



IRMA

Integrated Risk Management for Africa

IRMA project training session

A one-week training session was held in Brussels on 23-27th February 2009. The event combined technical training courses provided by experts, management meetings and the project general assembly.

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ICT for Africa

Africa counts among the most disaster prone regions in the world. The most frequent natural hazards, including geological risks, hydro-meteorological effects, and other hazards disasters such as epidemics, plane crashes, insect infestations, bushfire, building collapse (poor construction) and major nuclear testing pose an ever-present challenge to public emergency services. In order to cope with such disasters in a fast a highly coordinated manner, it is needed to deploy efficient tools and technology that will help the authorities to save people life by reducing the risk of the disaster. The development of ICT is one of the most visible drivers of change in emergency management.

IRMA Project Objectives

In a context of increasing needs for developing European-African cooperation based on technology transfer, IRMA project aims at demonstrating the capacity of standardization low cost interoperable ICT solutions to effectively mitigate disaster risk, by addressing all phases of disaster risk management. IRMA is one of the first ICT European-African partnerships funded by the European Commission FP7.

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Events

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| 10-13 May 2009 | ISCRAM Conference 2009 in Göteborg, Sweden |
| 6-8 May 2009 | ICT Africa Event in Uganda |
| 27-30 April 2009 | IRMA Users requirements workshop in Maputo, Mozambique |
| 11-21 March 2009 | IRMA Users requirements workshop in Yaoundé, Cameroon |



Paving the way to improved risk governance and contributing to sustainable development...

IRMA first training session on 23-27th February 2009

The training courses organized in Brussels between 23 and 27th Feb. 2009 introduced a number of tools and services to be implemented on IRMA generic platform for risk management:

- three courses presenting the infrastructures, to be deployed to support the development, integration, field testing and demonstration of the IRMA systems;
- three sessions dedicated to the familiarization of the participants with methodological approaches as well with the design principles of the future IRMA systems;
- three sessions presenting the technologies and applications that have emerged from other on-going or past projects and which could be usefully deployed in the context of the IRMA project;
- three training sessions related to the Service Support Environment (SSE) software.

More in documents D3.1.4.1 and D3.2.6.1 on <http://www.irma.lu>



Next General Assembly in South Africa

The next General Assembly is planned for **16-19th November 2009**, in Pretoria, South Africa.

The event will be hosted by CSIR and will combine training courses, technical management meetings and plenary sessions.



Amendment

The consortium is currently working on the amendment which should implement a number of changes in the Description of Work (Annex I of the Grant Agreement):

- introduction of a Locust Threat scenario/demo activity coordinated by CRTS
- validation of Bushfire scenario with South African data (CSIR)
- delay of WP1 deliverables for reporting period 1
- first WP2 deliverables are delayed to reporting period 2
- ANRT becomes WP leader for WP3.2 Implementation and integration of the communications systems
- Redefinition of WP5 Dissemination activities with more focus on dissemination and re-distribution of the other tasks into the other WPs

Once the changes are finalized, the coordinator will prepare an official request for amendment and send it together with the updated DoW to the European Commission. This should be done before the review on 24 April 2009.

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Latif Ladid, IPv6 Forum chairman and senior researcher at the University of Luxembourg which coordinates the project, reminds the exemplarity of the initiative: *"The consortium is very fortunate to have been entrusted with such a noble project which has attracted a solid team of keen players to address some critical disaster risk management technology issues with immediate socio-economic impact on Africa and a return of lessons to be learned for Europe".*

The project enters now its second period and Guy Weets, the project manager, makes a first assessment of the progress made during the first eight months: *"During this first period and in spite of a slow start, some side benefits of IRMA are already visible. IRMA helped to get together stakeholders, coming from different horizons, who were not used to work together. Previous attempts to create such a network failed to a large extent. IRMA, as a concrete federating project has already succeeded in creating such a network with enthusiastic participants in the first two countries – Senegal and Cameroon – we were dealing with, bringing to the fore new ideas quite specific to the African countries. I am confident we will get the same result with Mozambique next month".*

IRMA challenges

Indeed, one of the main challenges to be faced by IRMA project and, more generally, by the development of ICT tool for disaster management, must take into account the organization of African countries and African culture. Africa is a vast continent with rich and very diverse cultures, not only from one country to another but also within one individual country. Much of African culture is centered on the family and the ethnic group. One innovative solution in IRMA project could be, for example, to be able to provide maps and instructions on African mobile phone (in different African languages) in case of a disaster.

This is only through forging partnerships with African (especially those in remote rural communities, the local urban community, the central government, the private sector, civil society and international organizations) that IRMA project will fulfill their mission and contribute to the development of ICT in Africa that can result in a truly information society. To reach this goal, high-level workshops on Emergency Telecommunications, gathering all stakeholders, need to be organized like, for example, *1st Luxembourg International Conference on ICT for disaster management*, in September 2009.



Preparation for the first periodic review

The first periodic review for IRMA project is planned **on Friday 24th April 2009** in Cisco premises, in Diegem.

The periodic report and the deliverables are expected, **in their final version, by 31st March 2009.**

Your own financial report and first drafts of documents should be sent **by 20th March 2009** to leave enough time for internal review and the preparation of the general report.

Below is the preliminary agenda of the review:

9.30-9.40: Opening

9.40-13.00: Session I = Project presentation by WP leaders (objectives and achievements for P1)

13.00 – 14.00: Lunch

14.00 - 15.00: Session II = Project next steps with plan for the next 18 months and expected achievements

15.00 – 16.00: Reviewers' consensus meeting

16.00 – 17.00: Closing meeting

For all complementary information and documents,
go to the IRMA portal <http://www.irma.lu>