

## N. 36 Press Releases

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Final Version of 30/June/2022

Deliverable Number D.2.2.2.



ALAN TURING INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF BUDAPEST



<b>Project Acronym</b>	E-CITIJENS
<b>Project ID Number</b>	10044361
<b>Project Title</b>	Civil Protection Emergency DSS based on CITizen Journalism to ENhance Safety of Adriatic Basin
<b>Priority Axis</b>	2
<b>Specific objective</b>	2.2
<b>Work Package Number</b>	2
<b>Work Package Title</b>	Communication
<b>Activity Number</b>	2.2
<b>Activity Title</b>	Media relation, printed promotion documents and publications
<b>Partner in Charge</b>	PP7 Adriatic Ionian Euroregion
<b>Partners involved</b>	ALL
<b>Status</b>	Final
<b>Distribution</b>	Public

## **E-CITIJENS project Meeting in Bologna (IT) to take place tomorrow 19 December 2019.**

The E-CITIJENS consortium is gathering again, this time in Bologna (Italy) on 19 November 2019, to put forward the creation of an Emergency Decision Support System (EDSS) Platform that will be tested and used by the Italian and Croatian Civil Protection operational rooms and by a cross-border Functional Centre. E-CITIJENS is an acronym of “Civil Protection Emergency DSS based on CITizen Journalism to ENhance Safety of the Adriatic Basin”. The project is financed by the European Regional Development Fund under the Italy-Croatia CBC Programme 2014/2020, Priority Axis “Safety and Resilience”. The E-CITIJENS social media based EDSS was recently presented at the TIEMS Annual Conference in Goyang (South Korea) with a paper by the University of Split.

The E-CITIJENS Project Meeting is co-organised by the Molise Region, coordinator of the initiative, and the University of Bologna, which will host it, and is scheduled to take place between 2:00 and 4:00 pm. The meeting will see the participation of all project partners and particularly of the scientific and technological developers of the platform: the Civil Protection Department of the Molise Region, the University of Split, EuRelations EEIG, the University of Bologna and the Zadar Agency. With this activity the consortium boosts the creation of a "social media based" Civil Protection Emergency system based on work done previously with a view of comparing and reclassifying current risk scenarios, civil protection management legislations and social media and crowdsourcing network application across the two cooperation countries.

The scientific group will discuss details of the hardware and software technical and applicative specifications with particular focus on the analysis and aggregation of different real time data stemming from multiple data sources including emergency services' in/output video interfaces as well as probes, sensors and those provided by citizens through social media.

Such data will be made available to both Italian and Croatian Civil Protection and Coast Guard chains of command and operational units as a single and coherent risk scenario, thereby effectively improving the capacity of civil protection structures to predict and manage natural and man-made disasters. By including information stemming from the “social media” and using them to assist civil protection risk prevention and management measures, the E-CITIJENS project involves citizens as “active sensors” of emergencies. Citizens are put at the core of a structured awareness raising campaign, consisting of a set of diversified training and informative actions on how to cooperate with civil protection as well as on the proper behaviour and use of social media during hazardous occurrences.

## **Bologna - Project Meeting dell'iniziativa E-CITIJENS, verso la creazione di una piattaforma a supporto della catena decisionale emergenziale italo-croata.**

Il consorzio E-CITIJENS si riunirà di nuovo domani, questa volta a Bologna, per discutere la creazione di una piattaforma a supporto della catena decisionale in caso di emergenze (Emergency Decision Support System), che sarà testata e utilizzata nelle sale operative della Protezione civile italiane e croate coinvolte nel progetto e in Centro Funzionale transfrontaliero. E-CITIJENS è l'acronimo di "Protezione civile di emergenza DSS basato sul giornalismo CITizen per migliorare la sicurezza del bacino adriatico". Il progetto è finanziato dal Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale nell'ambito del Programma CBC Italia-Croazia, 2014/2020, Asse Prioritario "Sicurezza e Resilienza". L'EDSS è stato recentemente presentato a Goyang (Corea del Sud), durante la Conferenza Annuale della Società Internazionale per la Gestione delle Emergenze (TIEMS), con un articolo scientifico elaborato dall'Università di Spalato, partner del progetto.

L'incontro di domani è organizzato dalla Regione Molise, coordinatrice dell'iniziativa, e dall'Università di Bologna, che lo ospiterà presso le sue sedi. L'evento è previsto tra le 14:00 e le 16:00. Parteciperanno tutti i partner del progetto e in particolare degli sviluppatori scientifici e tecnologici della piattaforma: il Dipartimento della Protezione Civile della Regione Molise, l'Università di Spalato, il GEIE EuRelations, l'Università di Bologna e l'Agenzia di Zara. Con questa attività il consorzio promuove la creazione di un sistema di gestione delle emergenze "basato sui social media". Tale sistema prende spunto dai risultati dell'attività di ricerca coordinata dalla Università di Bologna che ha portato alla riclassificazione degli attuali scenari di rischio, delle normative in materia di protezione civile e dell'uso dei social media e del crowdsourcing durante le emergenze nei due paesi di cooperazione. Il gruppo scientifico discuterà i dettagli delle specifiche tecniche e applicative, hardware e software della piattaforma, ponendo particolare attenzione all'analisi e all'aggregazione in tempo reale di dati derivanti da più fonti, tra cui le interfacce video dei servizi di emergenza, le sonde e i sensori presenti sui territori e le informazioni fornite dai cittadini attraverso i social media. Tali dati, una volta analizzati e aggregati dalla piattaforma, saranno resi disponibili alle catene di comando e alle unità operative della Protezione Civile italiane e croate, che potranno ricostruire uno scenario di rischio unico e coerente, migliorando così le capacità di prevedere e gestire le emergenze.

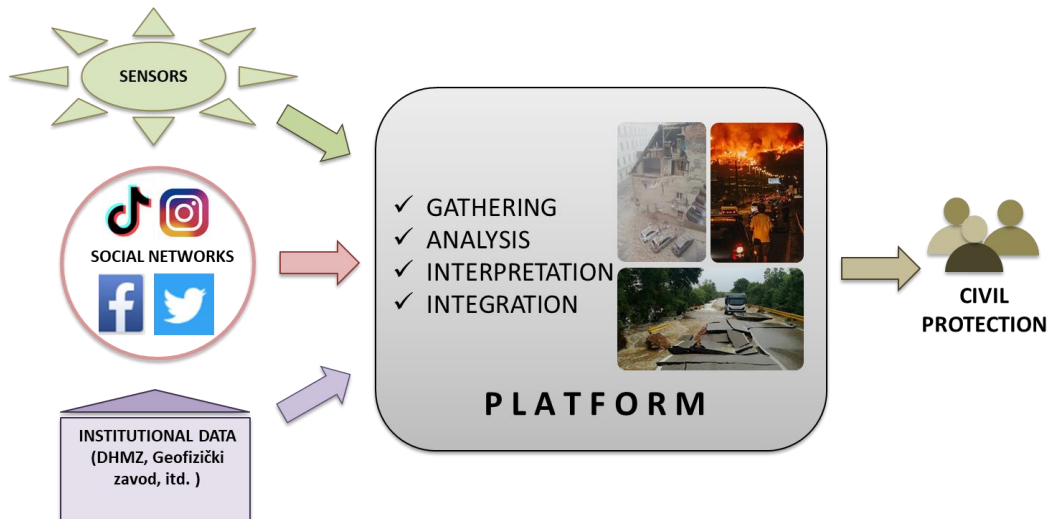
Includendo informazioni raccolte dai "social media" e utilizzandole per assistere la protezione civile nella prevenzione e gestione dei rischi, il progetto E-CITIJENS coinvolge i cittadini come "sensori attivi" delle emergenze. I cittadini sono al centro di una campagna di sensibilizzazione strutturata, che consiste in una serie di azioni formative e informative su come cooperare con la protezione civile, nonché sull'uso corretto dei social media durante eventi calamitosi.



Through the E-Citijens project, co-financed by the cross-border cooperation program Interreg Italy-Croatia, Split-Dalmatia County continues to strengthen its resilience to natural and man-made disasters. This represents one of many important activities of the Split-Dalmatia County, for the benefit of all its citizens. The total value of the E-Citijens project is € 2,846,100.00, and the funds that may belong to our county amount to € 316,110.00. In total ten partners from the Republic of Croatia and Italy are participating in the project.

The aim of this project is to increase the safety of the Croatian and Italian parts of the Adriatic from natural and man-made disasters. The project seeks to develop a cross-border platform that uses artificial intelligence to integrate crisis management data coming from multiple sources, including those provided by citizens through social media. The most challenging part during disasters or emergencies is certainly the active involvement of citizens through communication with civil protection services. As part of the "E-CITIJENS" project, Croatian and Italian scientists, the local community and companies came together to find a way to effectively use social networks in such situations. Communication between the population and emergency services is two-way and citizens are expected to be responsible when sharing information on social networks. As part of the "E-CITIJENS" project, an IT platform has been designed through which citizens will be directly involved in campaigns to raise awareness about risks and the use of social networks during disasters and emergencies. The platform will help Croatian and Italian civil protection workers to reduce the risks of natural and other disasters by using tools based on a systematic search of social networks in search of useful information in the form of posts and / or photos. In addition to social media data, the platform will collect information through sensors and relevant organizations that will be put in relation to social media information to obtain relevant parameters about a specific event. Although the social media search solution offered by the project is based on "smart algorithms", the final assessment of the reliability of information on social networks is still left to civil protection workers.

Conceptual model of the E-CITIJENS platform:



With the E-CITIJENS project, County has, among other things, provided funds for the procurement and equipping of the multipurpose vessel Sv. Jeronim (fast rubber speedboat; SAR - Search And Rescue) which will primarily be used by the Specialist Civil Protection Unit of the Split-Dalmatia County for protection and rescue from water. If necessary, it will be used by other emergency services from our area.

Sv. Jeronim (vessel RM-750) was purposely made in the Republic of Croatia by the domestic manufacturer Ris Marine d.o.o. The boat is 7.5 meters long, 3 meters wide and has an outboard engine of 250 hp. The total value of the motor boat is 380,000.00kn and with additional rescue equipment mounted on the boat the price climbs over 435.000kn

The specialist civil protection unit of the Split-Dalmatia County for water rescue was founded in 2011 by diving clubs from the county (Špinut, HVIDR, Crveno jezero, Saldun and Calypso) and has a full staff of 36 members. Its headquarters are RK Špinut, which also houses a warehouse for equipment. As a reserve unit, it participates in cases of disaster or major accidents that exceed the capabilities of regular forces such as firefighters, state intervention units or the HGSS and is an essential part of the overall civil protection force. As such, the unit is constantly conducting training for the most demanding rescue scenarios and actions.



## E-CITIJENS Web Meeting held to discuss how to adapt to the Covid-19 crisis.

On 29 May 2020, amid the Covid-19 crisis, the E-CITIJENS Consortium met online to discuss how the project could help face the pandemic and possible future crises of the same kind.

The E-CITIJENS Partners discussed how to include health risks in the EDSS Platform, an ICT infrastructure that collects emergency data from social media and from institutional sources in order to support the decision-making during crises. Together with floods, forest fires and earthquakes, a health-related risk taxonomy will hence be included in the semantics of the EDSS platform as extracted from social media messages and institutional sources.

The Covid-19 crisis has highlighted how critical the link between social media and collaborative technologies is. Using social media, citizens can provide Civil Protection with timely, geographic-based information. This information can be used by decision-makers to better prepare for emergency management, response planning as well as field resources deployment. In turn, Civil Protection gets to monitor public interaction while providing updated and accurate information to citizens.

The new undertaking will also be reflected in the external communication through the project’s social media profiles and website as well as through an ad hoc Awareness Raising Campaign that the Consortium will implement shortly.



