

THE FP5 EUROPEAN PROJECT **SEWING**
"SYSTEM FOR EUROPEAN WATER MONITORING"

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**Report from the FP6 Workshop: Risk – Environment – Humanitarian
Demining, held in Brussels, 25th March 2003**

1. Introduction

The workshop was a continuation of the Environment IST Concertation Meeting held on the previous day (see separate report). Its aim was to discuss three openings of the IST second call, which will be open on 17th June 2003 with closing date of 15th October 2003. In the first call the environmental problems were not concerned.

I participated in this workshop having in mind the application for NoE SIMPLE, submitted in the first call of sub-priority 1.6.3 – Ecosystems and Global Changes. If it fails, it will be possible to reapply in IST priority in the area of environment or risk management.

The agenda was divided into 3 parts;

- General information on FP6
- EU policy context related to Risk Management
- Setting the scene for R&D activities

In all contributions the problem of risk management was evidently dominating. The other two areas were marginal.

2. General information on FP6

Two presentations were done by representatives of DG INFSO, Mr M. Moller and Mr T. McKinley. Both repeated problems well known to people being prepared to participate in FP6. The first one made a detailed presentation of new (IP, NoE, Article 169) and traditional (STREP, CA, SSA) instruments and explained their goals, conditions and limitations. The second explained how to prepare a proposal and how parts A and B should be done according to the chosen instrument. The evaluation criteria were also listed.

I asked how and when the consortium agreement (CA) should be prepared. The advise is to do that before signing the contract. There will be no model CA, only items for including them in the text will be published. The Commission will not interfere into the text of CA, it must be prepared for smooth co-ordination without conflicts among partners.

3. Policy context related to Risk Management

Four papers were presented in this session by representatives of DG INFSO, DG ENV, DG JRC, and the Council Secretariat. The first was not fitting to the problem and concerned the organisation of defence army for European Union (Petersberg tasks). The second: “Science and technology in support to humanitarian security” shown how vulnerable is the modern society for all kinds of non-military threats. JRC in Ispra, IT, has started investigations on that item, including such threats as 200 million containers passing through Europe yearly, high technology used in crime etc. These threats must be sensed and information given.

The next paper, very interesting, described the activity INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Special Information in Europe) and its link to GMES (Global Monitoring of Environmental Security). This should create a NoE. This is a very broad action, involving many specialisations and fields of science and technology. Information, standards, data, infrastructure and European policy must be created.

Geographic Information System (GIS) is one of the most often sited problems during this workshop. Everybody is invited to participate in the discussion: <http://www.inspire.jrc.it> and <http://www.gmes.info>.

The last paper was about “Civil protection and security”. It concerned civil protection against accidents (also by pollution). Mainly the Council decisions concerning this problem were presented.

4. Setting the scene for RTD activities

Three papers were scheduled in this section. After that 30 participants presented a 3 minutes contribution limited to 3 slides, aimed towards presentation of a project, achievement or institution. Among them I presented the proposal of NoE SIMPLE. About 10 participants contacted me to get the slide reprints. The president of the session warned me that the Commission is not yet ready for accepting cross-priority projects. On the other hand, if the proposal is found very good and interesting it can be accepted even in that case.

The three scheduled presentations concerned: GMES and Risk Management (Action Risk Force) with emphasis on floods, fires, landslides, storms and earthquakes; Geo-information in humanitarian organisations with emphasis on integration and general access to geographic information; and the RTD issues for humanitarian demining (this last not interesting for me).

Below I give only titles of projects or names of institutions presented in the 30 short presentations.

- ERITRACK – new sensors and tools in traffic
- SIMMER – Strategic Innovation to Manage Marine Environmental Risk
- DATAMAT – Group for risk management, Italy
- LABSITA – Laboratory for Geographic Information, Italy
- ERMIS – European Risk Management Information System
- ISEM – Knowledge Based System for Environment Risk Management (industrial and natural hazards)
- RAMSES (EoI) – Human Sensor Based Emergencies Management System
- AS-NET – Autonomous Sensor Based Network for Safety of Citizens
- SIMPLE – our NoE
- Amico’s (IP) – Advance Mobile Communication for Crisis Management
- BENIGN (NoE) – Bridging the Environmental Information Gap (for governments)
- Spatial Information processing – GIS location of risk

- OSIRIS (FP5 project) – Operational Solutions for the management of Inundation Risk
- Kongsberg Spacetek AS, NO, has many projects in space observation
- QinetiQ – Decisions for disasters
- Norwegian Computer Centre, Oslo, - IT and mathematical modelling
- IDEATE – Integrated Data System for Europe – civil security in crisis
- Integrated System for Coastal Protection (Walter Huerster)
- GEOWARN – monitoring of volcanoes
- INTELGUARD – Intelligent System for Safeguarding Civil Infrastructure, Greece
- EmerGRID – Environmental Risk and Emergency Management, Spain
- OASIS – Overall Architecture for Security Issues
- CEN – European Committee for Standardisation (can co-operate with projects)
- YUZHNOYE – Ukrainian institute for algorithms for anti-crisis systems
- TNO-TEL , Netherlands, Potential collaboration between European best sites
- Institute of Geoinformatics, Univ. of Muenster, GIS networks
- EUROCLIM – climate change monitoring, done by ESRI Ergonomic and Safety Research Institute, UK
- Helsinki University of Technology – remote sensing from own airplane
- Israel presented the potential in the field
- ANGEL (IP), Spain – Advanced Global System for Post-conflict Land Remediation

As one can see the risk management problems dominated. An interesting question arises: will all these initiatives receive financing?

5. Conclusions

The workshop gave many interesting contacts and good insight on what is going on in IST-environment. The scheduled presentation slides were distributed and are available in my office:

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