



IMPROVING PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE OF HEALTH SERVICES IN MAJOR CRISES

Testing the IMPRESS system in the “CRNA GORA 2016” Consequence Management field exercise in Montenegro

In the context of the EU-funded FP7 Security project [IMPRESS: “Improving Preparedness and Response of Health Services in Major Crises” \(No. 608078\)](#), coordinated by INTRASOFT International, **the integrated IMPRESS system has been tested** in cooperation with the Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence of NATO in context of the Consequence Management Exercise “[CRNA GORA 2016](#)”, which has been conducted by EADRCC from 31 October to 4 November 2016 in Podgorica (Montenegro). The exercise involved 680 participants from 10 Partner and 7 Allied nations (Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Finland, FYROM, Georgia, Israel, Romania Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine and USA). The participation of the IMPRESS project in the exercise was realized as a result of cooperation between [IICT-BAS](#), partner of IMPRESS project, and the NATO Center of Excellence in Sofia (Crisis Management and Disaster Response ([CMDR COE](#))). The field exercise offered a great opportunity to deploy and test IMPRESS components (INCIMOB and INCIMAG) under realistic health emergency conditions.



Figure 1 Overview of the Montenegro exercise site (left), Opening ceremony (right)

The scenario of the field exercise was based on a large-scale flood and chemical incident and the relative response and deployment of emergency teams in eight main sites surrounding Podgorica, the capital of Montenegro. According to the scenario, approximately 14.000 people has been affected by the floods. A large number of victims, anticipated in the scenario, spread in the various sites, has been rescued, triaged and transported to the local hospital. IMPRESS has played the role of the DSS system, improving the relative preparedness and response of the Health Services.



Figure 2 List of test sites of Podgoriza exercise and Daniloivgrad Bridge scene

Mobile devices equipped with the INCIMOB application for medical first responders were used and field tested during the “CRNA GORA 2016” exercise. They were connected with medical devices gathering vital signs of the victims and interfaced with INCIMOB mobiles. Personnel of CMDR COE has been trained by IMPRESS partners for using the INCIMOB devices and application during the exercise.

Test site 1 – Daniloivgrad bridge has simulated flood with two cars which crashed in the river and stayed on a tree in the middle of the river with small group of young people who were injured and needed immediate medical help along with rescue support. The IMPRESS team input the victim’s information with the help of CMDR-COE operator and transmitted all data about the patients to the INCIMAG located in Athens.

The CMDR CoE personnel used INCIMOBs to gather field data and triage victims in diverse sites, sending relevant information over Internet to an Associated Incident Management Post set up in Athens, Greece at the premises of EKEPY (National Health Emergency Operations Centre) of the Ministry of Health.



Figure 3 INCIMOB mobile devices ready to be handed over to end-users (left), End-users start using INCIMOB in the field (right)

An INCIMAG, IMPRESS backend data management component, was installed in EKEPY for this purpose. End users from the MoH Services, EKAV (Ambulance Service) and the General Secretariat of Civil Protection were trained to INCIMAG DSS functionality and INCIMOB applications the 31st of October. During the CRNA GORA 2016 exercise the INCIMAG component was receiving and displaying victims’ data from Montenegro and conclusions provided by the IMPRESS Recommendation Engine. Simulated hospital data provided by WARSYS module of IMPRESS were used to demonstrate response options, according to the field gathered information.

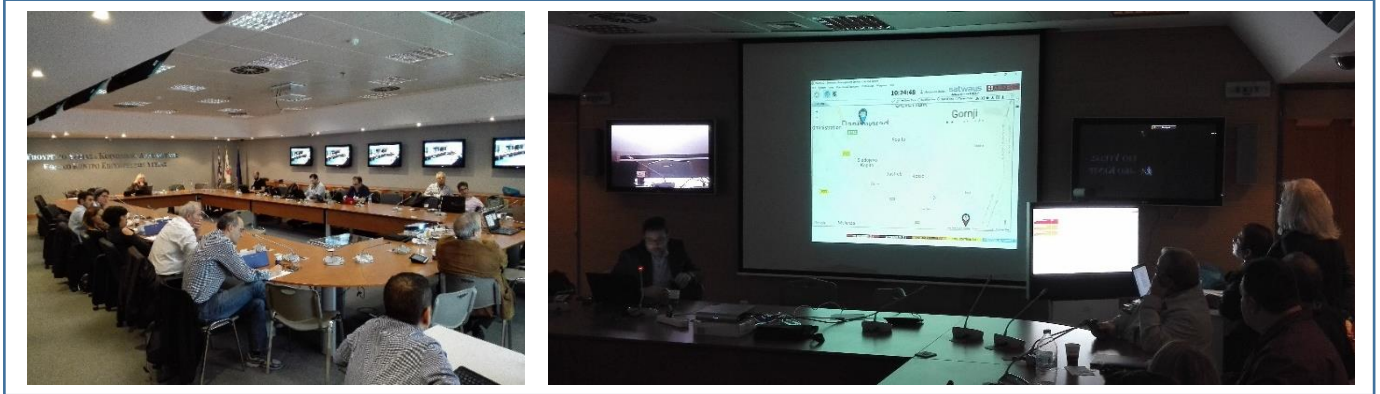


Figure 4 IMPRESS Incident Management Post at the Ministry of Health/Health Crisis Dept. in Athens, Greece

The NATO CMDR COE in Sofia, Bulgaria, is organizing the Lessons Learnt conference from the Montenegro exercise – the final dates have been confirmed to be 25-27/01/2017 in Sofia. The results of using the IMPRESS solution and its components during the exercise will be presented and discussed in the context of this event.

FURTHER INFO

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