



EUROPEAN EDUCATION AND CULTURE EXECUTIVE
AGENCY (EACEA)

EACEA.A – Erasmus+, EU Solidarity Corps
A.2 – Skills and Innovation



Project: 101092458 — GROWTH — ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CB-VET

GROWTH a project for strengthening resilience by offering capacity building and awareness-raising of the risks and impacts of manmade disaster



ERMC

member of
MANAGEMENT FORCE Group

RISK MANAGEMENT & EHSS CONSULTANCY SERVICES



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Project GROWTH

“Strengthening resilience by offering targeted national and local scientific and practical training activities for capacity building and awareness-raising of the risks and impacts of manmade disasters”

Seven partners

Six countries

(Greece, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Bulgaria)

Including HEI, SMEs, Stakeholders, First Responders

Exhibiting a **trans-national character** in the **Western Balkan**



➤ **Budget: 498.879 €**

➤ **EU Contribution: 399 101.00 €**

➤ **Duration: 36 months (1/1/2023-31/12/2025)**



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Partners

1. International Hellenic University (IHU) (COO)
2. Volunteer fire department Sveti Nikole (VFD Sveti Nikole)
3. Emergency Management Agency, Ministry of Interior, Republic of Kosovo (EMA)
4. ENGINEERING AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS SH.P.K. (ERMC)
5. Chemical industry "Poliex" JSC Berane (CI POLIEX JSC)
6. RESHUB LTD (RH)
7. BL SAFETY SOLUTIONS (BL)

Associated Partners

1. ASSOCIATION OF OFFICERS AND SUB-OFFICERS WITH UNIVERSITY DEGREES OF HELLENIC FIRE CORPS (EPAYPS)
2. Institute of Management of Manmade and Natural Disasters-Panhellenic Network for Civil Protection and Crisis Management-SCE (IDAFK)



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- A targeted program for capacity building and awareness-raising of the risks and impacts of disasters in **Western Balkan**

Overall Objective



- OO.1: Design and implementation an effective and efficient vocational education and training system
- OO.2: Design an innovative approach that each participant will follow its own path

Operational Objectives (OO)



- SO.1: Connecting education and vocational training with manmade disasters
- SO.2: Support cooperation, capacity building and awareness in public communities on emergency response measures and actions

Strategic Objectives (SO)



- SO.3: Promote scientific and practical approaches to private sector Safety and Security Personnel, Civil Protection Personnel for extreme emergency situations

Strategic Objectives (SO)





Specific Objectives (OO)

O.8: Further use and mainstreaming of a successful training model

O.7: Mitigate the resource availability issues, sharing already existing installations among participants of the Project, both on-site and through distance learning

O.6: Generate new and better simulation scenarios to improve the knowledge database through collaboration of experienced professionals from different countries

O.5: Develop an e-platform, accessible from any portable device to host the training modules and develop a community of demanders

O.4: Develop a common e-training curriculum resulting the cooperation between 6 countries based on findings gathered from simulations (Discussion Exercises) that will address existing knowledge and performance gaps

O.3: Identify knowledge and performance gaps through various comprehensive training needs assessments

O.2: Facilitate and support professionals by validating practices acquired in the field

O.1: Provide high quality training for both civil protection and private sector Safety and Security personnel to increase readiness and action ability

Steadily increasing number of severe manmade disasters serves as a stark reminder that such disasters may lead to **severe human and financial losses**


In many cases the incidents start from **accidental human actions** and a **lack of knowledge** on how to react in emergency situations


Although there is a **sufficient technical legislation background** and a **modern standardization** arsenal for the evaluation of materials, services and products, **in terms of security**


In this view manmade disasters should be rare and less catastrophic

The reality though is quite different

The question is why

Based on a detailed analysis of recent large-scale events, potential shortcomings may be identified both at the “**civil protection**” and at the “**private sector**” level. 

In the majority of cases, **employees of private sector usually are unaware or act without taking into consideration the existing disaster protection studies and plans** 

Important to have necessary knowledge to identify potential planning violations or dangers in order to either act directly or decide to transfer issue at civil protection personnel 

Civil Protection Personnel and private sector Safety and Security Personnel suffer from poor **life-long educational opportunities**

In the majority of European countries, college and university programs do not address manmade disasters at a sufficient level

Proactive planning is key in every emergency situation and within GROWTH a set of possible scenarios for each phase of Fire Management Strategy will be created

- **phase A:** quickly reinforce an ecosystem with preparedness measures
- **phase B:** enable fast and effective response in manmade incident situation
- **phase C:** implement appropriate restoration strategy



Effective and efficient plans will be created for addressing each of the phases e.g.

- how to position the sensors in an ecosystem for monitoring
 - how to extinguish a fire with minimal losses
 - how to evacuate an affected area or industry
- special attention will be paid in phase B as human lives might be in danger and it is crucial to ensure 0 fatalities from such type incidents
- 3D models will be created and adapted for the training of first responders also combined with VR/AR technology

Using the simulation facilities and online technology, GROWTH develops an **e-training curriculum** based on the **real needs** and the **cognitive profile of the target groups**, which can be applied in different stages of both civil protection and private sector Safety and Security training personnel:

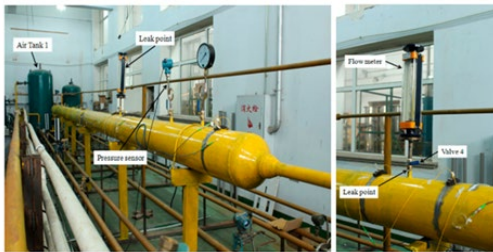
- e-learning educational platform
- Modules / e-training modules
- online technologies to bring remote training closer to face-to-face training
- Skills Retention Service
- ECVET supporting tools IMPACT & LONG-TERM BENEFITS
- Provide a high-quality innovative, flexible, and affordable training curriculum for both civil protection and private sector Safety and Security personnel
- GROWTH raise skill and performance levels and serve the digitalization efforts of the field
- Enhance VET providers offer online training with remote control practices
- Improve collaboration between Partners and sharing of best practices and resources
- Establish simulation training as mainstream methodology
- Provide visibility of EU innovative and effective disaster management practices
- Maximize impact: GROWTH curriculum will be available for consultation and to be included in future disaster management training.
- Trainees will be accredited to perform in their turn as future trainers.

