OBM Newsletter 02/2018

Project milestones in Period 3:
- Development of Learning materials
- Pilot courses
- Seminar “Mayday Mayday Mayday – Cooperation between Authorities in Emergencies at Sea”, 24.01.2018

About OnBoard-Med -project

The project OnBoard-Med – Harmonization of on Board Medical Treatment, Occupational Safety and Emergency Skills in Baltic Sea Shipping aims at developing more aligned vocational education programmes in the Central Baltic area. The project develops study courses in maritime emergency management, medical treatment and occupational safety. The courses are targeted at maritime (seaman, deck officer, maritime engineer) and nursing (registered nurse, emergency care nurse and public health nurse) education institutions.

During Period 3 there were many events, lot of work was done and activities implemented by all the project partners. Efforts were paid with regard to development of new learning materials, pilot courses were launched to test the learning material in practice, there were meetings held in several locations, visits and seminars organised as well as other forms of cooperation. In November 21-23, the third international project Partner meeting was held in Tallinn. OnBoard-Med project organised a successful thematic seminar “Mayday Mayday Mayday – Cooperation between Authorities in Emergencies at Sea” on 24 January at the TUAS. The project is developing its dynamics!
During period three, the OnBoard-Med project teams have been developing new learning materials for all nine courses. These materials consist of different kind of pre-tasks, questionnaires and materials to be used in class-room teaching or to be self-studied and learned by students before or during the courses. They also include many simulation cases and scenarios for usage in simulation trainings. For instance, one innovative and very practical learning material creation session was co-organised by TUAS and AUAS. There was a video making session held in the Ruiskatu Campus pool on January 11, where the professional lifesaver trainer Sauli Suominen was giving a guidance in action and good tips on how to efficiently rescue a drowning patient from the water, and as ergonomically as possible.

Piloting the material

The pilot courses are still in process and ongoing during spring 2018 in Onboard-Med -project. During this spring period, there were pilot courses on some part of learning material in all partner countries.

In April 2018, there was 3 days simulation practice onboard with ship nurses and security personnel in a passenger ship company in Finland. The main idea in this training was to simulate some scenarios in real and authentic environment onboard. In these pilot scenarios, various course materials and simulation cases were put together and tested. They were related to the following courses: 1) Patient examination and medical equipment onboard, 2) Advanced emergency care, 3) Patient transfer and evacuation, 4) Fast rescue operations, 5) Crowd and crises management and 6) Medical training for mariners.
Participants had different kind of patient scenarios in various environments onboard: the sun deck, cabin, yoga room (the crew’s relaxing place), car deck and swimming pool. It is more realistic to treat the patient in real environment, not only in the simulation class. There were “real” patients and relatives acting in almost every simulation.

In the beginning of May in Tallinn there were simulation sessions and workshops for mariner students from the Estonian Nautical School. These practices were organized together with project partners from TUAS, ÅUAS and the Estonian Nautical School and they are related to the course Medical training for mariners.

Besides, virtual simulation practices have also been organized during this spring. In April, there was a session of Medical communication practices held between students from the Latvian Maritime Academy and the Turku University of Applied Sciences.

Mayday Mayday Mayday – Cooperation between Authorities in Emergencies at Sea – the theme of the seminar held in TUAS on 24 January 2018

OnBoard-Med project organised a successful theme seminar on 24 January at the TUAS Ruiskatu Campus Auditorium. The seminar gathered almost 200 professionals and students who were convening in Ruiskatu to listen viewpoints of different authorities on the preparedness for emergency situations and on cooperation when such a situation occurs. The seminar started with the issue on how the shipping companies and authorities are prepared and constantly practicing for the safety ensuring in emergency situations, issuing and receiving alarm, how the emergency care chain works and finally how the patient is evacuated from the ship. All parties highlighted the importance of good and fluent communication and cooperation between different authorities. Jan Valtanen, operational fleet manager of Tallink Silja, stressed that shipping companies are carefully prepared for all kind of emergencies:

“Shipping is regulated by internationals laws and regulations: e.g. IMO, SOLAS, STCW, ISPS and the EU and national laws. All actions on board are well regulated and anticipated. Compulsory trainings are regulated internationally, but the shipping company provides also more training regularly for its personnel. The personnel on board plays the key role and everyone knows exactly their duty in emergency.”