## First online Work Café of the E-CITIJENS project to take place on 24 November

On 24 November 2020 the Veneto Region, as partner of the E-CITIJENS project, will organise the first online Work Café, an event that is part of a wider action called “Citizens Awareness Raising Campaign” and aimed at stimulating citizens’ active role during emergencies.

The Work Café will see the participation of many specialists including Civil Protection personnel, environmental protection experts, ICT experts, members of academia as well as emergency management specialists. The debate will focus on discussing the most effective technological tools to collect information on critical events and natural risks and will be an occasion for exchanging good practices from similar projects with a view to helping the fine-tuning of the E-CITIJENS EDSS platform.

The “Civil Protection Emergency DSS based on CITIzen Journalism to ENhance Safety of Adriatic Basin” (E-CITIJENS) project is implemented and financed under the 2014-2020 Italy-Croatia Cross Border Cooperation Programme with the objective of increasing safety and emergency management of anthropic and natural risks (fires, earthquakes, landslides, floods) in the Adriatic area by means of cross-border cooperation. One of the specific goals of the project is to make Italian and Croatian citizens aware of their role of “active sensors” of emergencies when reporting critical events through the social media (e.g. Twitter).

The project is developing and implementing an IT platform that will allow to collect reports provided by citizens through the social media thereby rapidly providing information useful to an optimal management of occurring calamitous events.

The project also takes into account the broader framework of cross-border cooperation during the Covid-19 pandemic, which has profoundly changed the management of health-related risks worldwide, highlighting the relevance of social media and collaborative technologies. Information provided through the social media, together with that derived from other measurement tools present on the territory, can be used by those responsible for emergency management to better decide the organisation, planning and distribution of resources as needed.





## E-CITIJENS Citizens Awareness Raising Campaign takes another step forward.

The first E-CITIJENS online Work Café organised by the Veneto Region Civil Protection Department within the framework of the **E-CITIJENS Citizens Awareness Campaign** project was successfully held on Tuesday 24 November 2020.

The event saw the participation of different specialists, including Civil Protection personnel, IT specialists and emergency management experts, who discussed the role and effectiveness of social media based technological tools to collect information on critical events and natural risks and compared good practices from similar regional projects with a view to helping the fine-tuning of the E-CITIJENS EDSS platform. The specialists highlighted the possibility to integrate the platform with data collected under other regional projects or by the local weather radar infrastructure as well as to include other categories of risks (e.g. snow in the plains, icy fog) in the alert management of the E-CITIJENS platform. Consensus was found as attains the importance of empowering citizens into providing “objective” reports in order to facilitate Civil Protection bodies in the management of significant data. Also, participants agreed upon the need to focus communication on the importance of referring to official sources/channels of information, even in the context of small civil protection emergencies.

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The project is developing and implementing an IT platform that will allow to collect reports provided by citizens through the social media thereby rapidly providing information useful to an optimal management of occurring calamitous events.

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**E-CITIJENS Technical Meeting to boost the creation of a cross-border EDSS Platform.**

On 1 December 2020, the technical partners of the E-CITIJENS project met online in order to review the steps taken so far in the creation of a cross-border EDSS Platform capable of cataloging different sources of data about emergencies and provide Civil Protections with an adequate and effective management tool. Partners discussed details of the taxonomy that will help include text messages issued by citizens through their social media profiles into the platform.

## E-CITIJENS 2nd Project and Steering Committee Meeting to be held on 11 December.

The E-CITIJENS 2nd Project and Steering Committee Meeting was held online on Friday 11 December between 9:30 and 13:00.

Partners reviewed project progress and discussed the activities to be carried out in the future. The Consortium is now fully engaged with the creation of a cross-border **Emergency Decision Support System** (EDSS) based on different sources of information, including citizens' text messages provided via social media channels. The system's hardware and software specifications are in their way to be defined by the scientific partners of the project, **University of Bologna** and **University of Split**. In particular, the two universities are creating an emergency **taxonomy** including keywords and tags classified into four specific risk categories: earthquakes, floods, forest fires and, following the Covid-19 crisis, health-related issues. The terminology will be adapted and translated to each project language (Italian and Croatian) and for a wider, cross-border dissemination in English as well.

Meanwhile the technical partners (**Molise Region**, project coordinator, **Veneto Region** and **EuRelations EEIG**) are developing a **platform** that, through a mathematical model, will collect and match these data with institutionally sourced ones, and that will later be tested and assessed through pilot activities coordinated by the Veneto Region. Afterwards, the **Split and Dalmatia County** will coordinate the release of the EDSS Platform and will make sure to transfer the related knowledge to stakeholders via **capacity building** actions. The goal of these actions will be to elaborate a cross-border **Emergency Services Regulatory Framework** and develop both an Adoption Plan of the EDSS Platform and related legislation.

Along with technical and scientific undertakings, the Consortium is also developing a **Citizenship Awareness Campaign**, coordinated by the **Adriatic Ionian Euroregion** and implemented in collaboration with a working group involving the Split-Dalmatia County, the Veneto Region, the **Municipality of Pescara** and the **Agency for Rural Development of Zadar County** (AGGRA). The Campaign aims at activating selected subgroups of population as "active sensors" of emergencies and improving their knowledge of risks with a view to influencing their attitudes and behaviour during hazardous occurrences. The Campaign will thus stimulate the participation of Italian and Croatian citizens in risk prevention, monitoring and crisis management, using the information that they make public through the social media (citizen journalism). The Campaign foresees the organization of Work Cafés and Info Days as well as Pilot Deployments across the territories involved in the project.



**The Veneto Region organises a series of Info Days to make the E-CITIJENS known to local high-school students.**

The Veneto Region is organising a series of online meetings targeting local high-school students as part of the E-CITIJENS “Citizens Awareness Raising Campaign”. The Info Days are aimed at enhancing students’ knowledge about the role and activities of emergency structures in Veneto as well as at stimulating their active participation during occurrences, especially in relation to the proper use of social media.

The meetings, that will take place online, will begin on 19 February 2021 and will continue throughout 2021, involving several groups of high-school students from Veneto.

The Veneto Region has organised livestreams from regional and local civil protection operations room (regional Civil Protection, 115 - firefight service and 118 - emergency rooms), through which students will get to understand how civil protection structures manage occurring emergencies, virtually tour the rooms and their equipment and machineries.

Also, thanks to the participation of social media communication experts, they will learn the responsible use of social media during emergencies and will be introduced to the E-CITIJENS Emergency Decision Support System (EDSS) Platform, which represents one of the main outputs of the project.



### **City of Dubrovnik is organizing a Work Caffe with participation of Civil Protection operators and local community representatives**

City of Dubrovnik is organising a Work Caffe with participation of Civil protection services together with local community representative, making them all familiar with E-CITIJENS project activities. Online meeting will be held a week after Easter.

Namely, the City of Dubrovnik has issued a New disaster risk assessment, and on this occasion, representatives of civil protection and emergency services of the City of Dubrovnik will meet and comment on the same. Specifically, the Risk assessment adopted at the last session of the City Council also included the risk of an epidemic/ coronavirus as a new risk.

Also, during the occasion of this Work Caffe civil protection representatives will discuss current situation with civil protection forces organization, strengths and weaknesses of the system.



**City of Dubrovnik will organize first of few Info Days to make the E-CITIJENS known to local elementary-school students.**

City of Dubrovnik is organising first of few Info Days targeting local elementary-school students as part of the E-CITIJENS “Citizens Awareness Raising Campaign”. The Info Days are aimed at enhancing students’ knowledge about the role and activities of emergency structures in City of Dubrovnik as well as at stimulating their active participation during emergency situation, especially in relation to the proper behaviour in such occasions and use of social media.

The meetings, that will take place live, hopefully in the middle of April 2021, when the epidemic situation will be better in City of Dubrovnik and elementary schools will re-open.

## An information day on disaster risk reduction was held at the Elementary School Montovjerna

Info day in the field of disaster risk reduction was held on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2021, at the Montovjerna Elementary School with third grade students. As part of the European project E-CITIJENS, educational presentations within info day were held by the head of the Civil Protection Service Dubrovnik mrs. Ana Miličić.

Within the presentation "Reducing the risk of natural disasters and the correct response / action in the event of an earthquake", mrs. Ana Miličić gave an insight on the General Rules of Conduct for Children in the Event of Earthquakes and introduced them to the rules of conduct in certain emergencies through conversation. The form and content of presentation are adapted to the age of children, but also to the needs of school and preschool institutions. In accordance with the project activities within the E-CITIJENS project related to the education of the local population, special emphasis was placed on the topic of earthquakes, how to increase resilience and instructions on what to do before, during and after earthquakes to increase safety.

On this occasion children will get informed about project E-CITIJENS and projects activities, especially the one that is dedicated to responsible use of social media in case of natural catastrophes and similar occurrences together with Emergency Decision Support System (EDSS) platform, which represents one of the main project outputs.

## Work Café of the E-CITIJENS project to take place on 14 June

On 14 June 2021. in Split, Croatia, first local Work Café organized by Split-Dalmatia County in collaboration with Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy will present the project activities to the representatives of Civil Protection units, fire-fighters and different specialized rescue units involved as first responders in case of natural or man-made disasters.

Experts from the project partners, the Split-Dalmatia County and the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy in Split, will briefly present the project objectives, activities, results so far and the next steps we need to take.

This event is part of a wider action called “Citizens Awareness Raising Campaign” and aimed at stimulating citizens’ active role during emergencies.

The aim of E-Citijens project is to increase the safety of the Croatian and Italian parts of the Adriatic from natural and anthropic risks. The project seeks to develop a cross-border EDSS platform that uses artificial intelligence to integrate crisis management data coming from multiple sources, including those provided by citizens through social media. Emphasis of the project is based on citizen journalism because communication between the population and emergency services is two-way and citizens are expected to be responsible when sharing information on social networks. Although the social media search solution offered by the project is based on “smart algorithms”, the final assessment of the reliability of information on social networks is still left to civil protection workers.

The project also takes into account the broader framework of cross-border cooperation during the Covid-19 pandemic, which has profoundly changed the management of health-related risks worldwide, further highlighting the relevance of social media and collaborative technologies.

The “Civil Protection Emergency DSS based on CITIZen Journalism to ENhance Safety of Adriatic Basin” (E-CITIJENS) project is implemented and financed under the 2014-2020 Italy-Croatia CBC Programme with the objective of increasing safety and emergency management of anthropic and natural risks (fires, earthquakes, landslides, floods) in the Adriatic area by means of cross-border cooperation.



## **Work Café of the E-CITIJENS project successfully organized on 14 June 2021.**

Work Café organized by Split-Dalmatia County in collaboration with Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy has presented the project activities to the representatives of Civil Protection units, fire-fighters and different specialized rescue units involved as first responders in case of natural or man-made disasters.

Many topics were discussed during the meeting such as organizing public activities including info days and work café as a part of Citizens Awareness Raising Campaign, as well as live exercises and pilot deployment organization. Main topic of the meeting was EDSS platform developed as a main output of the project. During the meeting a discussion was made regarding usability of the EDSS platform in conjunction with the existing solutions and how to integrate all of them together thus further improving efficiency. Important aspect to consider is to simplify the use of the EDSS platform to civil protection operators instead of committing additional resources needed for its operation. Fine tuning the platform to represent relevant data will be a challenge on its own but everyone present expressed interest to contribute to this activity.



### Third E-CITIJENS project meeting successfully held in Pescara (IT).

The III E-CITIJENS Project Meeting was held on 27 and 28 July, organised by the Municipality of Pescara. The meeting was aimed at assessing the progress of activities as presented by responsible partners.

