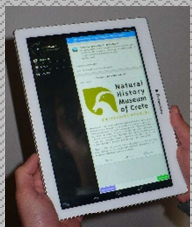


2016



“Enhancing Volunteer Awareness and education against Natural Disasters through E-learning”

LAYMAN'S REPORT



Project co-funded under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, Grant Agreement No. ECHO/SUB/2014/693261



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1. What’s EVANDE

EVANDE is the acronym of the project entitled “*Enhancing Volunteer Awareness and education against Natural Disasters through E-learning*” which is co-funded by the Civil Protection Financial Instrument of the E.C.

The project aimed to create a new learning tool to educate and train civil protection volunteers and local authorities’ staff through the identification of best practices and knowledge, to develop a web platform to host e-learning courses and training activities, as well as to organize and implement local - based dissemination and training actions.

The project explored and analyzed pre-existing knowledge developed under E.U.

projects, scientific research and civil protection strategies.



2. Partnership

The project was implemented in 2015 and 2016 by seven European organisations that have broad experience in civil protection and lifelong learning activities. It was coordinated by the Natural History Museum of Crete (NHMC) - University of Crete, in Greece (www.nhmc.uoc.gr).

The partnership was constituted by two more partners from Greece: the Technical University of Crete (www.music.tuc.gr) and the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organisation (www.oasp.gr); two partners from Italy: the Parco del Beigua-European and Global UNESCO Geopark (www.parcobeigua.it) and the Fondazione Hallgarten-Franchetti Centro Studi Villa Montesca (www.montesca.it); the Centre for Educational Initiatives (www.cei-bg.org) from Bulgaria and the Consorci de la Ribera (www.manra.org) from Spain.



3. Scheduled actions

Through its educational and other activities, the EVANDE project foresaw to contribute to the effective and more widespread implementation of the European civil protection strategies and policies by increasing the level of knowledge on certain natural hazards, their mitigation, prevention and recovery measures, as well as by strengthening collaboration among the various civil protection actors at European level, like Local Authorities' staff and volunteers.



Activities were spread into six tasks:

- **Task A Management:** it resulted mainly in four management meetings, the establishment of a Steering Group, the development of a Management Protocol and the preparation of the Intermediate and Final Technical reports to EC.
- **Task B Data acquisition and elaboration:** it conducted four study analyses on earthquakes, floods, wild fires and EU operational practices; realized four popular technical reports on earthquakes, floods, wild fires and EU operational practices; and designed project's web platform.
- **Task C e-learning:** the task produced 4 e-courses for volunteers

and Local authorities' staff; developed four e-games for volunteers and Local Authorities' staff; and organized drills for testing and evaluation of e-tools and their uploading to the e-learning platform in all project's languages.

- **Task D training:** under this task the game-training activities at the Natural History Museum of Crete, Greece, the training seminars for volunteers and Local Authorities' staff in all partner countries, one National training meeting per country and; an international volunteer meeting in Citta di Castello in Italy took place.
- **Task E evaluation:** produced the Quality Evaluation Plan of the project and performed all evaluation and assessment activities of outcomes and deliverables.
- **Task F dissemination:** foresaw the development of project's Dissemination and Sustainability Strategies; the creation of project's web site (www.evande.eu); the organization of four National dissemination meetings; the publication of newsletters, booklets, leaflets and Layman's report and; the participation in international scientific meetings.



4. Main outcomes

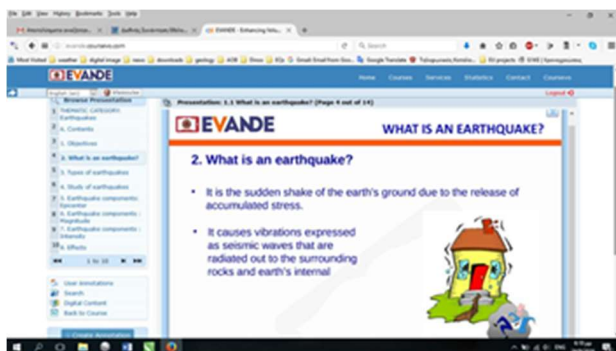


The vast majority of EVANDE's outcomes can be found at project's web page. The core deliverables though are presented in brief at the following chapters.

