

## **Report on the Community of Users Event and requested DESTRIERO input**

### **Overview of the Community of Users Event**

The first conference organised by the European Commission on the Community of Users for emergency, disaster risk management and crisis management was held in Brussels, Belgium on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Participating at the event from the DESTRIERO project were Ms. Michela Maria Corvino (eGEOS) and Tom Flynn (SAADIAN) and remotely by web link Ms. Francesca Matarese (SESM). Chaired and hosted by Phillipe Quevauviller (European Commission, DG Enterprise) at the BOA Congress, the event brought many experts from first responders, civil protection, researchers, standardisation and policy making together to openly engage and discuss European emergency and crisis management response in the context with European scientific research and policy making. In effect, the event acted as a new springboard for greater community interaction with the experts involved in emergency, disaster, risk and crisis management. Ultimately, the event was established to encourage greater correlation, understanding and transparency between European researchers, projects, responders and policy makers so that better results could be acquired over the coming year for the common good of the European community under the umbrella of the Horizon 2020 framework programme and the tail end of the Seventh Framework programme.

Risks affecting security involve many and various communities covering research, policy and operational actors (i.e. including industry/SMEs, first responders, civil protection units, etc.). While these communities face common features regarding the overall risk management cycle (i.e. from prevention to preparedness, detection, response and recovery), they all have specific needs and practices related to their field operations. In this respect, the proper transfer and implementation of research outputs to them has to be designed in consideration of these specificities. In other words, this diversity of actors requires that dissemination and communication of project results be tailor-made to different sectors and matching policy needs. While policies and research programming (identification of research topics and programme definition) are designed in a concerted way at European Union level to avoid possible duplications and ensuring best possible complementarity, in practice policy coordination in operational terms and the synergies among funded research projects are often lagging behind what could be achieved. This is partly due to a lack of a "Community of Users", which would play the role of establishing links among different actors in sectors dealing with emergency, disaster risk management and crisis management.

During the audience interaction session, Tom Flynn spoke about the importance of the need for a common vocabulary for emergency/disaster risk and crisis management for Europe especially relevant in cross-border crisis situations and clear information and knowledge exchanges. We need to get the fundamentals right and we have not yet achieved this regardless of Commission investment. Separately Tom spoke about the need for greater interoperability at all levels - European policy making, operational level in addition to work that is ongoing at technical platform and semantic levels. Both remarks were

warmly welcomed by the Commission and the participating audiences. Other participants spoke about the overlap of research project results and the lack of transparency. One notable remark was directed towards the need for greater end user involvement and participation in research projects and policy making; it is poignantly clear that it is they who know best what the needs are during an emergency, disaster or a crisis.

Based on the individual presentations given by the congregation of Director Generals involved at different levels and perspectives of 'security', it is clear that policy making is complex. Against this background, it is clear that a high number of research projects have difficulties to bring innovative tools to the market and the lack of "interfacing" mechanism also makes it difficult to efficiently reach the intended goals. To improve this situation, the European Commission explained that it funded various types of projects, including large-scale demonstration projects to help improving the situation. In the field of Disaster Risk and Crisis Management (including CBRN-E, natural and man-made disasters), two large-scale projects have the potential to make a difference and help building a critical mass by federating efforts at EU level: EDEN and DRIVER, along with other projects which have an "interfacing" component. These two demonstration projects (i.e. EDEN for CBRN-E, DRIVER for Crisis Management) will support the creation, development and interplays between projects. EDEN and DRIVER play an important role as catalyst for the gathering information and suggest synergies. The Commission's intention of the Community of Users concept at present is to provide an "umbrella" at European Union level to get an overview (based on publicly available information) of science and policy developments in the relevant sectors.

These projects, along with different policy committees and think-tanks develop networks with user's groups in the Member States which have a great potential but are presently fragmented. In this respect, the need to build a "Community of Users" in the EU based on existing user's communities has been expressed in various fora. Furthermore, in this respect, discussions with different actors took place over the last few months and a mapping of policies and research projects was carried out in the light of features regarding the overall risk management cycle (i.e. from preparedness / prevention, detection / surveillance, response / recovery) and the need to ensure a proper transfer (and implementation) of research outputs to "users".

### **The EDEN Project**

The EDEN project is an end-user driver demonstration project, providing the opportunity to evaluate large scale integration of CBRNe Security and Counter-Terrorism techniques whilst improving cross border cooperation, interoperability and standardisation. The EDEN programme will also provide improved EU-coordination and communication at the national and European level. As a result of the programme, EU-member states and their response agencies will be better equipped by improved security systems integration, interconnectivity and interoperability in countering the CBRNe threat. The EDEN project will leverage the added-value of tools and systems from previous research and development efforts, bringing other innovative solutions to improve CBRNe resilience through their adaptation and integration. It aims also at developing CBRNe research activities in the EU, linking end-

users, scientists and industrial experts. Project results and individual tools from DESTRIERO can be considered for integration into collection of EDEN tool capability. **Web:** <http://www.eden-security-fp7.eu/>

### **The DRIVER project**

DRIVER is a demonstration project focusing on augmenting rather than replacing existing crisis management (CM) capabilities, and will aim at producing a comprehensive, well-balanced and cost-effective Portfolio of Crisis Management tools exploiting high potential RTD work from the last decade, not least in the Seventh and Sixth Framework projects. Members of the Consortium include Thales and Fraunhofer. To achieve its primary goal, the project team will work on three specific actions: developing a pan-European test-bed of virtually connected exercise facilities and crisis laboratories; consequently developing a portfolio of crisis management tools; and creating a common understanding of crisis management across Europe within a community of crisis management practitioners, policy makers, technology suppliers and citizens.

### **New light - Mapping Community of Users**

The main focus of the event centered on the mapping 'Community of User' (CoU) document. It was also presented by Philippe. A most important document, the Commission presently welcomes feedback to help advance the document and indeed the direction of the Commissions effort in the areas addressed. Philippe intends to strengthen the mapping documents in various ways, primarily in ensuring that the policy parts are accurate and in seeking comments to key projects about the classification of "policy challenges vs projects". Philippe is currently in the process of launching a study contract to complement the mapping exercise with relevant projects funded by DG RTD and CNECT, with an aim to get a solid reference text CoU document by Quarter 2, 2015. As Philippe stated at the event, the undertaking is not meant to be an impact assessment but rather an effort to better understand the research-policy-industry-operator architecture that should be built up to maximize the impact of future activities (primarily H2020 projects). In summary, the CoU document presents the reasoning for the development of a Community of Users in Disaster Risk and Crisis Management and the results of the mapping of policies and (FP7 secure societies) research, which is aimed to pave the way for improving future links among Horizon2020, capacity-building, training, industrial developments and policy implementation.

### **DESTRIERO Project - Input requests**

The DESTRIERO consortium is now invited to provide comments /corrections / additions on the parts of the CoU document dealing with your respective areas / projects in the Disaster Risk and Crisis Management sectors before the **15<sup>th</sup> February 2015**. Please note that presently it does not reflect a formal position of the European Commission. In addition, the software tool developers and integrators participating in the DESTRIERO project are invited to contact the EDEN project for consideration of inclusion of their tools into the EDEN suite.

**< End of report - a T9.2 report – Tom Flynn >**