Regione Molise, Lead Partner of the project, updated the consortium about project management and coordination activities such as management, steering and monitoring as well as financial reporting. The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion presented communication activities including media relations, digital activities and events linked to the E-CITIJENS Awareness Raising Campaign including pilot deployments, info days and work cafés. The University of Bologna updated about the "social media based" model for a Civil Protection Emergency Management System, which is at the basis of the EDSS platform.

During the “Workshop on *social-media based* Emergency Decision Support System platform and Pilot Operational plan, the Civil Protection Molise, supported by technical developers, presented the state of the art in the development of the EDSS platform. The workshop saw see the contribution of other partners involved in the activity, such as Civil Protection Veneto, the University of Split and the University of Bologna.

The E-CITIJENS EDSS platform is going to be an innovative tool for a more efficient response in case of emergencies, as it will collect and integrate data from different data sources including social networks. Together with institutional data and those derived from local sensors, social media data will help the civil protection in defining emergency scenarios and organise the mobilisation of human and material resources. Thanks to a multilingual taxonomy and a related algorithm that assigns scores based on the level of risk, civil protection operators will be put in the position of taking the most efficient decision on how to operate.

The EDSS platform is currently under testing. Concerned partners, coordinated by the Veneto Region, are in fact deploying pilot activities to assess its functionalities with a view to releasing it next Spring. Also, coordinated by the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, they are collecting feedback from local civil protection and citizenship via the organisation of public work cafés, aimed at presenting the platform and surveying future users opinions.



Another important activity will be implemented in the next months. The Split and Dalmatia County will in fact be responsible for the release of the platform and for the creation of a regulatory framework for the transfer of the platform across the borders. This last activity will include capacity building actions addressed to local elected officials and civil servants, which will take place next spring.

One year ahead the closure of the project, the E-CITIJENS consortium will make sure to finalise and test of the EDSS platform in order to release it in March 2022, involve decision-makers and stakeholders and stimulate its endorsement and possible adoption, continue delivering the awareness campaign that will see citizens involved in pilot deployments of the platform.



### Third E-CITIJENS project meeting to be held in Pescara (IT) on 27 and 28 July.

The municipality of Pescara, partner of the E-CITIJENS project, will host the third Project Meeting. The event will be held in hybrid form and will take place at the Aurum - La Fabbrica Delle Idee in Pescara. of the pandemic, this will be an occasion for catching up and share experiences.

One year ahead the official closure of the project, the partners will thoroughly assess the progress of activities and decide how to keep it moving toward its successful accomplishment.

After a long time since the partners don't meet in person, most of them directly involved in the mitigation, this will be a nice occasion to catch up and share experiences.



## **The E-CITIJENS project presented at the FireSpill Conference in Split**

The E-CITIJENS project was presented in the Interreg Italy-Croatia [FIRESPELL](#) project *Conference on Disaster Management*, which took place between 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 in Split.

The international Conference was organised by the Split and Dalmatia County and brought together Croatian and Italian representatives of regional and local authorities, development agencies, the scientific community, institutions and rescue services involved in resolving crisis situations. In this context, Mr. Ognjen Čavar, project manager of the Split and Dalmatia County, in collaboration with Prof. Martina Savin Baucic, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy of Split, shared the objectives of our project and explained how the Emergency Decision Support System (EDSS) and the related platform developed by the project is going to be an innovative and effective tool for a better disaster risk management in the cooperation area.

The overall objective of the FIRESPELL project is to enhance the capacity of emergency service organizations to increase cross-border effectiveness in tackling natural and man-made disasters, while decreasing the exposure of the populations to the impact of hazards and increasing the safety of the Croatian and Italian Adriatic basin by means of improved emergency prevention and management measures and instruments. To this end, the project is financing the acquisition of safety equipment, emergency land and sea vehicles, mobile command and control units, communications systems, and Advanced Training Center establishment.

Like the E-CITIJENS project, FIRESPELL involves the citizenship in participatory processes that aim at transforming citizens from vulnerable elements to “active sensors” of emergencies. The E-CITIJENS EDSS platform was designed to process data coming from social media and part of its success depends on engaging citizens into a responsible use of social networks during emergencies. There could therefore be ample room for synergies between the two projects in the future.

## Work Café successfully delivered on 14 October 2021 in Venice

On 14 October 2021 the Veneto Region organised the Work Café on "Emergencies and Social Networks". The event took place in Venice, at the Restaurant & Bistrot "Molo di Venezia", between 10 am and 12 am.

The event was part of the Citizens Awareness Raising Campaign and focused on the use of social media during emergencies. The topic was addressed in relation to the influence of social media at the workplace, how to fight fake news and how involved Civil Protection operators can build a shared information.

## Open Space Fire Simulation and Work Café took place in Dubrovnik

Grad Dubrovnik, partner of the E-CITIJENS project, organised a simulation exercise of operational forces and participants of the civil protection system. The simulation took place on the Island of Lopud Elaphiti, near the city of Dubrovnik on 10 November. The Emergency plan for the seismic risk and simulation exercise "Open Fire" was part of the development, testing and release of a "Social Media Based" emergency decision support system platform.

The goals of this activity were several. First of all, the work café trained and raised the level of training of the operational forces of the civil protection system of the City of Dubrovnik. With a view to achieving new capabilities in the response capacity. This activity was aimed at encouraging the construction of an integrated civil protection system, especially considering the effort to make operational procedures more efficient and coordinated in the event of major accidents.

Also, the City of Dubrovnik will show the equipment procured within the E-CITIJENS project and demonstrate their valuable contribution to the operations of the Civil Protection.

The simulation was preceded by a work café addressed to citizens and aimed at raising the level of information across the local population about the activities of civil protection entities while checking the system of information/communication and notification of events at local and regional level.



## Zadar hosted the first E-CITIJENS Work Café on 11 November 2021

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Zadar County Rural Development Agency (AGGRA) organized a Work Café. During the meeting, project Manager presented project and activities. Special emphasis was placed on EDSS platform which is the main output of the project and pilot deployment activities that will soon take place. Participants discussed on the usability of the EDSS platform. It should be considered as an additional tool to the already existing solutions and tools.

Use of the platforms by end users and relevance of the collected data are some of the challenges ahead of us that we hope to address in the upcoming period.

The Work Café is the first of a series of similar events that AGGRA will organised with a view to engage both local civil protection and citizens into informally discuss about the role of Civil Protection as well as how to cooperate with it in case of hazardous situations. The events will present the E-CITIJENS project, its goals, activities and expected results. They will also be an occasion to involve participants in the testing activities that will run up until February 2022.





## Fourth E-CITIJENS project meeting held in Venice (IT).

The Veneto Region and its Civil Protection Department organised and successfully delivered the fourth Project Meeting and Steering Committee. The event gathered project partners and technical experts in Venice to discuss the progress of the project implementation and set the final plans for achieving the expected results.

After having reviewed management and financial issues, the partners got into a thorough assessment of all activities and actions that are crucial to the project, based on a short-term implementation document.

A few months ahead the project closure, the E-CITIJENS consortium will make sure to finalise and test of the EDSS platform by means of pilot deployments coordinated by the Veneto Region and which will run up until February 2022, with a view to its release in later in Spring. The Veneto Region, assisted by a communication expert, took the occasion to present the first results of the pilot activities carried out so far.

Also, under the supervision of the Split and Dalmatia County, they will involve decision-makers and stakeholders and collect their feedback on possible adoption of the platform. The aim of this activity will be to present a legislative proposal based on a comparison of Italian and Croatian legislation. In It continue delivering the awareness campaign that will see citizens involved in pilot deployments of the platform.



## Fourth E-CITIJENS project meeting to be held in Venice (IT) on 2-3 December.

The Veneto Region, partner of the E-CITIJENS project, will host the fourth Project Meeting and Steering Committee. The event will take place at the Amadeus Hotel in Venice. Notwithstanding the Covid pandemic, the event will take place in person, in compliance with the current measures to prevent the spread of the infection.

The E-CITIJENS partners will review the progress of activities that are now focusing on testing the EDSS platform through Pilot Deployments and finally releasing it next Spring.

Also, they will plan the forthcoming capacity building actions aimed at collecting decision-makers feedback on a possible cross-border regulatory framework that will lead to the adoption of the platform.

As the E-CITIJENS project will come to its conclusion in June 2022, partners will make all the efforts needed to achieve this result. Meanwhile, they will continue to raise awareness of citizens about their role of "active sensors of emergency" and the responsible use of social media during emergencies.

## Online meeting of the E-CITIJENS project WP5 successfully organized on 26 January 2022

Online meeting was organized by the Split-Dalmatia County with main objective to present and discuss the proposal of draft structure and content of ESR Framework within WP5. The meeting was attended by project partners (*participants list attached*).

The ESR framework, as one of primary outcomes of WP5, needs to identify the existing situation with regards to civil protection legislation and identify recommendations and guidelines for adapting and updating civil protection legislation, in particular civil protection plans at all levels to include EDSS in their standard operating procedures. Presented proposal for the ESR Framework included basic requirements, development methodology, document structure and content, as well as development process (*presentation is attached*).

ESR Framework will also address the implementation of Crossborder Functional Centres (CFC), where one CFC will be established in Molise Region and second in the City of Dubrovnik. Having in mind the CFC should connect national civil protection level EDSS Platform will facilitate communication between national operations centres of Italy and Croatia in case of emergency. Follow up meeting will be organized between LP, PP1 and PP10 to elaborate more on the implementation of CFC.

During the meeting content of the ESR Framework were discussed and partners will prepare their inputs accordingly while University from Split and Bologna will prepare their inputs according to their scope of activities. It was stated that is important to receive CP operators training set for EDSS and to follow the timeline for document development.

At the end of the meeting, it was discussed about other activities of WP5 and their current state of implementation (University of Split together in collaboration with University of Bologna are preparing the training materials for WP5.2 while to start WP5.3, activities in WP4 and WP5.1 need to be completed).



## Work Café successfully organized on April 26th 2022

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Zadar County Rural Development Agency organized Work Café. During the meeting, AGRRA's external expert Igor Magdalenić from Croatian Association of Crisis Management presented the results from the Pilot Deployment which has been implemented from December 26<sup>th</sup> until the end of February. Total number of messages received during the Pilot Deployment Drill is 1958. Participants are copying their standard social media posts regarding various events and testing the platform in a short message on different platforms sometimes using similar hashtags for alerts. There is not yet a standardized procedure for using EDSS platform (#edss hashtag used for severe events could be useful for data scraping on social networks). Participants used various platforms to test the platform in a Pilot activity that cannot fully represent actual percentage of used social platforms in their real life. Most of the messages were short alerts using basic hashtags for earthquake/fire/flooding events in a way that platform could interpretate their location and alert emergency services with a message and location. Civil Protection operators and Experts are familiar with the need of the relevant and clear information concerning the incidents.

## ***Docenti e studenti diventano “sensori attivi” delle emergenze attraverso i social per agevolare gli interventi di soccorso***

Monitorare il territorio attraverso l'uso consapevole dei social: va in questa direzione la collaborazione avviata tra l'Ufficio Scolastico Regionale e la Protezione Civile del Molise.

Negli scorsi giorni si è tenuto online il primo appuntamento formativo organizzato dall'Ufficio Scolastico Regionale, che ha coinvolto i docenti-animatori digitali di tutte le scuole molisane e i rappresentanti della Protezione Civile.

Nei prossimi giorni è previsto anche un ciclo di formazione sarà dedicata agli studenti. Al centro del progetto c'è la creazione della Rete di **“Ambasciatori della sicurezza”** costituita da docenti e studenti che saranno formati sui temi del giornalismo civico, della cultura di Protezione civile, della Cittadinanza digitale e della Media education.