4.1 e-learning platform

The Laboratory of Distributed Multimedia Information Systems and Applications of the Technical University of Crete (TUC/MUSIC), with the support and contribution of all partners led the launching of the EVANDE e-learning platform.

The finalization of the platform took into account the feedback received during the pilot testing and evaluation phases that were conducted with the contribution of partners' staff, external experts and civil protection volunteers in all project countries.



Platform operates in English, Greek, Italian, Spain and Bulgarian language. The access to the platform is simple and free. It can be done either through the link provided on the project website: www.evande.eu or directly from: <http://evande.coursevo.com/>.

Platform hosts four courses in all project languages that refer to earthquakes, floods, forest fires and the EU civil protection policies. Each course consists of several seminars. Under the four courses 20 seminars have been developed. For each seminar, various tools have been produced like presentations, theoretical documents, assignments, and self-evaluation tables. In certain seminars video lectures occur too synchronised with presentations (like in Earthquakes), while in others, accompanying educational videos exist. The platform offers many more supporting tools for each seminar like seminar announcements, chat and virtual rooms, and special features to support learners' needs. Seminars can be combined together, and new courses can be easily produced.

The e-learning courses are free of charge and only a simple registration is necessary. Tutorials and videos explain the registration and learning process. Upon the successful completion of the e-learning courses, the users are able to receive an automatic certification of attendance.

As the launching of the e-learning platform is based on the blended-learning approach, partners organized both physical and virtual trainings targeted to local authorities' staff and civil protection volunteers. The aim of these meetings was

to train participants on the use of the platform and create multipliers in the various groups trained.



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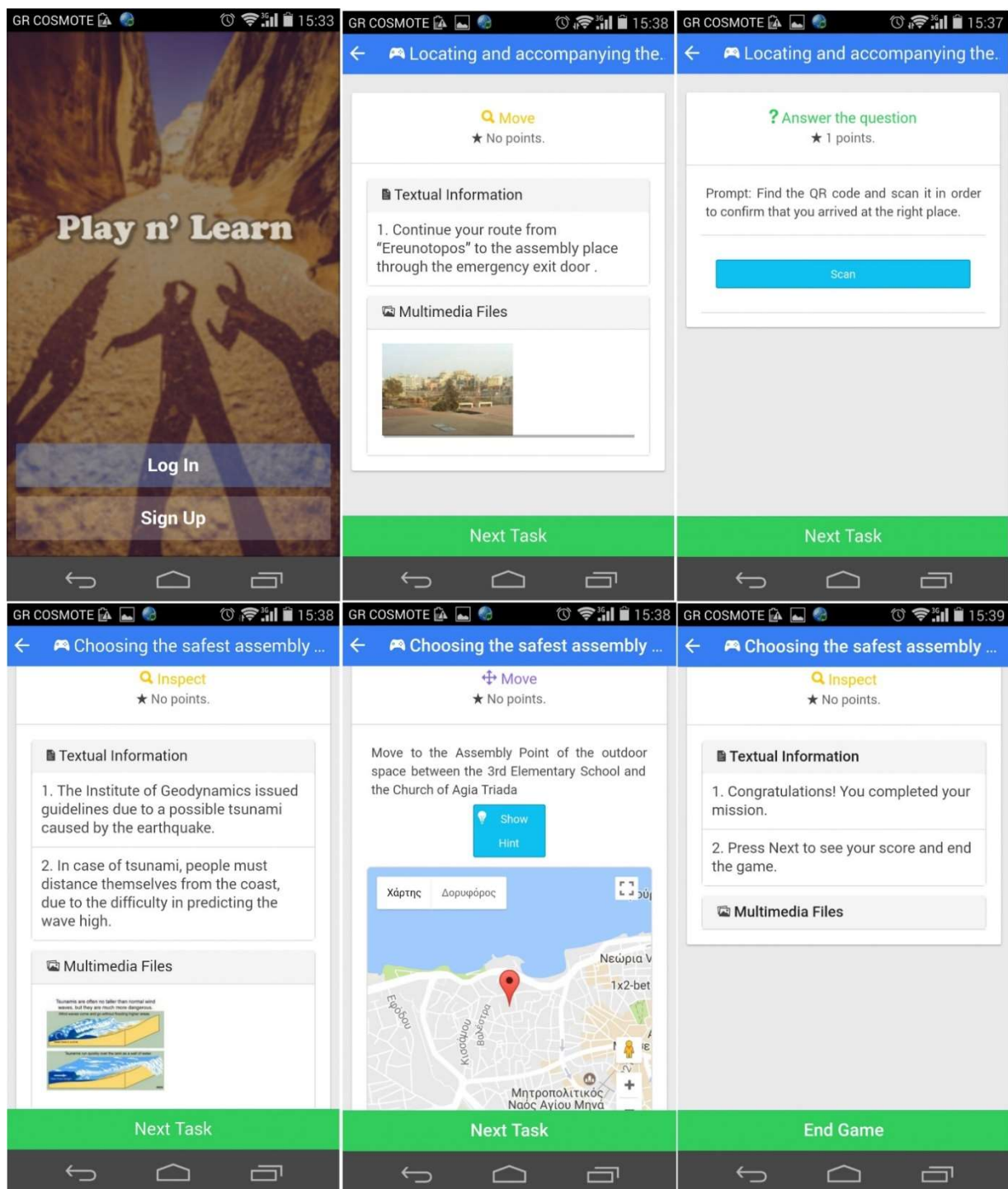
4.2 e-games

