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Rome, August 6th, 2013



One of the main priorities in Homeland Security domain is to ensure the safety of citizens, especially in case of evacuation from complex infrastructures. This priority, in particular, has a huge importance in big cities where there is a high

level of dangerous incidents, or potentially ones, for instance in subway stations.

When they occur, immediate and timely evacuation strategies have to be put in place in order to reduce the domino effects of the negative consequences that could derive from those incidents. Vitrociset is one of the key partner of the European research project - funded under the **Seventh Framework Programme of the European Commission** (Call SEC-2012.4.2-2) named **eVACUATE** (*A holistic, scenario-independent, situation-awareness and guidance system for sustaining the Active Evacuation Route for large crowds*) which has been conceived based on the aforementioned background.

The project officially started on 1 of April 2013, on the 22nd of April the Kick off Meeting has been held in Athens (Greece) and it will last four years (48 months). eVACUATE aims to address the needs of the safety of citizens during complex evacuation processes following normal and abnormal events (crises) towards the creation of a holistic system that: will enhance the effectiveness of complex evacuation operations at any type of venue or infrastructure; adapt evacuation plans to the current conditions; dynamically survey how an evacuation is evolved and support civil protection authorities. eVACUATE framework employs all key elements in the design and operation of the envisaged system; the eVACUATE Crowd Models, the Simulator Tools, the Emergency Operations Control Centre and finally the major constituent of all proposed work, which is the Smart Spaces. The main goal of the project is to research and develop a system capable of acquiring dynamic information concerning crowds in specific mass gathering events in order to provide an optimized situation awareness thus facilitating and automating the best evacuation strategy. The final achievement will be to identify, designate and sustain an Active Evacuation Route (AER) comprised of the most recently generated evacuation route that adapts dynamically according to current and evolving circumstance. The consortium is composed by 19 European partners - companies, research centers, universities and End Users - under the coordination of the company Exodus S.A.



AT A GLANCE

Research numbers

HABITAT - Harbour traffic optimization system

SNIFF - Sensor Network Infrastructure for Factors

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PROJECT OBJECTIVES

eVACUATE will yield a holistic system:

- to provide a valuable tool to guarantee total Situation-Awareness both to the crowds involved during a crisis but also to the crews operating in situ as well as in remote locations (security crews, first responders, crisis managers);
- to adapt dynamically evacuation plans to current conditions;
- to provide a clear, easy to use (visual, multi-lingual) set of safe evacuation instructions for citizens/tourist/visitors, available over a multitude of alternative and complementary presentation channels under a resilient, reliable and robust way regardless of the functionality of the "global network";
- to set-up visible demonstrations of innovative Crowd Evacuation Support Systems in realistic situations;
- to support civil protection authorities in the formation and validation of proper safety procedures for crowd management (Reconstruction of Experiences);
- to set a cornerstone for the standardization of equipment, processes and methodologies for evacuation purposes on a EU level addressing the cross-cultural issues emerging from diversity imposed by citizens.

The eVACUATE system performance and scalability will be validated in four scenarios involving incidents with large crowd at various venues with the requirements of evacuation time reductions and increases of safety and security. Former End Users partners will made their facilities available to realize the following four pilot demonstrations:

- Anoeta Stadium (San Sebastian, Spain);
- passenger cruise ship- STX-FR (France);
- Athens International Airport (Athens, Greece);
- Metro Bilbao S.A (Bilbao, Spain).

VITROCISSET ROLE

Vitrociset is one the key industrial partner involved in technological development activities (leading WP 8 - Decision Making and Optimal "Situation-aware"evacuation strategy), pilot demonstrations support and organization of dissemination & exploitation project's activities and results (leading WP 12 - Dissemination/exploitation activities) according to Vitrociset's Integrated Communication Approach.

For more information:

www.evacuate.eu

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