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Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-2) n.n

Technical Domain / Task Number 2 …………………………………

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VTSO and VTS manager exchange programme

# Summary

This paper intends to present an example of regional sharing of best practice within SRS and VTS.

## Purpose of the document

The Committee is invited to take note of the document.

# Background

The HARMONIZATION WORKING GROUP (HWG) on Ship Reporting Systems (SRS) and Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) was established in 2007 to enhance the navigational safety in the Baltic area and to give shipping the impression of one harmonized sea area, where mariners should experience the same level of service and procedures within SRS and VTS.

As one of its first achievements the HWG initiated in 2010 an exchange program for VTS Operators (VTSO). This program was later the same year adopted and further promoted by the MARSUNO project.

# Discussion

Operators participating in this exchange should be experienced operators, with V-103 training and a navigational background. VTS managers seeking inspiration and professional sparring are also encouraged to participate in such exchanges.

Any member of the HWG may appoint one or more VTSOs and/or VTS managers from his or her country to visit another VTS – bearing in mind that:

* Only one operator/manager at a time visiting each VTS.
* Although the hosting VTS will not charge the visiting VTSO/manager anything, all costs in connection with the visit (travel, accommodation, food, transport, etc.) are to be paid by the visiting VTSO’s/manager’s organisation.
* Generally, visits should not be exceeding one week.

The observed benefits from the exchange – for both hosting VTS and visiting VTSO –have been:

* Experiences from different procedures (SOPs).
* Ability to identify issues, which may be harmonised.
* Experiences from other types of VTS equipment.
* Possible (re-)use of data collected in ship reports.
* Experiences in various types of VTSO training.

It is the strong belief of the HWG that the exchange of VTSOs is one of the most effective ways of promoting best practice of operational VTS within the Baltic Sea – and at the same time a very economical one.

It is also the belief of the HWG that the exchange of VTS managers will further assist in a harmonization of VTS and SRS in the Baltic.

The above mentioned “observed benefits” all contribute to an increased efficiency of Baltic VTSs, which ultimately will lead to an enhanced navigational safety in the area – as well as easing the burden of the navigator on board vessels navigating in Baltic VTS areas.

# Action requested of the Committee

The members of the Committee are requested to take note of this document and, if deemed valuable, introduce similar exchange programmes in their own region.

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-2)