The Laboratory of Distributed Multimedia Information Systems and Applications of the Technical University of Crete (TUC/MUSIC) developed a platform (named PlayLearn) for the development and management of learning experiences in mobile location-based games, consisting of: (a) an authoring tool, supporting the creation and management of games, scenario editing, user interface customization and organization of gaming activities, and (b) a mobile application, compatible with most state-of-the-art mobile devices and platforms, supporting

the play of games created by the authoring tool.

TUC/MUSIC and the Natural History Museum of Crete-University of Crete developed four educational mobile-based games on this platform, three in Greek and one in English language. The e-games simulate drills and are planned to operate in the Exhibition Halls of the Natural History Museum of Crete, in Heraklion, Crete, Greece.

Players have to undertake actions following the museum's evacuation plan



and fulfil certain tasks related to earthquake, flood or fire disasters. The *first* game scenario refers to a flooding situation where players have to rescue and remove a

mobile seismometer from the museum; the *second* refers to an earthquake case and the players have rescue and guide in a safe place a trapped family; the *third* to a fire

case where visitors have to be safely guided outside the museum and the *fourth* a case where visitors of museum have to be transferred in the municipal assembly points existing nearby Museum in case of an earthquake and a tsunami, using QR codes and tablet's gps.

The games are suitable for all Android mobile devices that a visitor can carry with him/her and are also available on tablets existing at the Museum. Application can be downloaded by the project's webpage.

4.3. Training activities

Project had planned the organization of several training events including National training and dissemination meetings, testing and training seminars with volunteer groups and local authorities' staff and virtual demonstrations. These activities were organized with the contribution of all partners under the supervision of NHMC, in all project countries.

National training event in Greece was organised at Heraklion, Crete on 13th October 2016 during the National dissemination event; in Italy at Varese on 18th November 2016; in Spain was organised at Alzira, Valenthia on the 29th November 2016; and in Bulgaria at Sofia on the 16th December 2016.



