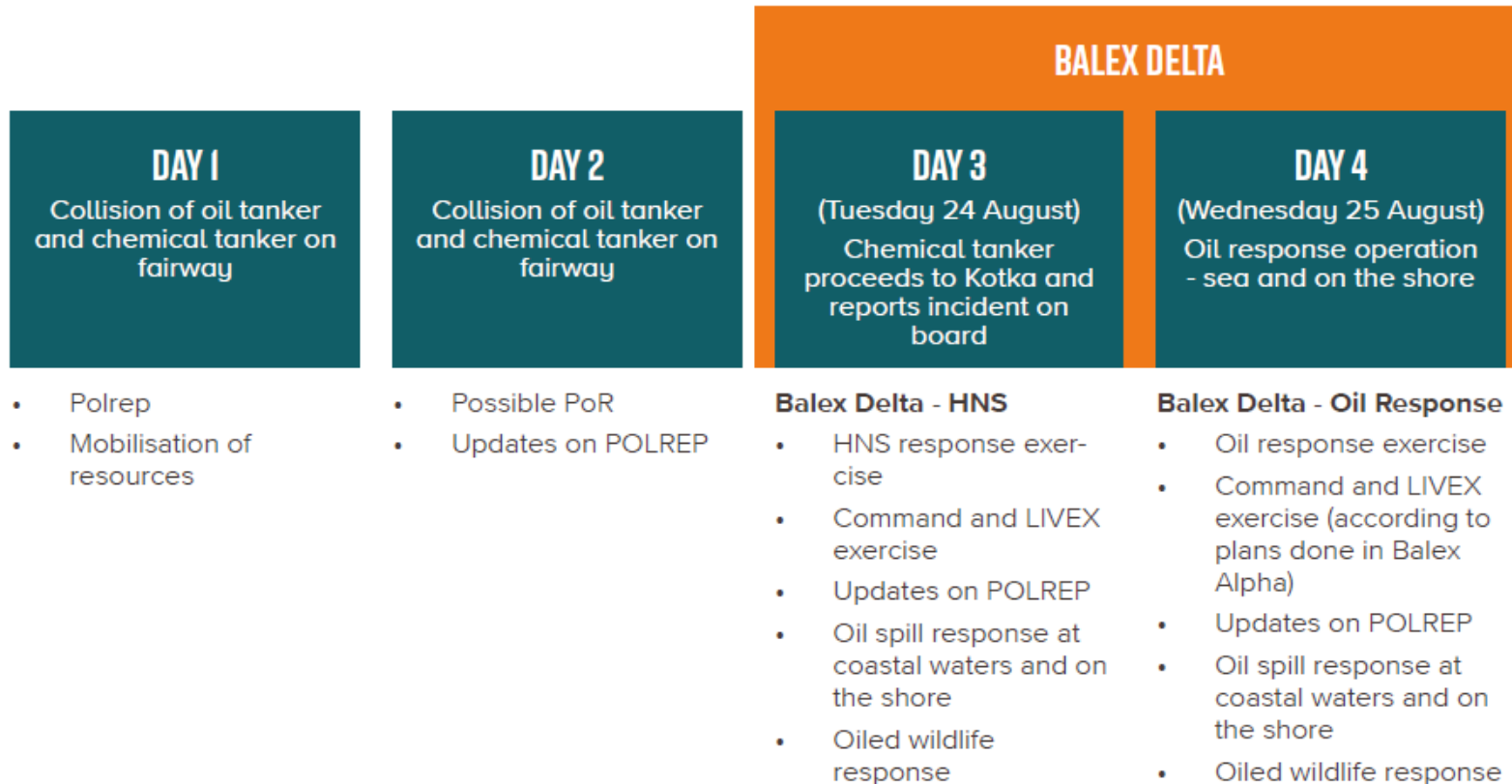


EXERCISE SCENARIO

Collision of an oil tanker and a chemical tanker in a fairway had taken place on coast of South East Finland, near city of Kotka.



BALEX DELTA 2021 SCENARIO



BALEX 2021 OBJECTIVES

HNS exercise objectives (24AUG2021):

- Total performance long-term action.
- National and international cooperation.
- Communication and management.
- Situation picture and awareness.

Oil at sea exercise objectives (25AUG2021):

- Practice co-operation in multinational oil spill response operation.
- Communications in an international scenario with other vessels and regional CC.
- Oil recovery tactics and methods.
- Use of underwater and aerial resources.



EVALUATORS FINDINGS

Fulfilment of objectives:

- All objectives were met.
- Organizers managed to handle the exercise despite the pandemic.
- Exercise was very structured and well planned.
- Some challenges on sharing and maintaining the situation picture and situational awareness.



EVALUATORS FINDINGS

Lessons identified:

- Common situational awareness and situation picture.
- Overall long-term planning.
- EMSA services and co-operation.
- Common platform for meetings and sharing information (HELCOM).
- Focus on evaluation – RCC.
- Connecting shore and sea activities.
- International participation also to shore activities.



EVALUATORS FINDINGS

Lessons learned/best practice:

- Exercise planning and execution during pandemic.
- Rough weather exercise – testing and assessing.
- Connecting EMSA services and equipment.
- Connecting sea and shore exercises together.
- OILSAREX evaluation tool for evaluating exercises very useful and beneficial.



HEDMOT 1st

RECOMMENDATIONS (draft)

1. Consider setting up a HELCOM platform with appropriate technical capabilities to share information both in the planning phase and during operations.
2. Take into account possible weather constraints during the planning phase of the exercise and plan a flexible exercise schedule so that, should the need arise, the marine exercise could be shifted to an alternative day in the timeline of EX.
3. HEDMOT should coordinate the setting of clear long-term objectives for the exercise, which would help the organizing countries to set targets and plan scenarios in line with the risks in the region.
4. There is a need to standardize templates and documents and keep HEDMOT work simple as possible and same thru upcoming years.
5. More holistic way for shore and sea part with stronger co-operation. Involving neighboring countries in shore EX as much as possible.



HEDMOT FINAL REPORT

Due date: 30th of October 2021

The final HEDMOT evaluation report will consist analysed outcome from all Balex 2021 exercises (Alpha, Bravo, Delta).





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Thank you!

Marit Mätik

marit.matik@moi.ee