The goal is to **support mobility** and provide Civil Protection Personnel & Private sector Safety and Security Personnel individuals with **knowledge skills, and abilities** to respond to Emergencies

Real-life cases are taken into account



1. Awareness of the different types of pipelines (Natural Gas, Oil, other fuels etc) and their purposes
2. Ability to recognize a pipeline right-of-way
3. Knowledge of the information contained on pipeline markers
4. Awareness of information available through various mapping systems
5. Ability to recognize a pipeline leak



(a) Pipeline and air tank

(b) Leak point



(1st, 2nd) Damage/No Leak, (3rd) Damage/Leak/ No Fire, (4th) Damage/Leak/Explosion, (5th) Damage/Leak /Fire

6. Awareness of the potential hazards associated with a pipeline leak
7. Knowledge of the actions to take in response to a pipeline leak, including the essential communications that may be necessary
8. An understanding of how to coordinate response efforts with operators
9. Response to Natural Gas Fires and Emergencies
10. Knowledge of the actions operators take to maintain the integrity of pipelines
11. Awareness of the additional resources that are available
12. Handle Decontamination and Clean Up



The curriculum focuses on applied concepts related to manmade disaster prevention, preparedness, recovery and resilience

The educational curriculum is composed of **sixteen (16) modules**, each of them divided into **in-class** and **web lectures**

Additionally to the **e-training phase**, a **mobility phase** will be included where participants will be able to visit one of the partners' countries in order to participate in **living labs** (labs conducted in the field), **promoting mobility at Western Balkan**

At this phase, participants will participate live at the experiments while they will be able to use the developed platform

A blended educational experience is chosen, which means that participants will use on-line the platform to study material and get familiar with it and then they will visit a living lab experience

Code	Module title
GROWTH-1	Introduction to risk
GROWTH-2	Risk management process
GROWTH-3	Risk perception
GROWTH-4	Risk communication
GROWTH-5	Industrial accidents
GROWTH-6	HAZMAT/CBRN incidents/Terrorist Attacks
GROWTH-7	Understand the decontamination options at a HAZMAT/CBRN incident
GROWTH-8	Understand the protection of responders and the safety of victims at a HAZMAT/CBRN incident
GROWTH-9	Building Fire
GROWTH-10	Confined space rescue
GROWTH-11	First aid
GROWTH-12	Pipeline Emergency Response
GROWTH-13	Natural Gas (i. Understanding Natural Gas, ii. Response to Natural Gas Fires and Emergencies)
GROWTH-14	Understand primary medical and psychological considerations in relation to Industrial/HazMat/CBRN incidents
GROWTH-15	Regulatory Framework of EU Civil Protection Mechanism
GROWTH-16	NaTech Preparedness and Response (Earthquake-Technological Accidents)

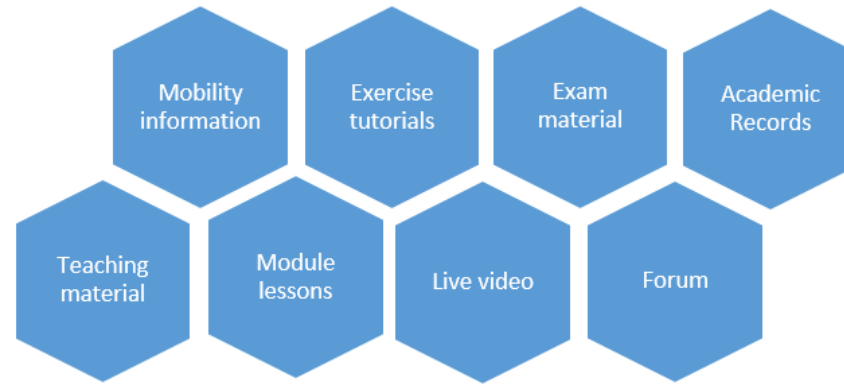
The modules are designed to cover the area of risks and impacts of manmade disasters and also to promote capacity building and awareness-raising

They can be categorized into the following subjects:

- **Risk awareness and management**
- **Accidents and disasters**
- **Response and Protection Mechanism**

The educational program is designed to follow the European credit system for vocational education and training (ECVET) credit standards for certification recognition across the EU

➤ the overall educational program corresponds to **approximately 15 ECVET**



The e-Learning platform aims to offer a comprehensive set of tools for both **synchronous** and **asynchronous** teaching and learning

The GROWTH e-Learning platform goes beyond being solely a resource for students—it serves as a practical tool for instructors and teachers as well. By accessing the platform, students can remotely engage in module experiments and exercises, granting them control over data collection

The inclusion of video tutorials and live streaming of teaching and exercises enhances interactivity among students and with the module materials

The platform offers publicly available materials on the module program and facilitates discussions through forums, eliminating the need for additional communication tools like emails, chats, task lists



GROWTH website: growtherasmus.eu

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/feed/library>

Linkedin <https://www.linkedin.com/in/growth-project-16352327b/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/growthp119>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093817806770>