

2016



*“Enhancing Volunteer Awareness
and education against Natural
Disasters through E-learning”*

Newsletter #3

(November 2015 – October 2016)



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1. SUMMARY OF THE EVANDE PROJECT UPDATES

The EVANDE project (www.evande.eu) is almost reaching its end. As a result, its products have been either finalized or they are at the final stage of their planning and implementation. The main progress documented from the previous newsletter till the current one (November 2015-October 2016), include the following:

- the finalization of the content and the full technical functionalities of the EVANDE e-learning platform (<http://evande.coursevo.com/>);
- the development of the educational mobile location based games;
- the publication and translation of the technical reports and the best practice

guide on natural disasters and European civil protection policies;

- the organization of the International Volunteers' meeting in Città di Castello in Italy;
- the organization of the European Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in Heraklion, Crete, Greece;
- the organization of the 4th project meeting in Heraklion, Crete, Greece;
- the participation of partners in international meetings and conferences and
- the organization of training and dissemination activities at local and national levels in all project countries.

Further information on the above activities is presented as follows:

2. EVANDE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

2.1. Management meeting, Crete, 14/10/2016

The 4th management meeting of the EVANDE project took place at the headquarters of the coordinating partner, the Natural History Museum of Crete-University of Crete, in Heraklion, Crete, Greece on 14/10/2016. The participants were staff from all partners as well external experts engaged in the project implementation. All participants evaluated the project's progress and developed a detailed plan for the future project actions and the project's follow-up.



2.2. Project publications and leaflet

The research and exchange of experiences among partners concluded with the publication of the following products:

- Four technical reports on [earthquakes](#), [floods](#), [wild fires](#) and [European civil protection policies](#) (in English all project languages).
- A best practice guide on civil protection practices related to earthquakes, floods and wild fires (in English)

The technical reports and the best practice guide on civil protection practices were distributed to the audience of the international events that partners participated in. Moreover, the publications are under distribution in all project countries. All publications (in all project languages) will be available soon in the project's website.



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In addition, the [leaflet of the EVANDE project](#) has been created in English and translated in all project languages. The translated version will be available soon in the project's website.



2.3. Development of e-learning tools

2.3.1. MOLE e-learning platform

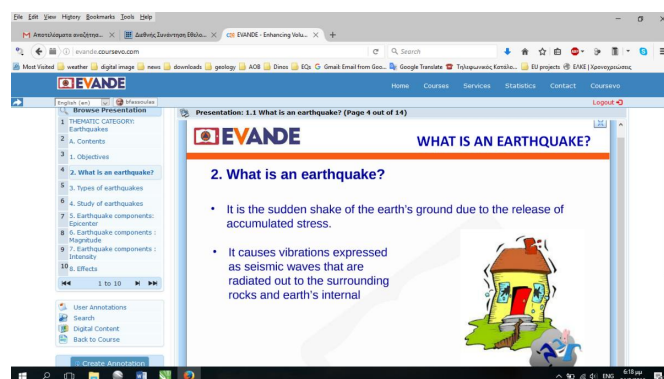
After months of intense work with all project partners and continuous feedback, the Laboratory of Distributed Multimedia Information Systems and Applications of the Technical University of Crete (TUC/MUSIC) leaded the launching of the new enhanced version of the EVANDE e-learning platform (<http://evande.coursevo.com/>).

The finalization of the platform took into account the feedback received during its pilot testing that was conducted with the contribution of external experts and civil protection volunteers in all project countries.

The English version of the platform is in full operation. The translations of the platform and its material is about to finish as well.

The access to the platform is simple and free. The access to the platform is simple and free. It can be done either through the link provided on the project website: www.evande.eu or directly from: <http://evande.coursevo.com/>.

The e-learning courses are free of charge and only a simple registration is necessary. Tutorials and videos explain the registration and learning process. Upon the successful completion of the e-learning courses, the users will be able to receive an automatic certification of attendance.



As the launching of the e-learning platform is based on the blended-learning approach, partners are organizing both physical and virtual trainings targeted to local authorities' staff and civil protection volunteers. The aim of these meetings is to train participants on how to use the platform to cover their training needs. The seminars are free so in case you are interested to participate please contact the project partners.

2.3.2. Development of e-games

The Laboratory of Distributed Multimedia Information Systems and Applications of the Technical University of Crete (TUC/MUSIC) developed a platform (named PlayLearn) for the development and management of learning experiences in mobile location-based games, consisting of: (a) an authoring tool, supporting the creation and management of games, scenario editing, user interface customization and organization of gaming activities, and (b) a mobile application, compatible with most state-of-the-art mobile devices and platforms, supporting the play of games created by the authoring tool. TUC/MUSIC and the Natural History Museum of Crete-University of Crete are

finalizing three educational mobile-based games on this platform. The e-games simulate drills and are planned to take place in the Exhibition Halls of the Natural History Museum of Crete, in Heraklion, Crete, Greece in December 2016. Their aim is to test the knowledge of users (civil protection volunteers and local authorities' staff) on best practices related to the response to natural disasters.

