

PSCE Newsletter n°1 / 2012

HEADLINES
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Forum for Public Safety Communication Europe

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POLICY

European Commission evaluates the EU Civil Protection Mechanism



On 10 November 2011, DG ECHO of the European Commission published a draft report evaluating the actions of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism undertaken between 2007 and 2009 in the field of prevention, preparedness and response to disasters. It was based on the study done by external consultants who were tasked to independently evaluate the implementation of the European Commission's actions related to the functioning of and the services delivered by the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC); the operation of the transport provisions for a new Civil Protection Financial Instrument; implementation of "modular approach" and the arrangements tested under the pilot projects as well as of the training programme.

The full report is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/evaluation/2011/CP/1_EN_ACT_part1_v5.pdf

Revision of the EU Civil Protection legislation

On 20 December 2012, the European Commission presented a legislative proposal aiming at strengthening the EU's cooperation in civil protection for more efficient, effective and rapid response to disasters and to enhance prevention and preparedness actions.

The full version of the proposal is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/about/COM_2011_proposal-decision-CPMechanism_en.pdf

The European Commission publishes the Galileo proposal

On 30 November 2011, the European Commission proposed the new framework for the financing and governance of the Galileo programme for the period 2014-2020.

In 2014 Galileo will offer three services:

- The Open Service (free of charge),
- The Public Regulated Service (ensures that key services such as the police and ambulance services, continue to function in moments of crisis), and
- The Search-and-Rescue Service (in times of emergency, for example a sailor lost at sea).

The full version of the proposal is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/satnav/galileo/files/com-2011-814-final_en.pdf

DG SANCO calls for a better coordination with civil protection on serious cross-border threats to health

On 8 December 2011 the European Commission presented a legislative proposal amending existing measures on serious cross-border threats to health. These threats include events caused by communicable diseases, biological agents responsible for non-communicable diseases, and threats of chemical, environmental or unknown origin. More coordination between national health planning and key sectors such as transport, energy and civil protection is foreseen in the directive. For more information on this proposal, please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/preparedness_response/policy/index_en.htm

Cyber security: ICT PSP Work Programme 2012 and the Info Day

On 20 December 2011, the draft Work Programme 2012 of the ICT Policy Support Programme was approved by the CIP ICT Committee. It is now waiting for the formal approval by the European Commission.

An Information Day on the 6th Call for Proposals related to this programme will be held on 3 February 2012 in Brussels.

The registration and the draft agenda is available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm

The draft ICT PSP Work Programme 2012 is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/docs/draft_ict_psp_2012_approved_by_committee.pdf

Workshop on the shared use of radio spectrum resources in Europe

The results of the study “How to promote the shared use of radio spectrum resources in Europe” have been published online. The key findings of this research carried out for the European Commission were initially presented during the workshop on the shared use of radio spectrum resources in Europe that took place on 16 December 2011 in Brussels (mentioned in the last issue of our newsletter).

The full presentation of the study’s results as well as the slides from the workshop are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomm/radio_spectrum/activities/index_en.htm#Workshops/Events

PSCE ACTIVITIES



PSCE signs the Memorandum of Understanding with BAPCO

A part of the PSCE mission is to focus on partnership and cooperation in order to strengthen any message on public safety communication to be sent to the policy makers. Partnerships are formed as Letter of Intent, Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) or Cooperation agreements. In December 2011, PSCE signed the MoU with the British Association of Public Safety Communication Officials (British APCO).

More on all PSCE partnerships at:

<http://www.psc-europe.eu/index.php?id=351>.

The ACRIMAS’ findings to be presented at EC workshop

On 25 January 2012, representatives of PSCE Secretariat attended the EC Workshop “Toward a Demonstration Programme on Crisis and Disaster Management”. The objective was to discuss the roadmap and priorities that should be taken into consideration for a future FP7 European demonstration programme (large scale research project) on crisis and disaster management.

The workshop brought together a wide range of crisis and disaster end-users, security research stakeholders, civil society, first responders, crisis managers, public authorities, academia and industry.

The first session included the presentation from ACRIMAS (Aftermath Crisis Management System-of-systems Demonstration, Phase I) project – to which PSCE participates as a partner.