In total **32** training events were organised by the six partners responsible for the task, during which more than **1185** local authorities' staff, civil servants (firemen, policemen, local army etc.), and volunteers for civil protection were trained.



The National events were organized at the late stages of project's implementation.

4.4. Volunteer meetings

Following the main target of EVANDE to improve collaboration, communication and networking of the various volunteer groups that operate in the participating countries, the project organized three volunteer meetings. The first was the International volunteer meeting in Italy, the second took place with few representatives during the Greek National dissemination event, and the third one in December through the virtual classroom utility of e-learning platform.

The International Volunteers' Meeting was hosted by Centro Studi Villa Montesca in Città di Castello, Italy on 3rd and 4th of June 2016, and gathered around 40 participants from Greece, Italy, Spain and Bulgaria. The aim of the meeting was to offer an opportunity for exchange of experiences among the civil protection volunteers coming from the EVANDE partner countries and the civil protection experts and local authorities' staff.

In the second day of the meeting, the group of volunteers and the EVANDE project staff experienced a guided tour to the Assisi Basilica and were informed about the human losses occurred, the material damages and restorations that happened on the Assisi Basilica during and after the past strong earthquakes. The participants had also the opportunity to visit the

“Expoemergenze” National Exhibition on Security and Emergency in Bastia Umbria. During the exhibition, an evening session was offered to the visitors, where the civil protection volunteers presented indicative examples of their emergency intervention at local levels.



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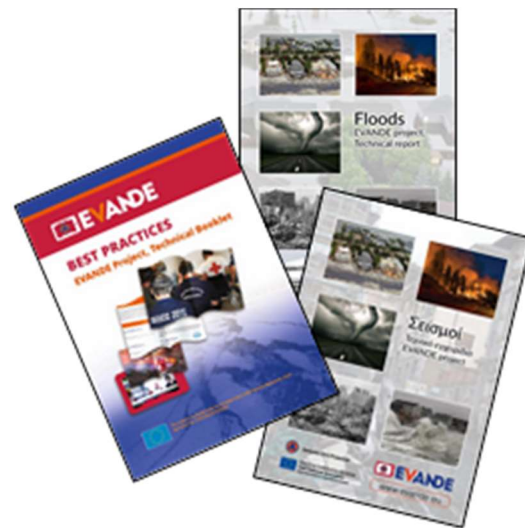
4.5. Publications

The research phase and exchange of experiences among partners concluded with the publication and printing of the following products:

- Four technical booklets on earthquakes, floods, wild fires and European civil protection policies (in English and all project languages). The three booklets on

the natural hazards offer information and examples on the hazard description, risk assessment, prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. A glossary explains terminology and common abbreviations and an extended reference list helps to expand knowledge.

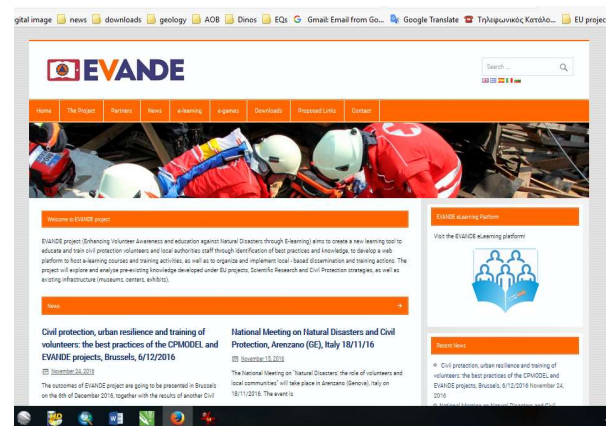
- A best practice guide on civil protection practices related to earthquakes, floods and wild fires (in English).



The technical booklets and the best practice guide on civil protection practices were distributed to the audience of the international events and of the training courses. Moreover, the publications are under distribution in all project countries.

In addition, the leaflet of the EVANDE project has been designed in English and was translated and printed in all project languages.