La Rete degli “Ambasciatori della sicurezza” rientra nelle azioni del progetto “E-Citijens”, che mira a creare un sistema in grado di supportare in maniera innovativa le decisioni di emergenza (EDSS). Tale sistema è basato sui Social media, da testare in tutta l'area di cooperazione Italia-Croazia. In questo ambito, la Regione Molise è Lead Partner del progetto insieme ad altri nove partner italiani e croati tra cui regioni, comuni, università e altri stakeholder.

L'obiettivo generale di E-Citijens è, infatti, quello di facilitare l'adozione e l'efficacia delle misure di emergenza, incrementando la sicurezza dei cittadini e la capacità di gestire i rischi naturali, particolarmente nell'area adriatica.

Durante le emergenze – come alluvioni, terremoti o calamità naturali – i componenti della Rete che si trovino nelle vicinanze dell'evento potranno usare i loro account social (facebook, twitter, instagram, ecc) per postare notizie, immagini e video. Questo intervento, abbinato a specifici hashtag (#EDSS), aiuterà la Protezione Civile nella raccolta delle informazioni e nella valutazione dell'intervento.

Tutte le informazioni inviate dalla Rete di docenti e studenti si uniranno poi a quelle pubblicate anche da altre fonti istituzionali.

La finalità è quella di preparare l'intervento di soccorso mediante l'utilizzo di un'apposita piattaforma deputata appositamente alla raccolta delle informazioni, grazie a specifici algoritmi in grado di comunicare con la centrale operativa.

Un obiettivo che sarà possibile aumentando la cooperazione tra Italia e Croazia, ma anche rendendo i cittadini (in questo caso si tratta dei nostri docenti e studenti formati *ad hoc*) “sensori attivi” delle emergenze attraverso la segnalazione di eventi critici mediante un uso efficace e consapevole dei vari Social media.

Le attività del progetto E-Citijens rivolte alle scuole del territorio sono state inserite dall'USR Molise tra le azioni formative del Piano nazionale scuola digitale.

## Info Day in Molise ocenti e studenti diventano “sensori attivi” delle emergenze attraverso i social

On 1st February 2022 an **Info Day** "Network of Safety Ambassadors in Molise" took place and it was organised by Regione Molise, lead partner of the E-CITIJENS project, in cooperation with the Regional Civil Protection Department and the Regional School Office. The event was addressed to teachers of 4 high schools in Molise and was aimed at establishing a "surveillance network". Participating will later train students in becoming aware "Safety Ambassadors".

As part of the Citizens Awareness Raising Campaign, the event presented the action and was an occasion to explain the functionalities and goals of the E-CITIJENS EDSS platform, putting a particular stress on the importance of raising students' awareness about their role of responsible and "active sensors" of emergencies. Students in Molise can now receive proper instructions on how to report critical events through an effective and responsible use of the various social media.

With this action, the E-CITIJENS project offered a key multidisciplinary training opportunity to schools, teachers and students in Molise entailing civic education, media education and digital education as well.

## **Work Cafe of the E-CITIJENS project successfully organized in Split on 02 March 2022**

E-CITIJENS project was presented at the ceremonial session of the Civil Protection Headquarters of Split-Dalmatia County - SDŽ on 02 March 2022 in Split.

On the occasion of marking the International Day of Civil Protection and the Day of Civil Protection of the Republic of Croatia, a formal session was held last week where, among other things, the E-CITIJENS project was presented.

After the introductory presentation of the partners in the project and the general and specific goals, project manager Ognjen Čavar from the Administrative Department of Economy, EU Funds and Agriculture SDŽ, and civil protection experts Igor Milić and Petar Vitas from the Civil Protection Network, presented the results so far and the activities carried out. As expected, the innovative EDSS system for decision support in the management of emergency situations for the needs of civil protection, based on citizen journalism through the use of social networks, with the aim of improving security in the Adriatic area, aroused the greatest interest.

The ceremonial session was attended mostly by key stakeholders of the project, who had the opportunity to learn about the main characteristics of the platform and advanced software, and to get an insight into the unified display of information on the map that is collected from citizens through social networks, sensors (e.g. meteorological data, cameras...) and creating scenarios for the development of crisis situations with potential risks.

The importance of this presentation is most expressed in relation to the work package of the 5th E-CITIJENS project, i.e. the launch of the EDSS platform (a system to support emergency decision-making based on social media) and the transfer of the regulatory framework for emergency services, whose highest representatives were participants of the session. In addition to the head of SCZ - Damir Gabrić and his associates, the session and the presentation of the project were attended by the highest representatives of the SDŽ Institute for Emergency Medical Assistance, the SDŽ Police Department, HGSS Split, NZJZ, Split Port Authority, the director of the SDŽ Health Center, the head of the rescue service of the Red Cross, commander of the Split-Dalmatia County Fire Brigade and representative of the regional development agency RERA SDŽ.

The project is financed within the cross-border cooperation program INTERREG V-A Italy - Croatia 2014-2020. and the total value of the project is EUR 2,846,100.00. The project is expected to last until June 30, 2022.

## Online meeting of the E-CITIJENS project WP5 successfully organized on 26 January 2022

Dal 28 marzo al 1 aprile la Direzione Regionale VVF del Molise e il Servizio di Protezione Civile della Regione Molise hanno organizzato un seminario teorico pratico, svolto presso il comando di Isernia per la parte teorica e per la parte pratica, in ambiente innevato, a Campitello Matese (CB). Il seminario, a cui ha partecipato personale VF specializzato in Tecniche di Soccorso in presenza di Neve e Ghiaccio, è stato un utile approfondimento per conoscere aspetti di nivologia nonché conoscere nel dettaglio i modelli previsionali, la sensoristica in suo ai centri Funzionali della Protezione Civile, il sistema di allerta e i modelli di gestione dell'evoluzione dell'evento. Nella parte pratica sono state valutate le tecniche per poter in maniera speditiva valutare il riconoscimento di siti valanghivi nonché mettere in pratica le tecniche di soccorso in attuazione alla direttiva valanghe. Si ringrazia la Regione Molise e il dott. Cardillo per la disponibilità dimostrata.



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## Comunicare in emergenza. Booklet a cura della Regione Veneto

La Direzione Protezione Civile, Sicurezza e Polizia Locale della Regione Veneto con la collaborazione della dott.ssa Francesca Anzalone ha realizzato un libricino dal titolo "COMUNICARE IN EMERGENZA" che racchiude interessanti suggerimenti su come scrivere un post efficace durante un evento emergenziale.

Tale iniziativa è stata svolta nell'ambito di "E-CITIJENS", progetto Interreg Italia - Croazia.

## **Emergenza sismica, verifica visiva degli immobili: esame finale per 60 tecnici molisani**

At the end of the meeting, it was discussed about other activities of WP5 and their current state of implementation (University of Split together in collaboration with University of Bologna are preparing the training materials for WP5.2 while to start WP5.3, activities in WP4 and WP5.1 need to be completed).

Si terrà a Campobasso l'ultima fase del corso promosso dalla Protezione Civile per i professionisti agibilitatori. Dal 3 al 6 maggio, a Campobasso, presso l'hotel Rinascimento si svolgeranno le fasi finali del corso per i professionisti agibilitatori ed i relativi esami. Il corso è stato promosso dal Dipartimento Nazionale di Protezione Civile e la Struttura Tecnica Nazionale, con la collaborazione del Servizio di Protezione Civile della Regione Molise, che partecipa con un funzionario valutatore.

“L'attività – spiega la Protezione Civile – rappresenta un tassello fondamentale per la gestione ed il superamento delle emergenze sismiche.

Saranno impegnati circa 60 tecnici fra iscritti agli ordini e colleghi professionali degli architetti, ingegneri, geometri, geologi e periti agrari e funzionari regionali del Servizio di Protezione Civile che intendono ottenere l'abilitazione a operare con il protocollo AeDES (Agibilità e Danno nell'Emergenza Sismica) per la verifica visiva degli immobili colpiti dal terremoto.

Si inserisce nel programma di formazione AeDES anche il work caffè del progetto E-Citijens, dedicato alla fase di testing e presentazione della piattaforma EDSS e creazione dello scenario di evento.

La piattaforma EDSS è una piattaforma informatica di supporto alle decisioni (DSS) che consente di creare lo scenario d'evento, anche attraverso una componente di intelligenza artificiale ed è basato su informazioni provenienti da fonti istituzionali, ma anche dai social media, per cui il cittadino social diventa un sensore mobile in caso di evento calamitoso, ed in particolare quello di tipo sismico”.

## **Info Day of the E-CITIJENS project successfully organized in Split on 5th of May 2022**

On May 5, 2022, the first info day of the E-CITIZEN project from the Cross-Border Cooperation Program INTERREG V-A Italy – Croatia 2014-2022 took place. The total value of the project is EUR 2.8 million, of which 85% is financed from the funds of the European Regional Development Fund. The general goal of the project is to increase the safety of the Croatian and Italian Adriatic area in the event of natural and man-made disasters through the improvement of measures and instruments for prevention and management in case of danger.

The experts of the project partners, Ognjen Ćavar from the Split-Dalmatia County and Martina Baučić from the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy in Split, briefly presented the project and the key results of the project: EDSS platform - a system for managing emergency situations for the needs of civil protection based on social networks . Students are invited to actively participate in the upcoming activities: exercises that will test the EDSS platform and the equipment acquired through the project (infrared thermal camera, speedboat and underwater scooter for rescue at sea, ICT and radio-communication equipment).

Other partners in the project are: Region of Molise as project leader, Region of Veneto, EEIG Eurelations, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna, Municipality of Pescara, Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion, Agency for Rural Development of Zadar County - AGRRA and City of Dubrovnik.

## **Workshop della Protezione Civile e dell'Ordine dei Giornalisti del Molise sul progetto E-Citijens: strategie comunicative durante le calamità e le catastrofi naturali.**

Una giornata dedicata alla presentazione della piattaforma E-Citijens e ai sistemi di comunicazione di emergenza: questi i temi che saranno affrontati nel corso del 3<sup>o</sup> workshop previsto per sabato 7 maggio a Campochiaro (CB), presso il Centro Funzionale Decentrato del Molise.

Il work cafè è organizzato dal Servizio di Protezione Civile in collaborazione con l'Ordine dei Giornalisti del Molise e ha come obiettivo quello di illustrare la creazione dello scenario di evento e la *social media communication* in casi di emergenza.

Nel corso del work cafè sarà presentato il Sistema di Protezione Civile, sia nazionale che regionale, con i suoi compiti e le sue funzioni di competenza. A seguire, uno spazio sarà dedicato alle strategie comunicative e alle decisioni di emergenza (EDSS), nelle quali rientra la neonata rete degli "Ambasciatori della sicurezza" realizzata attraverso il protocollo tecnico fra il Servizio di Protezione Civile e l'Ufficio Scolastico Regionale. La piattaforma EDSS è una piattaforma informatica di supporto alle decisioni che consente di creare lo scenario d'evento, anche attraverso una componente di intelligenza artificiale ed è basato su informazioni provenienti da fonti istituzionali, ma anche dai social media, per cui il cittadino social diventa un sensore mobile in caso di evento calamitoso.

Tutti coloro che, con i loro post social, vorranno collaborare con la piattaforma EDSS potranno farlo attraverso l'attivazione del localizzatore GPS e l'uso dell'hashtag #EDSS, tutto ciò per localizzare il dato e per indirizzare l'informazione direttamente alla piattaforma EDSS.

Non mancheranno interventi di giornalisti inerenti alla comunicazione sui social e alla cronistoria di emergenze e catastrofi naturali.

PRESS RELEASE  
Split, May, 11<sup>th</sup> 2022.