During the workshop, the “ACRIMAS Theses Paper” was circulated among the audience highlighting the main recommendations of the project. According to this document, a Demonstration Programme for Crisis management should create space for experimentation and for iterative improvement of concepts, systems and procedures by:

- Providing end-users the opportunity to develop novel approaches in terms of concepts, procedures and to test them in a safe environment.
- Harvesting the benefits of promising technologies and other solutions by using experiments to identify their optimal operational use.

The ACRIMAS pilot case, illustrating the methodological approach in a small scale demonstration, will take place on 12 and 13 March 2012 at the JRC in Ispra, Italy.

More information on ACRIMAS is available at: www.acrimas.eu

All the presentations are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=5736&lang=en&tpa_id=168

PSCE welcomes new institutional member

This month, the Main School of Fire Service (SGSP) joined PSCE as its institutional member. SGSP is the only one in Poland and one of the few state technical universities in the world, which trains fire officers and educates specialists in fire safety and civil safety engineering.

More information is available at: <http://www.sgsp.edu.pl/>

Presentation of the MONET project

The MONET project (Mechanisms for Optimization of hybrid ad-hoc networks and satellite NETworks) is a Collaborative Project financed under the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) theme of the Cooperation Programme of the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission.

It has established as high-level objectives the following:

- To develop a complete understanding of the problems and complexity underlying the highly dynamic and heterogeneous environment of a hybrid MANET-Satellite network;
- To optimize the use of satellite access links in a MANET through mechanisms that propose and implement changes in topology and resources used;
- To provide seamless broadband services to everyone at any time in a hybrid MANET-satellite network thanks to optimized algorithms and network mechanisms;
- To overcome performance bottlenecks and roadblocks in hybrid MANET-Satellite networks to enable a more pervasive and optimized network structure;

These objectives will be fulfilled during project execution by researching, developing and validating solutions focusing on the link and network layers of the composite network. The accomplishment of the overall MONET proposed objectives will bring noteworthy added value to specific application scenarios (in particular, everyday operations of large field teams such as forest monitoring services, environmental service teams, community services and Public Safety such as providing emergency communications during/after disasters; forest fires, floods and earthquakes and coastal monitoring).

Several analytical studies on how to improve aspects of the network as a whole (e.g. load balancing over gateways and relative and guaranteed QoS), of the satellite segment (e.g.

connection admission control and link handover procedures) and of the MANET segment (e.g. energy aware or satlink aware routing) were undertaken. New technological solutions to the issues of managing hybrid networks in a decentralized manner and optimizing resource usage without compromising mobility or bandwidth can be foreseen to arise from these studies. In particular, MONET will contribute with new routing metrics for MANETs taking into consideration geographical information (both positions and velocities as potential indicators of link availability for example), nodes energy information (both residual energy and batteries consumption rates) and satellite link data (such as contracted service type, service cost or bandwidth) and new algorithms for Satellite Call Admission Control and Bandwidth on Demand allocation procedures which aim at improving network efficiency and could provide effective pre-emption capabilities for high priority traffic. Furthermore, the project intends to contribute to the state of the art through providing support for PTT calls in each MANET cluster and point-2-point calls over the complete system (e.g. between commanders in the field and HQs).

The project results will enable the support of a wider variety of edge networks (MANET) providing new outlooks on scalability and the study of the combination of ad-hoc management capabilities with satellite may lead to new views on the "best effort" paradigm driving the original design of the internet. By developing solutions to the issue of resource usage in composite networks with broad applications the consortium and other European players through the foreseen dissemination mechanisms and advisory board will reinforce their position and thus Europe's on the international scene.

The MONET project will hold a dissemination event during the next PSCE conference taking place on 30-31 May 2012 in Helsinki. More information on the MONET project can be found at its website at <http://www.ict-monet.eu>.

Next PSCE Conference

The first 2012 PSCE conference will be held in Finland on 30 and 31 May 2012. Being one of the PSCE Institutional Members, the Laurea University of Applied Sciences will assist with the organisation of the event so as to engage local end-users as well as representatives from the Ministry of Interior. To date, the following thematic highlights were chosen for this event:

- Authorities' field command models
- Mission critical data user requirement for broadband

PSCE conferences traditionally contain presentations of top-level policymakers, academic researchers, industrial experts and other interested stakeholders addressing the new developments in the area of public safety communications. The event will also feature collaborative session between three PSCE committees. During this conference, elections will be held in the three committees and in the General Assembly.

There are a number of unique sponsorship and exhibition opportunities available at PSCE for interested companies.

For more information please contact secretariat@psc-europe.eu

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