

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE I / FEB. 2007

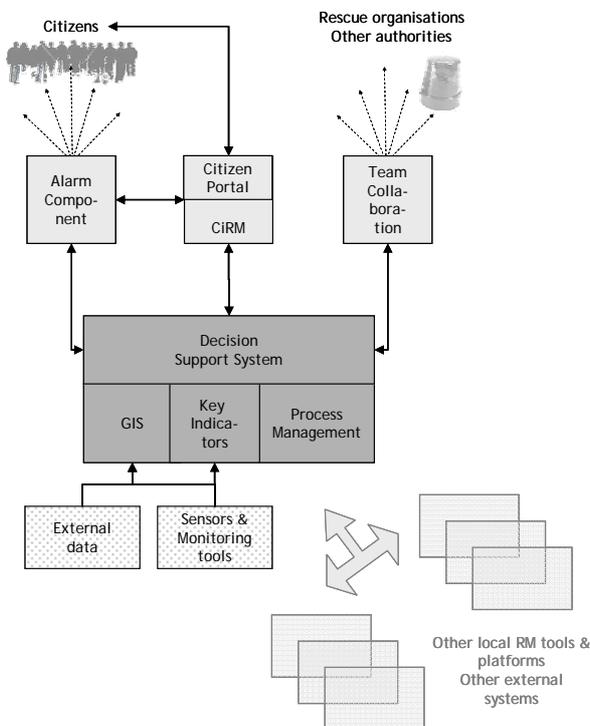


ABOUT ERMA & THIS NEWSLETTER

The ERMA project (ERMA is an acronym for Electronic Risk Management Architecture) aims to build a reference platform for risk management in the domains of natural as well as man-made disasters with a specific focus on needs of small and medium-sized communities. In this context communities might be public bodies as well as private sector organisations which share obligations and duties for risk prevention and response.

ERMA strives to employ the accruing information of an incident in combination with existing technology in order to provide risk assessment and communication services in particular with the citizens before, during and after it occurs. With ERMA, small and medium-sized communities will be assisted in the creation and efficient management of issues inherent to their respective responsibilities.

The following picture shows the ERMA components and their interactions:



The ERMA project started in September 2006 with a two year perspective. It will provide a first prototype to be tested at two user sites in 2008. Final findings about the performance of the platform and its customisation prospects are expected by the end of 2008.

Due to the employment of service-oriented architectures, ERMA is going to adapt and build upon existing components for alarming, geographical visualisation, collaboration, and citizen relationship management. Specific components will be developed for indicator-based risk assessment as well as dedicated process support for risk management. Hence, ERMA will combine best-of-class components and best practices on risk management. Its innovative power is due to the combination of services and their customisation features.

Project ERMA publishes four times a newsletter summarising current activities and achieved results. The newsletter you are currently reading is the first and gives an overview of the work and activities of the first 6 months of the project.



KICK-OFF MEETING IN LILLEHAMMER



Photo of the ERMA consortium in Lillehammer



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ERMA's kick-off meeting took place from 6th to 8th of September 2006 in the beautiful city of Lillehammer, Norway.

Main items of the agenda were:

- management issues and formalities
- start of WP 1 (State-of-the-Art), 8 (Dissemination and Exploitation), and 9 (Management)
- strategies, objectives and common understanding.



SECOND MEETING IN KARLSRUHE

The second project meeting was organised 11th - 12th January 2007 in Karlsruhe, Germany, in the premises of CAS by courtesy of CAS Software AG.



Main discussion points have been WP1 as well as start of WP2. Also, the field surveys at the user sites have been prepared (see headlines field surveys in this newsletter).



THE ERMA WEB SERVER

The ERMA web server <http://www.erma-project.org> is online since November 2006. All pages are available in English, Spanish, Romanian and German. Important parts have also been translated into French and Norwegian.

The web site gives information about News, the ERMA workshops (see also in this newsletter the announcement for ERMA workshops), papers and publications about the project, time plan and deliverables, flyers, and frequently asked questions (FAQ). We also included a RSS news ticker from the EC project EU-MEDIN (<http://www.eu-medin.org>).



CONFERENCES

ERMA presentations/papers have been prepared for the following conferences:

TIEMS
THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

TIEMS 2007

14th annual conference from the international emergency management society



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“DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF - Current & Future Approaches”

5 – 8 June 2007, Trogir, Croatia.

<http://www.tiems.org/index.php?id=17>

ISCRAM 2007

4th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management

May 13th-16th 2007 Delft, The Netherlands.

<http://www.iscram.org>

Not yet accepted.

IRMA 2007

2007 IRMA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:



Theme: Managing Worldwide Operations and Communications with Information Technology

Track: IRM in Government

May 19-23, 2007, Vancouver, Canada

<http://www.irma-international.org/conferences/2007>

ISESS 2007

International Symposium on Environmental Software Systems

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Prague, Czech Republic, May 22-25, 2007

<http://www.issess.org/conferences.asp?Conf=5>

All final papers are available from the ERMA web site.