## **The mayor delivered to the firefighters' valuable equipment for early fire detection from the E-CITIJENS project**

*ICT equipment with servers, screens and supporting software, radio communication equipment and a professional infrared thermal camera, of total value HRK 307,360*

"Firefighters have the heart, courage, will and desire to protect us and our property, but during that big fire in 2017, we noticed that they also need equipment and facilities to do as efficiently as possible. That's why we've been investing into development of the fire department a lot lately. Currently, in the county, we are working on fire stations in Muć, Selci, Supetar, Trilj and in Bogomolje on the island of Hvar, and the capital investment project in firefighting is the construction of a fire center in Vučevica. To all new stations and centers we must provide adequate equipment. It is my honor to hand over this equipment today through the E-CITIJENS project, with a total value of HRK 307,360 thousand. This is only a small part of the total budget of 316,000 euros available to our county through this project," said the Prefect Blaženko Boban.

The package of equipment that Commander Ivan Kovačević took over on behalf of the Split-dalmatia County Fire Brigade consists of ICT equipment with servers, screens and accompanying software for the needs of the new fire station in Vučevica. Then, radio-communication equipment consisting of two radio stations with 16 mobile devices and a professional infrared thermal camera for working in difficult conditions on land and at sea, for the needs of the County's Fire Department, as well.

"Of course, the goal of the E-CITIJENS project does not consist only in providing equipment, but primarily in a better and faster response of emergency services, with the help of citizens whose role rises to a higher level. This project enables citizens to participate in the notification system about threats and emergency situations through their posts on social networks, reducing the response time and the efficiency of extinguishing and rescue operations. Through the E-Citizens project, the EDSS platform was developed to reduce the risk of natural and man-made disasters. It is a semantically enriched online platform that integrates information from institutional sources, locally placed sensors, and social media posts. The platform based on artificial intelligence (AI) works in such a way that, in addition to information from other sources, it also pulls information that citizens publish on social networks. The software filters the published content and forwards the relevant ones to the emergency services together with a photo, location, and information about the type of threat, so that the emergency services can better plan the deployment of forces in the field." - explained the project manager Ognjen Čavar from the Administrative Department for the Economy, EU Funds and agriculture of Split-dalmatia County.

Ivan Kovačević, commander of the Split-dalmatia County Fire Brigade, initially thanked the representatives of the county for the donated equipment and added: "From conversations with colleagues from other counties, I know that none of them is even close to withdrawing such a large amount of funds from the EU and do not have even close this amount and quality of equipment and investments in the Civil Protection system, as in our County. The fire service is the main link in the protection and rescue system, and that is why most of this equipment will be distributed to the fire departments in order to use it for the benefit of all our citizens and the community," he said.

In conclusion, Mayor Blaženko Boban once again thanked the County's fire services for their dedication and work, expressing the wish and hope that they will have as little work as possible, and that overall community will be calmer and safer together.

"May is the month of fire protection and all fire departments have Open Doors Days, and I invite citizens to visit us and familiarize themselves with our activities, to familiarize them as much as possible with the fire system, for the benefit of all of us." - added Ivan Kovačević, Commander of the County Fire Brigade.

The E-Citizens project is financed within the cross-border cooperation program INTERREG V-A Italy - Croatia 2014-2020. and the total value of the project is EUR 2,846,100.00. In addition to SDŽ and FGAG, the partners on the project are the Veneto Region, EEIG Eurelations, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna, the Municipality of Pescara, the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion, the Zadar County Rural Development Agency - AGRRA and the City of Dubrovnik, and the leading partner on the project is the Region Molise – Civil protection.

OBJAVA ZA MEDIJE

Split, 11.05.2022.

## **Župan uručio vatrogascima vrijednu opremu za ranu detekciju požara iz projekta E-CITIJENS**

*Donirana je ICT oprema sa serverima, ekranima i pratećim softverima, radio-komunikacijska oprema i profesionalna infracrvena termalna kamera, sveukupne vrijednosti 307.360 kuna*

„Vatrogasci imaju srce, hrabrost, volju i želju čuvati nas i našu imovinu, ali tijekom onog velikog požara 2017. g. uočili smo da im je neophodna i oprema i objekti kako bi to radili što bolje i efikasnije. Zato u posljednje vrijeme jako puno ulažemo u vatrogasce. Trenutno na području županije radimo vatrogasne domove u Muću, Selcima, Supetru, Trilju i u Bogomolje na otoku Hvaru, a kapitalni projekt ulaganja u vatrogastvo je izgradnja vatrogasnog centra u Vučevici. Svim novim projektima i prostorima moramo osigurati i adekvatnu opremu. Čast mi je danas uručiti ovu opremu kroz projekt E-CITIJENS, ukupne vrijednosti 307.360 tisuća kuna. To je samo jedan mali dio budžeta od 316 tisuća eura kojim naša županija raspolaže, u sklopu ovog projekta.“ – rekao je župan Blaženko Boban.

Paket opreme koju je u ime Vatrogasne zajednice SDŽ preuzeo zapovjednik Ivan Kovačević se sastoji od ICT opreme sa serverima, ekranima i pratećim softverima za potrebe novog vatrogasnog centra u Vučevici. Zatim, radio-komunikacijska oprema koja se sastoji od dvije radio stanice sa 16 mobilnih uređaja za potrebe Vatrogasne zajednice SDŽ i profesionalna infracrvena termalna kamera za rad u otežanim uvjetima na kopnu i na moru, za potrebe Vatrogasne zajednice SDŽ.

„Naravno, cilj projekta E-CITIJENS se ne sastoji samo u osiguravanju opreme već primarno u boljoj i bržoj reakciji hitnih službi, uz pomoć i građana čija se uloga diže na veću razinu. Građanima se ovim projektom omogućava sudjelovanje u sustavu dojave o ugrozama i hitnim situacijama putem njihovih objava na društvenim mrežama, smanjujući vrijeme odaziva i efikasnost akcija gašenja i spašavanja. Kroz projekt E-Citijens razvijena je EDSS platforma kako bi se smanjio rizik od prirodnih katastrofa i katastrofa uzrokovanih ljudskim djelovanjem. Riječ je o semantički obogaćenoj online platformi koja integrira informacije institucionalnih izvora, lokalno postavljenih senzora i objave s društvenih medija. Platforma bazirana na umjetnoj inteligenciji (AI) funkcionira na način da uz informacije iz drugih izvora povlači i informacije koje građani objavljuju na društvenim mrežama. Softver filtrira objavljene sadržaje i one relevantne prosljeđuje hitnim službama zajedno s fotografijom, lokacijom i informacijom o vrsti ugroze, kako bi hitne službe mogle bolje planirati raspored snaga na terenu.“ – pojasnio je voditelj projekta Ognjen Čavar iz Upravnog odjela za gospodarstvo, EU fondove i poljoprivredu SDŽ.

Ivan Kovačević, zapovjednik Vatrogasne zajednice SDŽ uvodno je zahvalio predstavnicima županije na doniranoj opremi te dodao: „Iz razgovora s kolegama iz drugih županija, znam da nitko od njih nije ni blizu povlačenju tolike količine sredstava iz EU i opreme i ulaganja u sustav Civilne zaštite. Vatrogastvo je



glavna karika u sustavu zaštite i spašavanja i zato će većina ove opreme biti raspodijeljena vatrogasnim postrojbama kako bismo je koristili za dobrobit svih naših građana i zajednice.“ – rekao je.

Župan Blaženko Boban zaključno je još jednom zahvalio vatrogasnim službama SDŽ na njihovoj predanosti i radu, izrazivši želju i nadu da će imati što manje posla, a mi svi zajedno biti mirniji i sigurniji. „Svibanj je mjesec zaštite od požara i po svim vatrogasnim postrojbama su Dani otvorenih vrata te pozivam građane da nas posjete i upoznaju se s našim aktivnostima, da ih što bolje upoznamo s vatrogasnim sustavom, za dobrobit svih nas.“ – dodao je Ivan Kovačević, zapovjednik Vatrogasne zajednice SDŽ.

Projekt E-Citijens se financira u okviru Programa prekogranične suradnje INTERREG V-A Italija – Hrvatska 2014.-2020. te je ukupna vrijednost projekta 2.846.100,00 eura. Uz SDŽ, partneri na projektu su Regija Veneto, EEIG Eurelations, Alma Mater Studiorum – Sveučilište u Bolonji, Općina Pescara, Jadransko-jonska euroregija, Fakultet za građevinarstvo, arhitekturu i geodeziju Split, Agencija za ruralni razvoj Zadarske županije – AGRRRA i Grad Dubrovnik, a vodeći partner na projektu je Regija Molise – Civilna zaštita.

PRESS RELEASE  
Split, May, 12<sup>th</sup> 2022.

### **E-CITIJENS PROJECT: Successfully conducted fire drill in Kamen-Šine elementary school**

*The firefighters taught the pupils how to behave in the event of a fire and how to extinguish it with hand tools, and at the end received a well-deserved round of applause from the children and school staff.*

The long-lasting school bell today at 11 a.m. marked the beginning of the demonstration fire drill and evacuation drill at Kamen-Šine Elementary School, which was held as part of the E-CITIJENS project. Together, in a column of two, with their teachers and professors, the children safely left the facility and moved away from the building until the fire fighters arrived.

“Yesterday, the Split-Dalmatia County within the E-CITIJENS project, donated valuable equipment to the Split-Dalmatia County Fire Brigade, and today we are educating the youngest how to behave in situations of fire danger and how to carry out a safe evacuation from school, because when they learn it today, they will surely remember it forever.” - said Damir Gabrić, head of the Department for Croatian veterans, civil protection and human rights of the Split-Dalmatia County, who also took the opportunity to congratulate all nurses on International Nurses Day.

Zoran Radunić, assistant commander of the Public Fire Department of the City of Split, educated the students in the school yard about behavior in case of fire and asked them a few basic questions, such as the number to call in case of fire, to which they all gave the correct answer in unison. An improvised fire in the yard was successfully extinguished by one of the upper-class students with a fire extinguisher, and everyone else watched with interest how it was handled.

After a few minutes, the firefighters arrived in a fire truck to the school yard and they once again impressed everyone with their speed of action. They stretched the hose, went around the building, found one injured person, and safely evacuated the person from the facility. Of course, all this was a part of the scenario of the demonstration exercise, but it was presented very credibly and carried out very professionally. At the end, the firefighters received a long applause from the school's students and staff.

“The E-CITIJENS project brings something new to the Civil Protection system, which is the platform we are developing for responding to emergency situations. This project strengthens the capacity of the civil protection system to reduce the risk of man-made natural disasters, with the help of advanced emergency management tools through social networks. Young people are the biggest users of social networks, and it is important that we raise awareness among them, as well as their teachers and parents, that there are mechanisms that protect them and serve the common good and benefits.” - said Ognjen Čavar, head of the E-CITIJENS project in Split-Dalmatia County.



Bože Ujević, the principal of Kamen-Šine Elementary School, confirmed that fire drills are conducted regularly at the school every year, which is especially important in recent times of increasingly frequent earthquakes. He also expressed great satisfaction with the cooperation with the fire services and today's reaction of the children and school staff.

At the end of the exercise, the students were given special gifts, promotional materials from the E-CITIJENS project.

The E-Citizens project with a total value of 2,846,100.00 euros is financed within the cross-border cooperation program INTERREG V-A Italy - Croatia 2014-2020.

OBJAVA ZA MEDIJE

Split, 12.05.2022.

## **PROJEKT E-CITIENS: Uspješno provedena vatrogasna vježba u OŠ Kamen-Šine**

*Vatrogasci su poučili učenike ponašanju u slučaju požara i gašenju priručnim sredstvima te na kraju dobili zasluženi pljesak djece i osoblja škole*

Dugotrajno zvono danas u 11 sati označilo je početak pokazne vatrogasne vježbe i vježbe evakuacije u Osnovnoj školi Kamen-Šine, koja je održana u sklopu projekta E-CITIENS. Zajedno, u koloni po dvoje, sa svojim učiteljima i profesorima djeca su sigurno napustila objekt i udaljila se od zgrade do dolaska vatrogasnog vozila.

