



MERPELASTUSSEURA  
SJÖRÄDDNINGSSÄLLSKAPET

# REVIVAL OF VOLUNTARY MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES IN ESTONIA





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# INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013 Voluntary Maritime Rescue VOMARE



## Interreg IV A –programme – VOMARE

- Programme Partners
  - The Finnish Lifeboat Institution in Finland
  - Vihula, Toila, Mustvee, Lohusuu Municipality Estonia



- Funding
  - EU 65 %
  - Finland 30 %
  - Estonia 5 %
  - Budget altogether 990 000EUR

Lead Partner	The Finnish Lifeboat Institution	Finland	ERDF	Nat. Public	Nat. Private	Total
			392 054	301 055		693 109
Partner 2	Municipality of Vihula	Estonia	ERDF	Nat. Public	Nat. Private	Total
			252 717	44 597		297 314
Total Project Budget			644 771	345 652	0	990 423

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## VOMARE Project Summary

- This project will revive voluntary Estonian maritime search and rescue operations in the Eastern part of the Gulf of Finland and create the co-operation between the Finnish and Estonian volunteer maritime search and rescue systems.
- The project will develop the constructive framework and favorable conditions for partnership between the public and the third sectors, it will generate significant public savings and improve the safety and security of citizens.
- The main tasks of the project are to equip and hand over four fully equipped rescue vessels to the pilot voluntary maritime rescue groups in Estonia and to supply similar new vessels to the Finnish Lifeboat Institution.
- Setting up voluntary maritime search and rescue systems and providing the necessary training for the voluntaries are inseparably tied to rescue technique and technology and rescue management.

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## VOMARE Activities

- The project will organize 7 different 2-3 days trainings for the voluntaries (4 in Estonia and 3 in Finland)
  - it will train and educate the local voluntary maritime rescue groups in basic seamanship, navigation, rescue and first aid skills
- At the same time there will be organized the co-operation and practical training with Finnish and Estonian voluntary groups
  - the project will support joint activities of 4 Estonian and 4 Finnish voluntary rescue groups.
- In Estonia it is very important to start activities of the development group of the voluntary maritime rescue system.
  - In this group there will representatives from of the Estonian Border Guard, Rescue Guard and Department of Migration and Border Policy of Ministry of the Interior, also voluntaries and specialists of the Finnish Border Guard and the Finnish Lifeboat Institution.
  - This group will work with different legislation, financing and organizational problems to develop the voluntary maritime and lake rescue activities and organization.

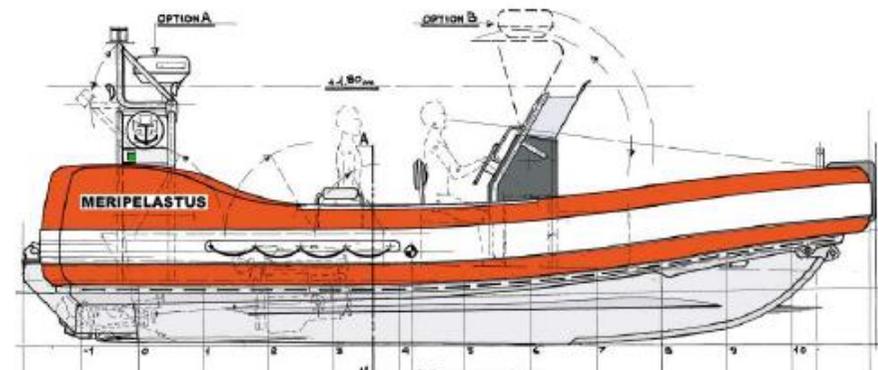
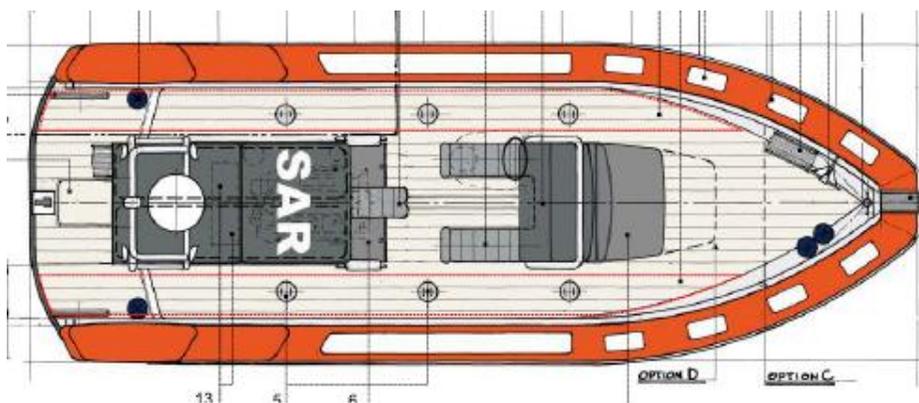


## VOMARE Objectives 1/2

- ❑ The primary objective of the project is to revive voluntary maritime search and rescue operations in Estonia based on the natural desire in individuals to offer their help to one another.
- ❑ This general objective is divided into several more specific aims:
  1. to provide overall familiarity with voluntary maritime search and rescue operations as described in the Geneva Convention, International Co-Operation and the culture of safety and security in the West.
  2. to bring together boaters and sea-spirited people interested in voluntary maritime search and rescue operations within its sphere of activities, and to set up new search and rescue units in Estonia.
  3. to arrange basic training for the new volunteers.

## VOMARE Objectives 2/2

- This general objective is divided into several more specific aims:
  4. to equip and locate four rescue vessels at different Estonian harbors in the Eastern part of the Gulf of Finland, and finally
  5. to train the volunteers for search and rescue missions. The majority of volunteers will be trained in the use of the rescue vessels.



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## VOMARE Results

- The concluded project will standardize the level of maritime safety in the Gulf of Finland over the long term.
- It will directly improve the safety of Finnish and Estonian boaters as they sail in Estonian waters.
- Voluntary maritime search and rescue adds also to the responsibility of boaters for their own safety on waterways and contribute to the costs of running the service. This will save governmental recourses significantly in the future.
- Within the framework of this project, also co-operation in the exchange of experience and material aid between the voluntary maritime search and rescue systems and governmental organizations will deepen and further develop.