FIELD SURVEYS

SANTANDER



The field survey at Santander took place 5th to 6th of February. As risk experts from the consortium attended UPC, Barcelona, and as IT experts Fraunhofer FIT. WTC Santander organised the meetings with several institutions of the port authority. Interviewees were

- Terquisa (Company storing liquid bulk chemicals and oil bearing products in the port)
- CCS (port coordination centre service)
- Berge Maritima (shipping agency)
- Remolques Unidos (tug company)
- Dynasol (tanker discharge of chemical raw material butadiene)
- Safety & Security Department of Santander Port Authority
- Pilots

The results of the question rounds are currently compiled and will soon be published.

Many thanks to WTC Santander for perfect organisation, delicious meals, and patiently cruising us around.

TARGU LAPUS



A second field survey was conducted in Targu Lapus, Romania, by a team of ERMA experts (6-9 February 2007). It confirmed that the success of risk man-



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agement and emergency preparedness in a community does require an involvement of all stakeholders. Meetings showed clearly that local authorities, companies, inhabitants and the media can all contribute to elaborate a risk management strategy that fits local needs and requirements. In particular, the efficiency of the warning system (e.g. for floods or industrial accidents) is best if users (people receiving the warning message) can be involved in system design. In that sense, research undertaken by the ERMA project and the Targu Lapus community can validate results obtained in other European projects funded under the FP6 / IST programme.

Companies visited were:

- MADDEX: a clothing company (subcontractor for Carrefour and Auchan supermarkets)
- FILBAC: a furniture company (sub contractor for IKEA)



Also two interviews with the press (paper journals) took place.

Excellent food and drinks honoured the Romanian tradition of hospitality.

We experienced a very warm welcome and a look at the numerous tourism resources of the Maramures region, including a nearby monastery, and the regional capital city of Baia Mare.

We had group discussions of 1-3 hours and individual interviews lasting ca. 1 hour. The working language was English plus excellent translation, whenever needed, by staff from the Targu Lapus Council.



THE ERMA WORKSHOPS

Project ERMA intends to organise two workshops during the course of the project. The first one is scheduled in early 2007, the second one as final event workshop at the end of the project, around August 2008. Both are intended to present ERMA, its basic ideas, but moreover to get feedback from the risk management community, especially authorities from smaller or medium sized regions, in order to collect their needs and requirements.

The first of these User Consultation Workshops will be held 1st of March, 2007 at the premises of INERIS, north of Paris, France. We would like to invite all interested in the topic and ERMA to come to the event and tell us your ideas, experiences, problems. We might not be able to reimburse the travel costs, but promise an interesting opportunity to exchange opinions and hope to recompense you also with a good lunch. Also, we offer that the final ERMA prototype can be tested at your site too if you participate.

At the ERMA web site you can download the workshop registration package (with agenda, registration form and travel instructions). More information about the workshop you can also get from Bastien Affeltranger, INERIS (Bastien.AFFELTRANGER@ineris.fr).

Results from this workshop will be presented in the next newsletter (August 2007).



ERMA CONTACT & COORDINATES

More information about ERMA can be found on the project web server <http://www.erma-project.org> with content in several languages. Here you can also find the project flyer giving an overview of goals, results and partnership of ERMA. The flyer is available in English, German, and Spanish.



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ERMA Project coordinator:

Unified Messaging System AS
Trondheimsveien 184, PB 6528 Rodelokka
0501 Oslo, Norway
Phone: +47-23-50-16-33
tom.muggerud@umscom.com

Technical and scientific coordinator:
Fraunhofer FIT, Germany

Editor of this newsletter:
Fraunhofer FIT
Schloss Birlinghoven
53754 Sankt Augustin, Germany
Phone: +49.2241-14 -2432
gertraud.peinel@fit.fraunhofer.de

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EC Directorate G - Components and Systems, Unit G5 - ICT for the Environment, project officer Antonios Barbas.

Project partners of ERMA are:

Unified Messaging Systems
AS, Norway
tom.muggerud@
umscom.com



Fraunhofer FIT, Germany
thomas.rose@
fit.fraunhofer.de



INERIS, France
bastien.affeltranger@
ineris.fr



CAS Software AG, Germany
spiros.alexakis@cas.de



Universitat Politecnica de
Catalunya (UPC), Spain
joaquim.casal@upc.edu



YellowMap AG, Germany
bernhard.koelmel@
yellowmap.de



Comunidad Portuaria
de Santander, Spain
c.redondo@
wtcsantander.es



Consiliul Local Targu Lapus,
Romania
e-cat@e-cat.ro