- *Jučer je Splitsko-dalmatinska županija u sklopu projekta E-CITIENS donirala vrijednu opremu Vatrogasnoj zajednici SDŽ, a danas najmlađe educiramo kako se ponašati u situacijama opasnosti od požara te kako se provodi sigurna evakuacija iz škole jer kada to danas nauče, sigurno će pamtit do kraja života.* – rekao je **Damir Gabrić**, pročelnik UO za hrvatske branitelje, civilnu zaštitu i ljudska prava SDŽ, koji je iskoristio i priliku da svim medicinskim sestrama čestita danas i Međunarodni dan sestinstva.

Zoran Radunić, pomoćnik zapovjednika Javne vatrogasne postrojbe grada Splita, u dvorištu škole je educirao učenike o ponašanju u slučaju požara i postavio im par osnovnih pitanja kao što je broj koji treba nazvati u slučaju požara, na koja su svi uglas dali točan odgovor. Improvizirani požar u dvorištu je jedan od učenika viših razreda uspješno ugasio aparatom za gašenje požara, a svi ostali s interesom pratili kako se njime rukuje.

Nakon par minuta vatrogasno vozilo je stiglo u školsko dvorište i vatrogasci su još jednom svih oduševili brzinom djelovanja. Razvukli su crijevo, obišli zgradu, pronašli jednu unesrećenu osobu te ju sigurno evakuirali iz objekta. Naravno, sve je to bilo dio scenarija pokazne vježbe no vrlo vjerodostojno prikazano i vrlo profesionalno provedeno. Vatrogasci su za kraj dobili i dugotrajan pljesak učenika i osoblja škole.

- *Projekt E-CITIENS donosi nešto novo u sustav Civilne zaštite, a to je platforma koju razvijamo za reagiranje u hitnim situacijama. Ovaj projekt jača kapaciteta sustava civilne zaštite kako bi se smanjio rizik od prirodnih katastrofa uzrokovanih ljudskim djelovanjem, uz pomoć naprednih alata za upravljanje hitnim situacijama putem društvenih mreža. Mladi su najveći korisnici društvenih mreža i upravo je važno da podignemo svijest i među njima, ali i njihovima učiteljima i roditeljima da postoje mehanizmi koji ih štite i služe općem dobru i koristi.* – rekao je **Ognjen Čavar**, voditelj projekta E-CITIENS.

Bože Ujević, ravnatelj Osnovne škole Kamen-Šine potvrdio je da se vatrogasne vježbe u školi provode redovito svake godine, što je posebno važno u posljednje vrijeme sve češćih potresa te je izrazio veliko zadovoljstvo suradnjom s vatrogasnim službama i današnjom reakcijom djece i školskog osoblja.



Na kraju vježbe, učenicima su uručeni i prigodni pokloni iz projekta E-CITIJENS.

Projekt E-Citijens ukupne vrijednosti 2.846.100,00 eura financira se u okviru Programa prekogranične suradnje INTERREG V-A Italija – Hrvatska 2014.-2020.

## **Work Cafe of the E-CITIJENS project successfully organized in Split on 12 May 2022**

Work Café have been organized on 12 May 2022 by the Split-Dalmatia County during Open days of the University of Split in the premises of the University Library.

Work Café was attended by representatives of the participants and operational forces of the civil protection system in Split-Dalmatia County (please see participants list attached).

Main objective of the Work Café was to present current state of project implementation (project activities, deliverable, outcome and how the project will improve civil protection system in the project partner territories). During Work Café Civil protection system was presented with special emphasis on the EDSS platform, as main project deliverable, on how to integrate EDSS in the civil protection system of Split-Dalmatia County.

It was concluded that is necessary to encourage competent civil protection bodies of the state // region (county) of project partners in strengthening citizens' awareness of the need to collect information about threats and extraordinary events and their transmission using social networks.

Also it is necessary to improve the management of natural risks in the Split-Dalmatia by improving the procedures for responding to threats and extraordinary events.

## **Info Day of the E-CITIJENS project successfully organized at University of Split on 13th of May 2022.**

On May 13, 2022, the second info day of the E-CITIZEN project from the Cross-Border Cooperation Program INTERREG V-A Italy – Croatia 2014-2022 was successfully held on the campus of the University of Split, in the immediate vicinity of the University Library. In this period of the year a numerous students are preparing for the exams in the University Library, and upon arrival, in front of the entrance, they were greeted by the promoter and introduced to the key goals and activities of the E-Citijens project.

Students were directly informed how through their own activities on social media they can reach out and provide support to the emergency services in decisions making process in extraordinary circumstances. It was explained to them which tags and keywords to use and how the software filters all information and transmits the most valuable ones, with photos, text and geolocation that users of social networks tag, to decision makers. Students from different faculties showed interest and promotional materials of the project were distributed to them, as well.

The E-Citizens project is financed within the cross-border cooperation program INTERREG V-A Italy - Croatia 2014-2020. and the total value of the project is EUR 2,846,100.00. In addition to SDŽ and FGAG, the partners on the project are the Veneto Region, EEIG Eurelations, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna, the Municipality of Pescara, the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion, the Zadar County Rural Development Agency - AGRRA and the City of Dubrovnik, and the leading partner on the project is the Region Molise – Civil protection.

## Work Cafe of the E-CITIJENS project WP5 successfully organized on 19 May 2022

Work Cafe was organized by the Split-Dalmatia County with main objective to present and discuss the final draft of ESR Framework within WP5.1 and steps towards drafting of Civil Protection Adaption Plan within WP5.3. The meeting was attended by representatives of stakeholders from civil protection system in the Split-Dalmatia County (*participants list attached*).

The ESR framework, as one of primary outcomes of WP5, identified the existing situation with regards to civil protection system and listed recommendations and guidelines to include EDSS in the civil protection system of Split-Dalmatia County. ESR Framework included basic requirements, strategic overview, current state analysis on partners level, as well as recommendations in six key areas (legislation, plans and procedures, operational centres, early warning systems, training and exercises, and cross-border functional centre).

During the meeting recommendations of the ESR Framework were discussed and partners identify IT technologies that are currently used and possibilities to connect them to EDSS platform. It was stated that is important to test the platform during the training that will be organized under WP 5.2. in Split.

All participants agreed that topic of using social networks in the emergency situations should be part of awareness training for population, especial for children in schools.

At the end of the meeting, it was discussed about Civil Protection Adaption plan (section related to Split-Dalmatia County) and all participants agreed that this document in the format of non-binding guidelines could serve as an opportunity for improvement for stakeholders in the civil protection system in Split-Dalmatia County. In terms of connection between existing early warning systems (EWS) and EDSS platform it was agreed that Memorandum of Understanding between the entity responsible for EWS and Split-Dalmatia County responsible for EDSS, could provide integration of information from EWS to be displayed in the EDSS that will be available in the operational centres of the civil protection stakeholders.



## **Il progetto E-Citijens: dalla creazione dello scenario di evento alla Social Media Communication in Emergenza.**

*Incontro con i Sindaci ed i tecnici del territorio del GAL "Molise Verso il 2000"*

Dopo i workshop dedicati alla presentazione della piattaforma #EDSS realizzata nell'ambito del progetto di cooperazione internazionale E-CITIJENS, finanziato dal programma INTERREG Italy-Croatia VA, mercoledì 25 maggio pv, a partire dalle 10.00, presso la sede COC del Comune di Civitacampomarano, si svolgerà l'incontro con tecnici ed amministratori di alcuni comuni afferenti al GAL "Molise Verso il 2000".

I comuni invitati all'incontro sono gli stessi che sono stati ammessi a finanziamento nell'ambito del bando dello stesso GAL "Molise Verso il 2000" per la redazione/aggiornamento del piano comunale di protezione civile.

L'occasione sarà utile per presentare le funzionalità della piattaforma e illustrare il sistema regionale di protezione civile, in abbinata con il sistema di allertamento regionale.

La location del COC del Comune di Civitacampomarano, non è stata una scelta casuale, infatti attraverso il mix risultato vincente di tecnologia, buona amministrazione, pianificazione, tecnica e scienza, la gestione della fase emergenziale collegata alla frana che nel marzo del 2017 ha colpito il centro abitato, è considerata un esempio concreto di buone pratiche in tema di allertamento ed emergency management.

L'evento promosso con E-Citijens sarà motivo di confronto sul tema della comunicazione d'emergenza e sui sistemi di supporto alle decisioni, come lo è la piattaforma EDSS. Infatti EDSS è una piattaforma informatica di supporto alle decisioni che consente di creare lo scenario d'evento, anche attraverso una componente di intelligenza artificiale ed è basata su informazioni provenienti da fonti istituzionali, ma anche dai social media, per cui il cittadino social diventa un sensore mobile in caso di evento calamitoso.

Tutti coloro che, con i loro post social, vorranno collaborare con la piattaforma EDSS potranno farlo attraverso l'attivazione del localizzatore GPS e l'uso dell'hashtag #EDSS, tutto ciò per localizzare il dato e per indirizzare l'informazione direttamente alla piattaforma EDSS.

## Work Café successfully organized on June 2nd 2022

On 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, Zadar County Rural Development Agency organized Third Work Café. The Work Café was organized in person but some of the participants participated also online. Main topic of the discussion was Civil Protection Adoption plan, one of the project's deliverables. The main purpose of the CP Adoption plan is to offer guidance at the level of project partners on ways and procedures to adjust the civil protection system for the integration of the EDSS platform as the main output of the E-CITIJENS project. Each of the project partners operates within the regional/local levels of the civil protection system in Italy and Croatia, and the operations of the operational forces is defined by planning documents and standard operating procedures. At the level of each of the partners, there are operational and communication centers (center 112, firefighting center, police, ambulance, search and rescue at sea) to receive reports of emergencies and activate operational forces to operate in the field. This plan aims to present guidelines on how to integrate the EDSS platform into operational and communication centers at the level of each project partner as one of the tools for collecting information from active sensors.

At the beginning of the Work Café, Project Manager Martina Friganović Šimunov briefly presented the current state of the art of the project's activities and also presented the Adoption plan.

Participants agreed that one of the main tasks in the following period is drafting of *Civil Protection Operational Plan of the Zadar County*. This document should be in accordance with *Civil Protection Operational Plan of the City of Zadar*. It is also very important to update the existing Civil Protection Operational Plan of the City of Zadar with the new information, especially having in main natural and man cause disasters occurred in Zadar County, as well as global pandemic of COVID-19.

It is also discussed the possibility to include Civil Protection in the education programmes and school curriculums, but the participants concluded that this question should be addressed to the Ministry of education since they are in charge of this matter.

At the end of the meeting, it is concluded that the EDSS platform can be useful tool that could facilitate the work of emergency services.

## AGRRA vatrogascima donirala opremu vrijednu 63.275 kuna

**Oprema je rezultat suradnje između dvije ustanove te nam predstavlja dodatan poticaj za suradnju sa ostalim subjektima javnog prostora, na što ćemo staviti naglasak u narednom razdoblju, poručuje ravnatelj Ivica Pintur**

Zahvaljujući suradnji na EU projektu, županijska Agencija za ruralni razvoj Javnoj vatrogasnoj postrojbi donirala je komunikacijsku opremu vrijednu 63.275 kuna. Riječ je o projektu E-CITIJENS u okviru kojega je nabavljena tehnička oprema koja uključuje komunikacijske jedinice za bežičnu komunikaciju tijekom misija, kao i računalo.

