

# ATSRuAr

## Ambulance Transport and Services in the Rural Areas

The provision of pre-hospital services in northern rural areas can be challenging and problems exist due to long distances, isolation and sparse population. Thus, there is a need for a collaboration between actors in this field, in order to look for a model of “best practice” in northern rural areas concerning access, vehicles, transport, distances, safety, use of technical equipments, competence and skills, economics, cost effectiveness etc. There are also possibilities for enhanced cooperation with primary health care and emergency units in hospitals in order to optimise transport solution and logistics in rural areas. Through this transnational cooperation, the project will focus on the different solutions that exist in the various rural areas in participating countries. The ATSRuAr project will connect people with expert knowledge and experience related to ambulance transport, logistics and transport infrastructure. More specifically, the project aims to bring together experiences and analysis of the logistics of ambulance transport and access to non-scheduled care in rural areas of the NP, and by doing so develop products and competencies as a base for “best practice” solutions in rural areas. Each of the partners has unique experience in this field, which will result in an excellent prospect for positive change for the end users i.e. the patients, rural health care organisations, as well as the Emergency Medical Service.

### Objectives

The objectives of the ATSRuAr project concern the development and promotion of effective and sustainable transport logistics and infrastructure in rural areas, as well as in handling and optimising the “best practice”. This will be done through:

- The promotion of effective and sustainable transport infrastructure in rural areas
- The implementation of a project with a practical focus, meaning that work will be concentrated on finding best practice such as testing new product ideas, training, informational material etc.
- The assembly and integration of a trans-national network within the field of ambulance transportation and services consisting of experts from various emergency fields as well as industrial fields
- The organisation of workshops/conferences that will serve as a catalyst for brainstorming, connecting the networks and communicating the results.

### Project activities

The ATSRuAr project will meet the needs of the NP through:

- Analysis of ambulance transport, logistics and transport infrastructure in the participating countries
- Industrial analysis of the optimal utilisation of transport methods and ambulance staff (i.e. how it is now, how it should be and what are the optimal solutions)

- The development of models and recommendations for prioritisation in terms of transport and decision about which transport method to use (often called triage)
- Improvement of knowledge, practises and education, as well as material for these activities
- Creation of a functional, multinational network to find creative ways to capitalise on ambulance transport through trans-national co-operation
- Development of solutions in the NP region through training and sharing of information
- Promotion and development of technical support in order to minimise transport over long distances (e-EKG, telemedicine)

## Expected results

- Provision of analysis, and comparison of transport logistics and infrastructure in the participating regions
- Identification and establishment of effective transport logistics that can be utilised in rural areas
- Identification of communication in terms of prioritisation and access to non-scheduled care
- Identification of “best practice” and promotion of training and education
- Sharing of knowledge with a relevant audience in the NP region

The added value of the ATSRuAr project for the Northern Periphery region is to bring together a trans-national team of experts to create a unique knowledge base that can be exploited both locally and in other rural environments of the NP regions, such as Greenland, Norway, Finland and the Faroe Islands. The project will disseminate this knowledge to the industry players (in the mentioned countries) through the development of training and educational materials.



## Partners

Lead Partner – FSA University Hospital - Iceland  
 AKMC - The Centre for Emergency and Disaster Medicine, County of Västerbotten  
 - Sweden  
 NHS Western Isles - Scotland

**Measure**  
1.1

**Total Budget**  
680 937

**NPP Award**  
348 127

**Project Period**  
01/05/2005 – 30/11/2007

**Countries Involved**  
Iceland, Scotland, Sweden

**Lead Partner Organisation**  
FSA University Hospital,  
Iceland  
+354 4630100

**Project leader**  
Hildigunnur Svavarsdottir  
hildig@fsa.is