As a summary, all authorities pointed out the importance of communication. This is very essential that OnBoard-Med project provides creating of new materials and also organising cross-border medical communication practices for nursing and maritime students.
Meeting in Tallinn

In November 21-23, the third project partner meeting was held in Tallinn. The meeting was organized by the project partners – the Turku University of Applied Sciences and the Estonian Nautical School.

On the first day of the partner meeting, the project manager Suvi Kivelä (TUAS) informed the audience about the topical issues of the project, the working group leaders gave presentations on the progress made so far with regard to the development of the study courses and further tasks. The participants of the project took part into introduction to the electronic training environment OPTIMA to be used for the placement of all the study materials developed during the project, also they had a training session on the use of this system.

On the second day, there was a visit to the Reval Nautical School. Then working groups on the study course development continued their work at the premises of the Estonian Nautical School, where they had discussions on the content of the study courses, methods and forms being used, and the plans for the development of pilot courses were approved. Besides, there were also work activities in the Working group on communication, including the review of the implementation of the communication plan.

On the third day, the meeting of the Steering group was held, during which the project manager and working group leaders presented the outcome of work, as well as the planned budget changes were approved.

OnBoard-Med project had a presentation: Mayday Mayday Mayday – Emergencies at Sea. Theory and Simulations, Nordic Maritime Expo in Finland “Navigate 2018”, organised in the Turku Fair and Congress Center on May 16. Project leaflets and lanyards were also shared in the joint stand of Turku University of Applied Sciences and SAMK. The Navigate event was an interesting opportunity to get more information and meet representatives of stakeholders.
Visit to Reval training centre

At the premises of the Reval Merekool School the OnMedBoard partner team spent nearly all day. At first one of the owners of the school Tanel Hinno gave basic information on the school’s activities. For more information you may consult www.reval.ee. The participants had the opportunity to see how to conduct fire extinguishing. There was a ship’s container specially rebuilt for the purposes of such exercises. Especially exciting was the firefighting demonstration in the helicopter. The Reval School has a large pool for different exercises in the water environment. For instance, lifesaving, using immersion suits, life rings, life rafts. There is also the option to make sea waves of different heights, imitate a night situation. There were demonstrations how people can survive if a helicopter crashes into water. The top moment was to see the cooperation the local emergency team with the first aid personnel when an accident of as if a drowning situation happened in the pool.

Cooperation RSU LMA

On 13–14 April 2018, the jointly organised event of the partners in Latvia (RSU and LMA) "Harmonization of on Board Medical Treatment, Occupational Safety and Emergency Skills in Baltic Sea Shipping" (OnBoard-Med project) was held in the RSU Medical Education Technology Centre in Riga, Latvia. Lecturers from the RSU Department of Nursing and Midwifery Baiba Vilīte, Anita Znotiņa and Rafaels Ciekurs together with a group of students from the Latvia Maritime Academy piloted a study course “Advanced Emergency Care”. The students had had the opportunity to use and acquire the study materials (traumas and injuries, wound care, cardiopulmonary resuscitation) on the OPTIMA study platform, and to complete online self-assessment tests in advance. In turn, the necessary skills and competences were acquired in cooperation with the lecturers in simulations of potential cases. All the modern equipment required for the effective and complete acquisition of students’ skills was financed from the OnBoard-Med project. The feedback provided by students via an electronic survey at the end of the pilot course will be important for the improvement and development of the study course.
Coming up:

- Partner meeting in Mariehamn, Åland, Finland, 22.-25.5.2018
- Taking part in Åland Maritime day, 23.5.2018
- Pilot courses will continue throughout the autumn 2018
- Seminar on Occupational Safety in Turku in the end of 2018

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Basic information about Onboard-Med project

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http://onboardmed.turkuamk.fi