Ravnatelj AGRRA-e, Ivica Pintur, kaže kako je projekt sufinanciran iz programa Interreg Italija - Hrvatska u kojem budžet županijske agencije iznosi 220.000 eura. Opći cilj projekta E-CITIJENS je jačanje kapaciteta hrvatskog i talijanskog sustava civilne zaštite kako bi se smanjio rizik od prirodnih katastrofa uzrokovanih ljudskim djelovanjem, uz pomoć naprednih alata za upravljanje hitnim situacijama temeljenih na društvenim mrežama, pojašnjava ravnatelj:

- U projektnim aktivnostima sudjelovali su voditeljica projekta AGRRA-e, Martina Friganović-Šimunov te pomoćnik zapovjednika Javne vatrogasne postrojbe Zadar, Ante Lončar, koji su svojim angažmanom zaslužni za ovaj hvalevrijedan paket opreme koji će zasigurno olakšati izvršavanje zadaća na terenu. Oprema je rezultat suradnje između dvije ustanove te nam predstavlja dodatan poticaj za suradnju sa ostalim subjektima javnog prostora, na što ćemo staviti naglasak u narednom razdoblju, poručuje Pintur.

## AGGRA gifts the firefighter with equipment worth 63.275 HRK

**The equipment is the result of cooperation between two institutions and represents an additional incentive for us to cooperate with other subjects of public space, which we will emphasize in the coming period, says director Ivica Pintur.**

Thanks to the cooperation on the EU project, the County Agency for Rural Development donated communication equipment worth HRK 63,275 to the Public Fire Department. It is about the E-CITIJENS project, within the framework of which technical equipment was acquired, including communication units for wireless communication during missions, as well as a computer.

The director of AGRRA, Ivica Pintur, says that the project is co-financed from the Interreg Italy-Croatia program, in which the budget of the county agency amounts to 220,000 euros. The general goal of the E-CITIJENS project is to strengthen the capacity of the Croatian and Italian civil protection systems in order to reduce the risk of natural disasters caused by human activity, with the help of advanced emergency management tools based on social networks, the director explains:

The project manager of AGRRA, Martina Friganović-Šimunov, and the assistant commander of the Zadar Public Fire Department, Ante Lončar, participated in the project activities, who are responsible for this commendable equipment package that will certainly facilitate the execution of tasks in the field. The equipment is the result of cooperation between two institutions and represents an additional incentive for cooperation with other subjects of public space, which we will emphasize in the coming period, says Pintur.

## **Info Day of the E-CITIJENS project successfully organized in the city district of Split 3 on 8th of June 2022.**

On June 8, 2022, the third info day of the E-CITIZEN project from the Cross-Border Cooperation Program INTERREG V-A Italy – Croatia 2014-2022 was successfully organized in the city district of Split 3. Info day took place with a goal to inform the general public, of all age groups, about the E-CITIJENS project. City district Split 3 was chosen as the venue for the third info-day because the historic center of Split is full of tourists in the summer months, while in the afternoons in the area of Split 3 there is mostly local population.

The promoter stopped passers-by of different age groups to introduce them to the goals and activities of the E-CITIJENS project. Citizens' interest was high, although younger people, up to 35 years old, showed a significant interest compared to the older population, which coincides with the frequency of using social networks.

It was explained to them how the IT platform developed as part of the E-CITIJENS project works as it is designed to directly involve citizens in campaigns to raise awareness of risks and the use of social networks during disasters and emergency situations in such a way as to contribute to the quality of emergency information service.

The E-Citizens project is financed within the cross-border cooperation program INTERREG V-A Italy - Croatia 2014-2020. and the total value of the project is EUR 2,846,100.00. In addition to SDC and FGAG, the partners on the project are Veneto Region, EEIG Eurelations, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna, the Municipality of Pescara, the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion, the Zadar County Rural Development Agency - AGRRA and the City of Dubrovnik, and the leading partner on the project is the Region Molise – Civil protection.

## **Work Cafe of the E-CITIJENS project successfully organized in Split on 13th of June 2022**

Work Cafe was organized by the Split-Dalmatia County with main objective to present and discuss the final activities of the project with emphasis on the organization of two field exercises for Civil Protection forces regarding marine incidents and oil spills and earthquake. The meeting was attended by representatives of stakeholders from civil protection system in the Split-Dalmatia County and Port Authority. (Participants list attached).

After introduction to E-Citijens project, and results achieved so far, SDC presented planned activities regarding WP4 (training of civil protection operators in use of EDSS platform and organization of two field exercises) & WP5 (two day workshop regarding integration of EDSS platform for policy makers) and extended invitation to both events. Main subject of the meeting was organization of two field exercises intended to test the EDSS platform and thematic equipment procured during the project implementation. First exercise was to test the Boat Sv. Jeronim and underwater scooter in field exercise which simulated marine incident involving fishing boat and tourist boat which lead to fire, oil spill and extraction of victims from the sea. Second exercise was to test ICT and radio-communication equipment by simulating earthquake/fire scenario with search and rescue operation involving search dogs, securing and extraction of victims from ruins, and extinguishing fire caused by severed electric installations.

Work Café was successfully concluded by agreeing on dates for training and workshop, as well as producing elaborate for both field exercises.

## Second and last Cross-Border Conference organised in Dubrovnik.

The E-CITIJENS project will be holding its final events from 14 to 15 June 2022, hosted by the City of Dubrovnik.

On 14 June, from 9:30 to 13:10 the second Cross-Border Conference “The social media-based Emergency Response Decision Support System” will be aimed at presenting the project’s main results to local and regional stakeholders, including decision-makers dealing with civil protection policies, civil protection officials and experts from across the cooperation area.

The conference will see the participation of the Interreg Italy Croatia CBC Programme 2014-2020 Joint Secretariat as well.

Back-to-back with the Conference, the 6th Project Meeting and Steering Committee will take place as a wrap up of project’s achievements and as a way to lay down a basis for continuing collaboration aimed at raising safety and resilience in Italy and Croatia.

Both events will take place at the Creative Hub Lazareti, Frana Supila 8 in Dubrovnik, and will be livestreamed on the project’s official YouTube channel and Facebook page.

PRESS RELEASE  
Split, June, 21<sup>st</sup> 2022.

**E-CITIJENS PROJECT: The rescue exercise at sea demonstrated the excellent readiness of the Split-Dalmatia County's Civil Protection System**

*As part of the E-CITIJENS project, a demonstration-field rescue exercise was held at sea, in the area of the Vranjic bay*

According to the scenario of the exercise, this morning around 9 o'clock there was a maritime accident, a collision involving an excursion boat and a fishing boat, with a total of three people on board. As a result of the accident, a fire broke out on the fisherman's vessel, during which one person jumped into the sea, and the other unsuccessfully tried to put out the fire with the available fire extinguisher. Therefore, the fire brigade was also engaged to rescue the person from the sea and put out the fire. According to reports from citizens via social networks, which the EDSS platform created through the project filtered and delivered to emergency services along with a picture and location, oil pollution was observed on the surface of the sea.

After being notified of the incident, the on-duty employee of the Port Authority informs the commander of the County Operations Center, who acts in accordance with his powers established by the Intervention Plan in case of sudden pollution of the County and initiates a rescue operation. The county center (112) requests the participation and assistance of firefighters, police, emergency medical services, the Red Cross, the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service, and Special civil protection units. A separate invitation is sent to the County firefighting unity specialized for preventing the spread and removal of pollution.

“The role of the Port Authority in this type of situations is to organize search and rescue. Today, the first task was rescuing people, which we did successfully, the second was the communication between the services involved, and the third was the readiness of the crew and the people on board.” - said Ivica Vuletić from the Split Port Authority, head of management and supervision of maritime traffic, search and rescue.

It is a department that is on alert 24 hours a day and search and rescue at sea is their main job.

“In real circumstances, our boats are ready to set and sail 10 minutes after receiving the call, complete with the crew.” – specified Vuletić.

The aim of today's demonstration exercise in Vranjic was to check the readiness of the civil protection system, identify possible deficiencies and make conclusions and measures that will increase the security of the Croatian and Italian Adriatic area in cases of natural and man-made disasters.



“This is just one in a series of projects of the Split-Dalmatia County, which aims to strengthen the Civil Protection system. It indirectly includes citizens who contribute to better notification of emergency services through their posts on social networks. Today, the goal was to activate all the forces due to the accident on the ship, including the specialist unit with the multipurpose vessel that was acquired through this project, and is used for the search and rapid response of the rescue of the victims at sea.” - said Ognjen Čavar, project manager from the Department for Economy, EU Funds and Agriculture of Split-Dalmatia County.

At the end of the exercise, which brought together many citizens, promotional gifts of the project were distributed.

The E-Citizens project with a total value of 2,846,100.00 euros is financed within the cross-border cooperation program INTERREG V-A Italy - Croatia 2014 - 2020.

OBJAVA ZA MEDIJE

Split, 21.06.2022.

## **E-CITIJENS: Terenska vježba spašavanja na moru pokazala odličnu spremnost sustava civilne zaštite SDŽ**

*U sklopu projekta E-CITIJENS održana je pokazno-terenska vježba spašavanja na moru, na području uvale Vranjic*

Prema scenariju vježbe, jutros oko 9 sati dogodila se pomorska nesreća, udarac u kojem su sudjelovali izletničko plovilo i ribarska brodica, na kojima su bile ukupno tri osobe. Kao posljedica nesreće na ribarskom brdu je izbio požar pri čemu je jedna osoba skočila u more, a druga je bezuspješno pokušavala ugasiti požar raspoloživim vatrogasnim aparatom. Stoga su angažirane i vatrogasne snage za spašavanje osobe iz mora i gašenje požara. Prema dojavama građana putem društvenih mreža koje je EDSS platforma izrađena kroz projekt filtrirala i dostavila hitnim službama zajedno sa slikom i lokacijom, na površini mora je uočeno onečišćenje naftom.

Nakon dojave o nastalom događaju, dežurni djelatnik Lučke kapetanije obavještava zapovjednika Županijskog operativnog centra koji postupa sukladno svojim ovlaštenjima utvrđenima Planom intervencija kod iznenadnog onečišćenja SDŽ i pokreće akciju spašavanja. Od županijskog centra (112) traži sudjelovanje i pomoć vatrogasaca, policije, hitne medicinske pomoći, Crvenog križa, Hrvatske gorske službe spašavanja i specijalističke postrojbe civilne zaštite. Poseban poziv upućuje Vatrogasnoj zajednici SDŽ zbog sprječavanja širenja i uklanjanja onečišćenja.

*- Uloga Lučke kapetanije u ovakvim situacijama je da organizira traganje i spašavanje. Danas je prva zadaća bila spašavanje ljudi što smo uspješno odradili, druga je komunikacija između uključenih službi i treća je spremnost posade i ljudi koji su na brodu.* - rekao je **Ivica Vuletić iz Lučke kapetanije Split, voditelj za upravljanje i nadzor pomorskog prometa, traganja i spašavanja.**

Inače, riječ je o odjelu koji je u stanju pripravnosti 24 sata dnevno i traganje i spašavanje na moru im je glavni posao.

*- U realnim okolnostima naše brodice su nakon 10 minuta od primitka poziva s posadom spremne za isplavlavanje.* – precizirao je Vuletić.

Cilj današnje pokazne vježbe u Vranjicu je bila provjera spremnosti sustava civilne zaštite, utvrđivanje eventualnih manjkavosti te donošenje zaključaka i mjera kojima će se povećati sigurnost hrvatskog i talijanskog područja Jadrana u slučajevima prirodnih katastrofa i katastrofa uzrokovanih ljudskim djelovanjem.

