

EU project: Identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

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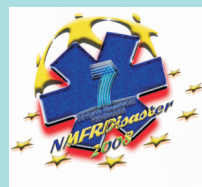
I. Frame

Acronym: NMFRDisaster; Grant Agreement No. 218057
Duration: 12+2 months; Starting date: 01/05/2008

NMFRDisaster project is funded by the EC, under Framework Program No. 7, Security theme, coordination and support action.



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The project is built on collaboration of medical first responders and experts from EU countries, Israel and Palestinian Administered Areas.



II. Objective

The objective of the project is to identify the needs of the medical first responders (MFR) in five key areas and to match those needs with existing knowledge, technology and products.

The end product of the project will be a roadmap, suggested to the European Commission Enterprise General Directorate, pointing out areas where future Research and Developments activities are required.

III. Partners

Coordinator: Magen David Adom (Israel)

Al-Quds Nutrition and Health Research Institute, (Palestinian Administered Areas)

AmbulanceZorg (Netherlands)

Center for Science, Society and Citizenship (Italy)

Charles University (Czech Republic)

Danish Red Cross (Denmark)

Fundacion Rioja Salud (Spain)

Samur Proteccion Civil, Madrid (Spain)

Shield Group Inc. (Aruba)

Sinergie S.r.l (Italy)



Partners of the project

IV. Key areas

1. Training Methodology and Technology
2. The Human Impact of Disasters
3. Law and Ethics
4. Personal Protective Equipment
5. Use of Blood Components in Disasters



Mobile blood donor units, MDA Israel

Thromboelastograph

R&D of new technology – dried blood

Rapid blood type testing/ Multicard system

Simulation exercise, SAMUR Madrid 2009

V. Description of the work

The work involved research activities conducted by the partners in charge, followed by workshops and a final report.

The research aim was: to map the existing know-how and products, as well as the lessons learned from real incidents. Subsequently, 5 workshops were conducted, each focused on one specific subject.

The medical first responders participated in the workshops, along with experts in the field and representatives from the industries. During the workshops the results of the research were presented, and the needs of the medical first responders identified. As a result, a map of needs not covered by current knowledge and products emerged.

The final step was to prioritize the different needs identified as requiring further Research & Development (R&D).

This project is unique as it brings together first responders from different realities in Europe and the Middle East (Israel and Palestine). This broad view of realities, experience and needs, was further strengthened through the other responders and experts invited to participate in the workshops (USA, UK, FR, BE, SE etc.). The aim of this broad view is to ensure a real European perspective of the work, followed by a real contribution to achieving the European goal of safer communities.

As a result of this project, a specific European (and international) expert network is built, enabling exchange of experience and best practises along with interaction with research institutions, thus focusing researchers on the real needs in the field.

VI. Preliminary results

The main areas requiring further R&D:

Human Factor & Training

- a) MFR profile (identification of enabling and limiting factors, motivation, learning styles, needs for support).
- b) Building evidence based recruiting, training and support programs, needed core competencies.
- c) The role of volunteers in emergency response, recruitment, training, retention, "volunteer contract".

Legal and Ethical Issues

- a) Minimum training curriculum and European recognized accreditation for paramedical personnel.
- b) Reference to disasters in current laws or a "disaster legal framework" that will facilitate interregional and international assistance.
- c) A reference framework of ethical implications of emergency response that should be addressed in the planning phase.
- d) Understanding the impact of cultural diversity on preparedness and response (both on the responders side as well as on the community side).
- e) The role of the media and new means of communication (e.g. Internet, web based social networks) in preparedness (including training – for staff, volunteers and the general public) and response.
- f) Cooperation between response organizations, the military (including multinational forces), NGOs, international organizations in preparedness and response.
- g) Need for a strong knowledge management structure which will include – research initiatives and results, lessons learned and best practices with the possibility of their comparison and sharing, and a strong network to include first responders, researchers and the industry.
- h) Joint health and security research.

Personal Protective Equipment

- a) To set agreed upon tasks, operational procedures, standards for the equipment, user requirements.
- b) To solve communications problem using PPE.
- c) To develop standard decontamination procedures for the CBR incidents (in the pre-hospital and hospital environment) for casualties, personnel, equipment, and the required equipment.

Use of blood and blood components

- a) Develop new products and procedures (frozen and freeze dried blood, frozen platelets).
- b) Develop new robust testing methods, which could be used in a "non-tech" environment.
- c) Understand the public attitude and behavior regarding blood donations, especially in situations that put the person at risk (e.g. during a pandemic).

VII. Conclusion and contacts

In the next weeks, a video clip, book and CD with materials on the project and its report will be available!

<http://www.mdais.org/e/316/4089.htm>

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