2.4. International Volunteers' Meeting, Italy, 3-4/6/2016

The International Volunteers' Meeting hosted by the project partner Centro Studi Villa Montesca, gathered around 40 participants from Greece, Italy, Spain and Bulgaria in Città di Castello, Italy on 3rd and 4th of June 2016. The aim of the meeting was to offer an opportunity for the exchange of experiences among the civil protection volunteers coming from the EVANDE partner countries and the civil protection experts and local authorities' staff.

The second day of the meeting, the group of volunteers and the EVANDE project staff were offered a guided tour to the Assisi Basilica by

the restorer Mr. Sergio Fusetti. Mr. Fusetti talked about the human losses occurred and the material damages that happened on the Assisi Basilica during the several earthquakes. In addition, he explained how the high-scale restoration efforts were coordinated in order to maintain the historical heritage, unique in the world, which is present in the Basilica of Assisi.

In continuance, the group of participants visited the "Expoemergenze" National Exhibition on Security and Emergency in Bastia Umbra. During the exhibition, an evening session was offered to the visitors, where the civil protection volunteers presented indicative examples of their emergency intervention at local levels.

You can download the minutes of the meeting from [here](#).

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2.5. European Meeting and Workshop on Disaster Risk Mitigation, Greece, 13/10/2016

The European Meeting on Disaster Risk Mitigation was organised on the 13th of October 2016 on the occasion of the celebration of the International Day for Risk Reduction and the closings of the two civil protection projects that the Natural History Museum of Crete is involved in (the EVANDE and the CP-Model).

Several invited speakers such as Mrs V. Silvestri from the National Italian Civil Protection Office, Mr D. Kaliviotis from the Greek General Secretariat for Civil Protection, Mr. G. Xanthopoulos from the Mediterranean Forest Institution of Hellenic Agriculture Organisation "DEMETER", Mr. R.V. Quesada from the Civil Protection Volunteers of the Municipality of Valencia in Spain, the partners from the two organizing projects, many representatives from the regional and local

authorities, civil protection staff and many volunteers attended the meeting.

The speakers and the participants shared their experiences on the civil protection mechanisms in their countries, the implementation of risk mitigation actions as well as the outputs and results from the implementation of EVANDE and CPMODEL projects at their countries.

The speakers' presentations can be found [here](#).

During the afternoon, volunteers and civil protection staff participated in training workshops on the use of EVANDE's e-learning platform as well as on the testing of the e-games that have been developed.

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2.6. Dissemination and training activities per project partner

The dissemination actions that have been organized include the update of the project website www.evande.eu, the management of the facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/evandeproject> and the publication of the current newsletter. Additionally, the partners have been running regular dissemination activities, according to the project's Dissemination Plan.

Furthermore, each partner has been organizing training events on the use of the e-learning platform.

In more details, the dissemination and training activities per project country are described as follows:

2.6.1. Natural History Museum of Crete-University of Crete, Greece

The Natural History Museum of Crete-University of Crete (www.nhmc.uoc.gr) hosted the above-mentioned 4th Management Meeting and the European Meeting and Workshop on Disaster Risk Mitigation in Heraklion, Crete, Greece. In addition, along with the Beigua Park-UNESCO European and Global Geopark, presented the EVANDE project and the proposal to receive a broad use by UNESCO Global Geoparks during the 7th International Congress of UNESCO Geoparks (<http://ggn2016.com/programme/>), held on 27/9/2016.

Furthermore, the Natural History Museum of Crete-University of Greece, as stated above, worked with the Laboratory of Distributed Multimedia Information Systems and

Applications of the Technical University of Crete (TUC/MUSIC) on the production of mobile games.

The dissemination activities undertaken have been wide both at local and national levels for all the above-mentioned events as well as the project publications.



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2.6.2. Laboratory of Distributed Multimedia Information Systems and Applications of the Technical University of Crete, Greece

The Laboratory of Distributed Multimedia Information Systems and Applications of the Technical University of Crete (TUC/MUSIC, <http://www.music.tuc.gr/>) has played a central role in leading the project progress

during the last months. In more specific, it led the development, piloting testing and final operation and translation of the EVANDE e-learning platform as well as the development of the mobile games.



TUC/MUSIC presented at the Eighth International Conference on Mobile, Hybrid, and On-line Learning (eLmL 2016) held on 24-28 April 2016 in Venice, a paper (accepted and published as full paper) about the platform it has developed for the creation of location-based educational mobile games in EVANDE:

Dimitris Makris, Konstantinos Makris, Polyxeni Arapi, Stavros Christodoulakis: "PlayLearn: A Platform for the Development and Management of Learning Experiences in Location-Based Mobile Games".

The paper has been selected as *one of the best papers* of the conference and TUC/MUSIC was invited to submit an extended version for publication in International Journal On Advances in Intelligent Systems, v 9 n 3&4 2016.

TUC/MUSIC is working together with NHMC for the preparation of this extended version of the paper where they will also present the development of the location-based educational mobile games for EVANDE that will be tested at NHMC premises and used in the museum's training activities.

