



European Civil Protection

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## **FINAL REPORT, JANUARY 2012**

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### 1. General information project

A jointly developed multidisciplinary approach in improving safety in underground facilities is needed. The most important way to achieve an effective, coordinated multidisciplinary approach in case of an event is to train these actors in a realistic setting together, so that they can learn and practice to co-operate, communicate and work together effectively in practice. This communication appears to be the most crucial problem in effectively handling emergencies according to the evaluation of many (complex) emergencies internationally.

To improve the effectiveness of civil protection organizations in underground scenarios we will develop three ETE-programmes (Education-Training-Exercise) for the scenarios road-tunnel, metro-station and underground parking-lot. And actually bring them into practice. These scenarios are meeting current demand in Europe the most, where there are no ETE-programmes yet. We will develop them in order to train and prepare the civil protection organizations and other organizations dealing with the event described per scenario.

The informal European network of Chief Fire Officers of cities with tunnels has formulated their need for European guidelines and Standard Operational Procedures (SOP). This network is invited in the expert group. To this expert group we will invite experts who can advise to the programmes. There will be experts from the field of operators, from emergency services/civil protection organizations, and from public authorities. They will be invited to the workshops.

Name of coordinating beneficiary (CO): Province of Zeeland (Middelburg; Netherlands)

Name of associated beneficiary (AB1) Fire brigade Ghent (Ghent; Belgium)

Name of associated beneficiary (AB2): Studiengesellschaft für unterirdische Verkehrsanlagen e.V. (STUVA) (Köln; Germany)

Name of associated beneficiary (AB3): N.V. Westerscheldetunnel (Goes; Netherlands)

Name of associated beneficiary (AB4): Amberg Infraestructuras S.A., (Madrid; Spain)

Name of associated beneficiary (AB5): General-Inspectorate for Emergencies Situations Bukarest (Bukarest; Romania)

Name of associated beneficiary (AB6): Falck AVD (Best; Netherlands)

## 2. General summary implementation process

This is our last summary of the implementation process, starting from our last progress report.

From March 2011 on the implementation process was running to the deadline of our final conference on 30 June 2011. The virtual reality tool has been tested at our training sessions on 1 and 2 March 2011. The impressions were later discussed at our partner-meeting on 16 and 17 March 2011. This resulted in a request to the developer. All our suggested improvements were taken in the final version.

The developing of the ETE-programme went according to our planning. The input from the training-sessions and the partner-meeting (Steering Committee and workshops) improved our final ETE-programme.

## 3. Project management

The project management was structured with a Project Management Team (PMT) of four functions:

- project manager;
- financial manager;
- secretary steering committee, back-up project manager;
- project practical support, including communication (website).

The PMT coordinated and stimulated the project-activities. The four functions spread over four persons were chosen because this has proven to work well in other projects we did before.

The cooperation between the partners in some cases needed some extra stimulation of the PMT. As in all cooperation-structures there are individuals that make the difference. We were very lucky to have some of these enthusiastic and inspiring partner-representatives in our project.

The PMT was pleased with the cooperation with the Commission during the whole project-period. Our contact-point in Brussels has helped us very well with the two amendments on the original application we had to ask permission for.

## 4. Activities

On 1 and 2 March 2011 four teams and the trainers went to Swiss to be educated and trained. Falck AVD has lead the instruction. These days gave the final input for completing the ETE-programmes. Also the Virtual Reality Tool was presented and used in the training-session, combined with two training-demonstrations.

On 16/17 March 2011 we had our regular partner-meeting with workshops for the partners and experts. These took place in Cologne (Germany).

The PMT arranged the communication via the website [www.upsafety.eu](http://www.upsafety.eu) and coordinated the cooperation between the partners and experts. Monthly the PMT had a meeting to arrange the process, administration and follow up.

The PMT organized a telephone conference-call with the partners involved in developing the ETE-programmes on 18 April 2011. This way we could avoid making too much travel costs.

On 27 May 2011 we had an extra 'train the trainers day' to prepare optimal for our final exercises later in June. This day took place in Best (Netherlands).

On 29 June 2011 we organized a realistic exercise with the scenario parking lot at Warrington Fire in Ghent (Belgium). Here the Belgium team had to coordinate the incident. This exercise was followed by three table-top exercises: road tunnel (team Netherlands), metro station (team Romania), parking lot(team Belgium).

On 30 June 2011 the final conference took place in Terneuzen (Netherlands). Speakers presented different angles of underground safety. The conference was concluded by the presentation of our deliverables: the virtual reality tool and the ETE-programme.

On 9 September 2011 the partners and two related guests had an extra partner-meeting to discuss the possible follow up activities.

All these activities were initially planned except the telephone conference call, the extra train-the-trainers day and the meeting to discuss the follow up. But these turned out to be efficient and effective for the success of the project.

## 5. Deliverables

The ETE-programme is our main deliverable. This was printed to a book we presented during our final conference. One printed version is with this report.

The virtual reality tool has proved to be a supportive part of the ETE-programme.

We can conclude that the ETE-programme is based on good practices and presents a way of organizing improved quality for rescue services, authorities and operators of underground infrastructure.

## 6. Evaluation

The ETE-programme will certainly be added value all over Europe for all organisations that deal with safety-response to crisis-situations in underground infrastructure. In fact the programme is a handbook for other scenarios as well to improve a multidisciplinary approach and to start with education, then training and finally exercising. Too many times we see that large exercises are organized, but always with the same recommendations. It is much more effective to put effort in improving education and training skills first and then organize some exercises, preferably on a small scale.

We can recommend this ETE-programme to be spread to all national contact-points of the Commission in order to inform the national training-centres and policy-makers on crisis-management.

## 7. Follow up

For our project results and follow up activities the lead partner will keep the website in the air for another two years.

The partners have decided to stay in contact as a network and inform each other directly and also by using the website.

Four partners and three related organisations have expressed to be interested in follow up activities. They are now discussing who can be the coordinator of these new initiatives. They have also decided that others can join these new activities. All will attend or organize conferences the coming period. A leaflet will be developed to inform about the ETE-programme and the network, by their own financial means.

All partners can use the virtual reality tool the coming year for two days with the help of the developer.

During the presentation of the project for the Civil Protection Unit EC the project-manager will ask for suggestions to link to the EC Disaster Management Training Network.