CHORIST

At a Glance

Project: Integrating communications for enhanced environmental risk management and citizens safety

Projects coordinator
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Duration: 36 months
From 01/06/2006 to 31/05/2009

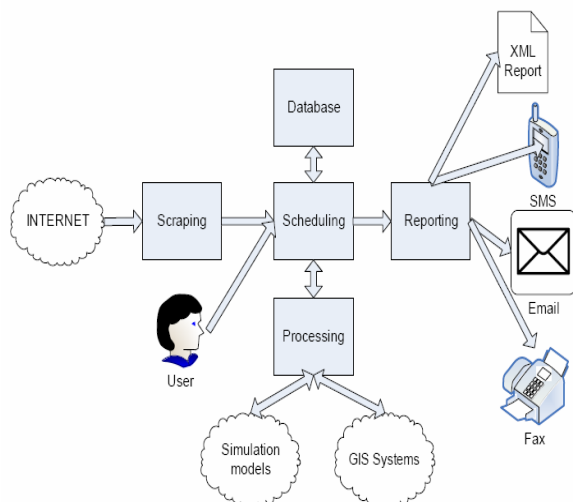### Total cost: 12.890.384 €
EC contribution 7.088.928 €

Programme:
Sixth Framework Programme

Project web site:
http://www.chorist.eu

Consortium: 17 Partners from 8 Countries

The Problem

The tools for the management of environmental risk events at European level, are currently very efficient but there are areas that can be improved. The monitoring, preparation and response phases of events such as natural hazards and industrial accidents require that citizens (local groups of inhabitants or professionals, individuals on the move…), public safety actors (including in-field rescue teams) and authorities (at regional, national, European and international levels) be able to communicate efficiently and reliably. The focus is put on the overall communication infrastructure, including (1) the alert systems that warn authorities, (2) the communication means between authorities and citizens, and (3) the rapidly deployable emergency telecommunication system for public safety responders.

Project Objectives

The CHORIST project will develop and integrate:
1. A fully integrated, reliable and performing alert chain delivering alerts to authorities with inputs from heterogeneous sensors, disparate agencies and citizens;
2. Heterogeneous communication means (radio, TV, sirens, GSM) to dispatch messages from authorities to as many citizens as possible within the crisis area and with limited delay;
3. Secured, rapidly deployable and interoperable voice and high data-rate telecommunication systems (incl. ad-hoc networks) for in the field risk response teams.

Methodology and Key Technologies

The CHORIST project will:

• Involve users (Civil Protection Authorities, citizens and telecommunication operators) all along the project life, in order get their requirements and their feedback on the ongoing technical developments;
• Interact deeply with other ongoing or closed projects and standardisation groups in the same domain;
• Derive technical requirements from the user inputs;
• Develop the three subsystems:
  o alert chain to authorities
  o communication means to citizens
  o rapidly deployable communication means for rescue actors;
• Integrate them into one CHORIST system;
• Set up a demonstration in Spain to validate the proposed concepts and assess performances;
• Promote the project to the broader scientific and user community.

Expected Results

Most expected results are technical. They will contribute to gain knowledge and to improve standards in the following fields:

• Intelligent data bases (case-based reasoning) and decision support (knowledge-based tools, simulation-based training) for risk response preparation;
• Approaches, methods and standard protocols to handle human / cultural issues in Environmental Risk Management;
• Broadcast to the citizens services;
• Communication networks interoperability: inter working systems, new generation terminals;
• New generation of PMR systems with novel hardware and software architectures offering more applications;

Moreover, the interactive work with end-users along the project ending by the in-field demonstration of new technologies is expected to provide a fruitful feedback on current and future developments of such products.

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