Moreover, during the 4th Management Meeting and the European Meeting and Workshop on Disaster Risk Mitigation in Heraklion, Crete, Greece, TUC/MUSIC with NHMC organized a workshop focused on the training of volunteers and civil protection staff on the use of EVANDE's e-learning platform as well as on the testing of the e-games that have been developed.



Additionally, information on the project results and events have been distributed through the communication channels of the Technical University of Crete reaching a wider audience.

2.6.3. Consorci de la Ribera, Spain

Consorci de la Ribera (<http://manra.org/en/consortium/institution>) has been organizing local dissemination actions in collaboration with its local partners, civil protection experts and volunteers with the aim to distribute the project results to the wider audience at local and national levels.

2.6.4. Beigua Park-UNESCO European and Global Geopark, Italy

During the last months the Beigua Park's staff (www.parcobeigua.it) has developed several activities related to the distribution of the EVANDE translated material to the local volunteers groups and the scheduling of trainings on the use of the e-learning

platform. In addition, as described above, the Beigua Park-UNESCO European and Global Geopark along with the Natural History Museum of Crete-University of Crete disseminated the results of the EVANDE project to the 7th International Congress of UNESCO Geoparks.

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2.6.5. Earthquake Planning & Protection Organization, Greece

In order to raise awareness and enhance disaster preparedness, the Earthquake Planning & Protection Organization (EPPO, www.oasp.gr) has been focused on the EVANDE training initiatives addressed to volunteers, civil protection staff and citizens.

More specifically:

- On 28/9/2016, E.P.P.O. team implemented a training seminar for

volunteers from the West Greece region in order to present the EVANDE project and the e-learning platform. The seminar organized by Volunteer Fire - Rescue Team of Vraxneika area (near the city of Patras). At least 50 participants who were members of volunteer teams of Axaia, Hleia and Aitolokarnania regions and staff from the Civil Protection Department of Axaia Region, participated at the seminar. During the meeting, EPPO team

presented the framework of EVANDE project and demonstrated the e-learning platform. The participants had the opportunity to test the EVANDE platform and to discuss the potential of this tool.

- On 12/10/2016, EPPO implemented a training seminar for the Municipality staff of Chania Region in Crete, in order to inform the participants about the emergency planning and present the EVANDE project and the e-learning platform.
- On 18/11/2016, EPPO held a training seminar for the Municipality staff of

Corfu in order to inform the participants about the emergency planning at workplaces and present the e-learning platform of EVANDE project.



2.6.6. Fondazione Hallgarten Franchetti-Centro Studi Villa Montesca, Italy

The actions developed within the EVANDE project in the European countries involved have been constantly diffused through the institutional channels of Centro Studi Villa Montesca (www.montesca.eu) on local online magazines and through the collaboration networks with the Umbrian municipalities and the civil protection staff and operators.

Centro Studi Villa Montesca was responsible for the organization of the International Volunteers' Meeting as described in details above. The event was widely promoted by Fondazione Villa Montesca at local, regional and upper level.

Furthermore, Centro Studi Villa Montesca promoted EVANDE products on the occasion of a meeting held on 3/11/2016 with the

representatives of the Civil Protection and Emergencies Departments of various Municipalities of the Umbria Region. The purpose was to introduce them to the training course and the EVANDE e-learning platform.



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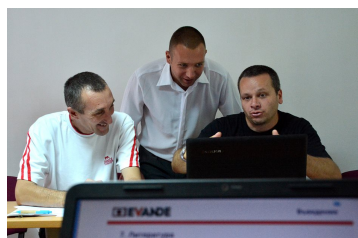
2.6.7. Center for Educational Initiatives, Bulgaria

The Centre of Educational Initiatives (www.cei-bg.org) implemented several dissemination activities that among others included:

- The creation of partnerships with certain Municipalities such as Sofia, Plovdiv, Novi Iskar, Belovo, etc.
- The constant collaboration with the Chief directorate “Fire Safety and Civil Protection” that resulted in the presentation of the EVANDE project on the National Tournament of Young Firefighter’s Day.
- The organization of a common meeting with the firefighters and

instructors from the International Rescue Training Center of NATO in the city of Montana, in Bulgaria.

- The organization of two big demonstration seminars that were attended by more than 20 voluntary formations and local authorities’ staff from the municipalities of Sofia, Plovdiv, Belovo, Novi Iskar, etc.
- The participation in the program of Bulgarian national radio station (during the “prime time”).
- The common work with educational experts from universities, schools and the Ministry of Education in Bulgaria.



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3. CONTACT INFORMATION

Please visit the EVANDE website: www.evande.eu and the facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/evandeproject> in case you wish to contact project partners or take part in the training seminars for civil protection volunteers and local authorities’ staff that are being organized.

Contact information of the coordinating partner (Natural History Museum of Crete-University of Crete): fassoulas@nhmc.uoc.gr, evande@nhmc.uoc.gr