*- Ovo je tek jedan u nizu projekata Splitsko-dalmatinske županije, koji za cilj ima jačanje sustava Civilne zaštite. Indirektno uključuje građane koji svojim objavama na društvenim mrežama doprinose kvalitetnijem obavještavanju hitnih službi. Danas je bio cilj aktivirati sve snage uslijed nesreće na brodu,*

*uključujući i specijalističku postrojbu s polivalentnim plovilom koje je nabavljeno kroz ovaj projekt, a služi za traganje i brzu reakciju spašavanja unesrećenih na moru. – rekao je Ognjen Čavar, voditelj projekta iz Odjela za gospodarstvo, EU fondove i poljoprivredu Splitsko-dalmatinske županije.*

Po završetku vježbe koja je okupila i brojne građane, podijeljeni su promotivni pokloni projekta. Projekt E-Citijens ukupne vrijednosti 2.846.100,00 eura financira se u okviru Programa prekogranične suradnje INTERREG V-A Italija – Hrvatska 2014. - 2020.

## Work Café successfully organized on June 20th 2022

On 20<sup>th</sup> of June, Zadar County Rural Development Agency organized Fourth Work Café. The Work Café was organized within the Capacity building session. In the Work Café representatives of different institutions participated. The main topic was EDSS platform and its functionalities.

At the beginning of the Work Café, Project Manager Martina Friganović Šimunov and Ranka Brdar, External Expert from IN KONZALTING d.o.o. briefly presented the current state of the art of the project's activities and also presented the EDSS platform.

At the end of the meeting, it is concluded that the EDSS platform can be useful tool that could facilitate the work of emergency services.

## Work Café successfully organized on June 21st 2022

On 21<sup>st</sup> of June, Zadar County Rural Development Agency organized final Work Café. The Work Café was organized within the second day of Capacity building session. These events were mainly focused on real-time simulation of the functionalities of EDSS platform.

After the simulation, participants discussed about the possibility to include Civil Protection in the education programmes and school curriculums, but the participants concluded that this question should be addressed to the Ministry of education since they are in charge of this matter. Also, participants agreed that the tourism sector should be part of the awareness raising campaign so this is one of the recommendations for the future projects and collaborations.

At the end of the meeting, it is concluded that the EDSS platform can be useful tool that could facilitate the work of emergency services.

PRESS RELEASE  
Split, June, 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022.

**E-CITIJENS: The readiness of the emergency services for an earthquake of magnitude 6.1 held was evaluated today in Trilj**

*The last field exercise of the E-CITIJENS project was held this morning in Trilj and was based on the assumption of an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.10 on the Richter scale, with an epicenter 20 kilometers northeast of Split*

The simulation of the consequences of the earthquake, and the actions of the civil protection operatives, was carried out this morning at the building of the former factory "Cetinka" in Trilj. The exercise was based on the initial assumption of an earthquake of magnitude 6.10 on the Richter scale with an epicenter 20 kilometers northeast of the city of Split, with a hypocenter at a depth of 5,000 meters.

“Today's exercise was held in order to check the readiness of the County's civil protection system and additionally practice coordination and command in the field, because the operation of multiple services in a crisis situation is complex. All services participated in the protection and rescue system: local volunteer and professional fire brigades from the wider area of Trilj, the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service (HGSS), the Croatian Red Cross, the Emergency Medical Service, the Police Department, and the Specialist Rescue Squad, led by Tonći Rađa. After the report was received via the 112 center indicating the suspicion that there were also injured persons in the collapsed building, the first to arrive at the location were the fire services from the area of local administration units. The area was fenced off and the collapsed building was secured. After the facility was secured, rescue teams entered, i.e., firefighters and members of the HGSS with search dogs who located the injured persons and a rescue ensued. Members of the Special rescue unit from the ruins evacuated one person from the basement premises, while they found the other person on the higher floors. During an earthquake, one can also expect a fire that occurs due to tearing of electrical installations. That's why we also had a fire simulation where the fire brigade from the wider Sinj area put out the fire through a comprehensive rush and with seven fire trucks.” - explained Ivan Kovačević, County Fire Chief and exercise coordinator.

In today's exercise, the posts of citizens on social networks were also simulated, which, through the EDSS platform from the E-CITIJENS project, served as additional support for decision-making by the emergency services.

“It is a semantically enriched online platform that integrates information from institutional sources, locally placed sensors and social media posts. The software filters the published content of the citizens and forwards the relevant ones to the emergency services along with the photo, location and information about the type of threat, so that the emergency services can better plan the deployment of forces in the field.” - said the project manager Ognjen Čavar from the Administrative Department for the Economy, EU Funds and Agriculture of Split-Dalmatia County.



Each field exercise is an indicator of the readiness of the operational forces of the civil protection system, in which procedures are evaluated in a situation that leads to the threat of a large number of citizens and large material damage. The exercise is based on an accurately drawn scenario resulting from the simulation of the event with the predicted parameters in accordance with the Civil Protection Action Plan.

“I am extremely satisfied with what was done, especially that we put emphasis on voluntary fire brigades, which are equipped and manned enough to be able to help the local community in such a situation. And of course, as we have been cooperating with other services for many years, there were no problems in commanding or coordinating the rescue exercise.” - concluded Ivan Kovačević, County Fire Chief and exercise coordinator.

At the end of the exercise, there was an evaluation of the professional services and promotional gifts of the project were distributed to the citizens.

The E-CITIJENS project with a total value of 2,846,100.00 euros is financed within the cross-border cooperation program INTERREG V-A Italy - Croatia 2014 - 2020.

OBJAVA ZA MEDIJE

Split, 23.06.2022.

## **E-CITIJENS: ODRŽANA VJEŽBA PROVJERE SPREMNOSTI HITNIH SLUŽBI PRI POTRESU MAGNITUDE 6,1**

*Posljednja terenska vježba projekta E-CITIJENS održana je jutros u Trilju i temeljila se na pretpostavci nastanka potresa magnitude 6,10 po Richteru, s epicentrom 20 kilometara sjeveroistočno od Splita*

Simulacija posljedica od potresa, te djelovanje operativnih snaga civilne zaštite je provedena jutros na građevini bivše tvornice „Cetinka“ u Trilju. Vježba se temeljila na polaznoj pretpostavci nastanka potresa magnitude 6,10 po Richteru s epicentrom 20 kilometara sjeveroistočno od grada Splita, hipocentar na dubini 5000 metara.

- *Današnja vježba je održana kako bismo provjerili spremnost sustava civilne zaštite SDŽ i dodatno uvježbali koordinaciju i zapovijedanje na terenu jer je djelovanje više službi u kriznoj situaciji kompleksno. Sudjelovale su sve službe u sustavu zaštite i spašavanja: lokalne dobrovoljne i profesionalne vatrogasne postrojbe sa širega područja Trilja, Hrvatska gorska služba spašavanja (HGSS), Hrvatski crveni križ, Hitna medicinska pomoć, Policijska uprava i Specijalistička postrojba za spašavanje iz ruševina, na čelu s Tončem Rađom. Nakon što je stigla dojava preko centra 112 uz navođenje sumnje da su u urušenom objektu ostale unesrećene osobe, prve su na lokaciju pristigle vatrogasne službe s područja jedinica lokalne uprave. Ograđeno je područje i uslijedilo je osiguravanje urušenog objekta. Nakon što je objekt osiguran ušle su spasilačke ekipe tj. vatrogasci i članovi HGSS-a s potražnim psima koji su locirali unesrećene osobe i uslijedilo je spašavanje. Članovi specijalističke postrojbe za spašavanje iz ruševina su evakuirali jednu osobu iz podrumskih prostorija, dok su drugog unesrećenog pronašli na višim etažama. Prilikom potresa se može očekivati i požar koji nastaje uslijed kidanja električnih instalacija. Zato smo imali i simulaciju požara gdje su vatrogasne snage sa šireg sinjskog područja odradile gašenje kroz obuhvatnu navalu i sa sedam vatrogasnih vozila. – objasnio je Ivan Kovačević Županijski vatrogasni zapovjednik i koordinator vježbe.*

U današnjoj vježbi simulirane su i objave građana na društvenim mrežama koje su putem EDSS platforme iz projekta E-CITIJENS, poslužile kao dodatna podrška pri donošenju odluka hitnim službama.

- *Riječ je o semantički obogaćenoj online platformi koja integrira informacije institucionalnih izvora, lokalno postavljenih senzora i objave s društvenih medija. Softver filtrira objavljene sadržaje građana i one relevantne prosljeđuje hitnim službama zajedno s fotografijom, lokacijom i informacijom o vrsti ugroze, kako bi hitne službe mogle bolje planirati raspored snaga na terenu. – rekao je voditelj projekta Ognjen Čavar iz Upravnog odjela za gospodarstvo, EU fondove i poljoprivredu SDŽ.*

Svaka terenska vježba je pokazatelj spremnosti operativnih snaga sustava civilne zaštite u kojoj se vrednuju postupci u situaciji koja dovodi do ugroze velikog broja građana i velike materijalne štete. Vježba se zasniva na točno zacrtanom scenariju proizašlom na simulaciji događaja uz predviđene parametre sukladno Planu djelovanja civilne zaštite.



- *Iznimno sam zadovoljan odrađenim, pogotovo što smo naglasak stavili na dobrovoljna vatrogasna društva koja su i opremom i ljudstvom dovoljno kapacitirani da mogu pomoći lokalnoj zajednici u ovakvoj situaciji. I naravno, kako već dugi niz godina surađujemo i s drugim službama, nije bilo nikakvih problema kod zapovijedanja ni pri koordinaciji vježbe spašavanja.* – zaključio je Ivan Kovačević, Županijski vatrogasni zapovjednik i koordinator vježbe.

Po završetku vježbe uslijedila je evaluacija stručnih službi te su građanima podijeljeni promotivni pokloni projekta. Projekt E-Citijens ukupne vrijednosti 2.846.100,00 eura financira se u okviru Programa prekogranične suradnje INTERREG V-A Italija – Hrvatska 2014. - 2020.



## **EDSS Operators Training of the E-CITIJENS project successfully organized on 24 June 2022**

EDSS Operators Training was held on June 24 for Croatian partners. Training was held online through MS teams in Croatian language. The reason for conducting the training online is precisely the fact that the employees of operational communication centres of emergency services who work in shifts and can follow the training from their workplace have been identified as training participants.

The training was followed by daily shifts from the Zadar County Firefighting Operations Center the Split County Firefighting Operations Center, the 112 Split County Center and a representative of the Split-Dalmatia County (10 persons in total). The lectures included real examples and checklists for correct execution of actions (shown in the Operators Manual).

At the end of each lecture, the topic was analysed through a discussion between the lecturer and the participants. After the training, all participants received lectures (PowerPoint presentations) as well as the Operator's Manual in Croatian and English.

The training manual and presentation covered all phases of the EDSS platform life cycle, starting from data collection to information transfer to decision makers and, if necessary, to the field teams.



## **Capacity Building Framework Workshop of the E-CITIJENS project successfully organized in Split on 26 and 27 June 2022**

The workshop was held on June 27 and 28, 2022 in the premises of the Public Fire Department of the city of Split and gathered 13 representatives of the participants and operational forces of the civil protection system.

The first part of the Workshop was devoted to more theoretical topics, while on the second day, a simulation exercise of the application of the EDSS platform was conducted.

During the Workshop it was discussed about implementation of the EDSS platform in conjunction with the existing solutions and how to integrate all of them together thus further improving efficiency for civil protection system of Split-Dalmatia County. For the needs of the Workshop, a detailed program was prepared, and the participants of the Workshop received presentations from the Workshop as well as the Handbook for the implementation of EDSS.

In accordance with the instructions for the implementation of project activities, the workshop was transmitted via "live stream" and could be followed by other project partners as well as the interested public.