

## Pressrelease

During an accident at sea the initial search and rescue hours are vital - minutes saved are lives saved - especially in an underwater environment. There is a lack of national and international coordination of resources within the field of emergency rescue diving in the Baltic Sea region. If an incident occurs response actions will take longer time than necessary and people may lose their lives while waiting to be rescued.

The project DiveSMART Baltic aims to increase the capacity, coordination, cooperation and emergency preparedness of divers within rescue services, authorities and maritime administrations of the Baltics. Familiarity of each other's procedures and equipment will save time. That will lead to an increase of safety for passengers in the Baltic Sea.

The Swedish Coast Guard is lead partner for the project and 18 organizations/companies from 8 countries in the Baltic region are participating. The project is funded by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region, Swedish Institute (SI) and MSB (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency).

In connection to the recurrent Strategy Forum for EU Baltic sea region (<http://www.strategyforum2016.eu/>), the project invites to a press conference including dive demonstration on and outside M/S Patricia at the München brewery in Stockholm.

## Program:

- Short presentation of the project
- Dive demonstration with participants from The Armed Forces, The Greater Stockholm Fire Brigade, the Swedish Coast Guard and the Swedish Police
- Opportunity for questions to the divers
  - Buffet lunch is served Please respond if you want to attend the buffet as well.

When: Wednesday November 9th at 11.45-13.30

Where: The restaurant ship Patricia, outside München brewery, Söder Mälärstrand quay-berth 19

Please notify Johan Genestig, assistant project manager/ dive superintendent at the latest November 8th by telephone 0734483433 or email [johan.genestig@kbv.se](mailto:johan.genestig@kbv.se) .



## **Fact about Project DiveSMART Baltic**

The project is a development of the national project DykSMART that during 2013-2015 analysed the Swedish dive rescues that could do underwater rescue.

The DiveSMART Baltic is a 3 year project that is funded by EU Interreg-program, MSB and SI to develop a better cooperation between the states around the Baltic Sea

The project is divided into four work packages:

WP 1 Administration

*Aim: Control and administrate the project*

WP 2 Database & Capacities

***Aim: National and international coordination of divers and resources in and around the Baltic Sea Region.***

- ***The construction of a database***
- ***The collection of relevant data concerning divers competences and technical resources such as pressure chambers, ROV:s, sonars.***
- ***The identification of common levels of competences***
- ***A formalized plan to keep the database up to date after the project is over.***

WP 3 Training & Exercise

***Aim; the coordination of divers in order to be familiar with each other's procedures if an international emergency situation occurs:***

- ***Common knowledge of each other's operational procedures***
- ***The creation of a mobilization plan***
- ***The selection of common exercise areas***
- ***The performance of common exercises***
- ***The creation of a "Standard Operational Procedures"/guidelines***

WP 4 Research & Development

***Aim: Correct and modern equipment for complicated operations in order to save human lives.***

- ***The construction of transportable modules***
- ***Involvement with researchers from both public and private enterprises.***
- ***Risk elimination due to modern equipment***