All publications (in all project languages) are available at the project’s website.



5. Follow up

All project outcomes and deliverables have been uploaded at project’s web page www.evande.eu. The publications, videos, newsletters, the Layman report, and various presentations can be found at the “downloads” tab. Information on the e-learning platform, tutorials on the use of the platform as well as the links to COURSEVO platform can be found at the “e-learning” tab. For the visitors of NHMC in Crete, Greece, additional information on the e-games that have been developed occur at the “e-games” tab.

Project’s future activities, news and relative information will continue to be hosted at the facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/evandeproject> which will remain active for long.

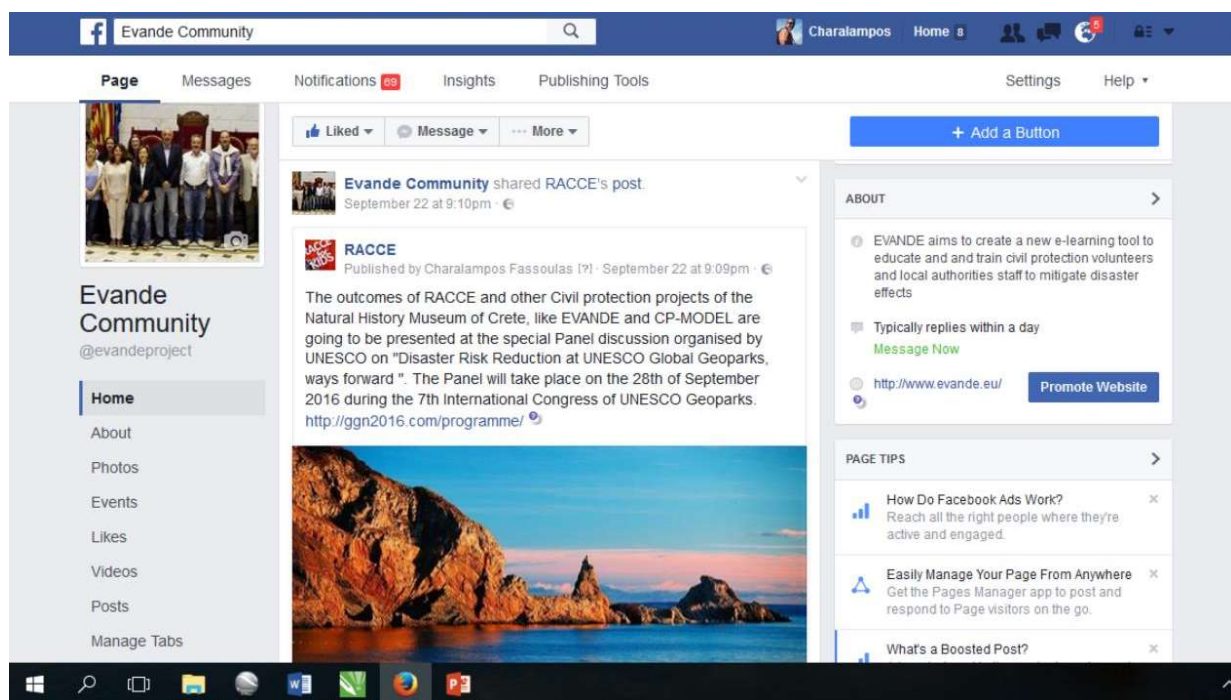
All project partners are committed to support and sustain all project’s outcomes and deliverables, especially the e-learning platform. Any support or guidance will be offered by all partners in all participating countries, though the NHMC and TuC are the most suitable contacts for any assistance.



6. Contact information

Please visit the EVANDE website: www.evande.eu and the facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/evandeproject> in case you wish to contact project partners.

Contact information of the coordinating partner (Natural History Museum of Crete-University of Crete): fassoulas@nhmc.uoc.gr, evande@nhmc.uoc.gr



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