

South East Europe Transnational Programme

Project Idea Form

Project idea's title

Use of ICT and Telecenters in remote rural Communities for enhancement and coordination of Civil Protection from natural disasters (fires, floods etc)

Priority

(choose priority and indicate the relative area of intervention)

☐ Priority Axis 1

AoI _____

☒ Priority Axis 2

2.2 Improve prevention of environmental risks

☐ Priority Axis 3

AoI _____

☐ Priority Axis 4

AoI _____

Project Idea Promoter

(name of the institution)

R.A.Computer Technology Institute – Sector for Telematics and Applications for Regional Development

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Is the applicant the project's potential Lead Partner?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If not, is the potential Lead Partner already being chosen?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Background (main problems or challenges to be addressed)

Environmental emergencies (wildfires, floods, earthquakes, landslides etc) with the potential to seriously affect population health or damage the property and the environment, are a frequent occurrence in the area of Southeast Europe. Unfortunately, as a result, a very big number of hectares is being destroyed/damaged every year, as any response that has been planned seems not so effective after the outbreak of a crisis. Especially in remote rural areas (very big percentage of total territorial coverage in SEE), much effort is currently given on prevention plans, but not in operational readiness status and human response in such cases. In fact, not so focused attention has been given to the social aspects, the education for applying the safety guidelines, the rights of the individuals to stay and protect their properties if possible, the psychological aspects of immediate and under pressure evacuation of an area and the rapid restoration plans including environmental aspects. Population of such areas seems not so familiar with emergency plans and escape tactics, resulting in many human deaths and huge loss of animals.

The core problem of overcoming panic when the crisis arrives touches the application of education and awareness sessions. All detailed processes that have been developed over the years seem to face the problems in real time emergencies. This happens because of the spread of operational responsibilities for reaction, in most of the countries, which leads to the loss of critical time after the outbreak of an earthquake/fire etc, leaving the "human factor" overall bounded and isolated.

More and more stakeholders push for improved policies as well as for investment in restoration of communities and landscapes affected by wildfires especially for remote communities which are facing a big disadvantage in relation with information/education/awareness etc.

Objectives (main and specific objectives to be achieved)

The aim of the suggested project is to propose a methodology in order to use existing local Telecenters in rural communities (established to provide lifelong learning opportunities and enhance the local computer literacy) in order to improve regional policies for coping with natural disasters right after their outbreak in disadvantaged areas like the remote ones.

Since regional policies in terms of environmental protection and risk prevention constitute a vital issue towards the accomplishment of the Gothenburg Strategy, local and regional authorities and relevant institutes in SEE need to further work towards a more close and effective cooperation on such issues. This project, based on previously related activities focused on the creation of Telecenters in rural territories, intends to move further and deal with exchange of experiences and good practices on methods, action plans or even tools, addressing the environmental disasters danger and crisis management right after the outbreak of a disaster, and in particular, a wild one (big earthquake, significant forest fire etc). Thus, the whole work is going to be analysed from the viewpoint of the provision of an additional mean to support the readiness to act promptly and efficiently in order to avoid as much as possible huge human, animal and agricultural losses, as well as landscape disasters.

Main foreseen activities

- Identity major environmental risks for the disadvantaged, isolated, and remote areas of SoutEast Europe (SEE)
- Propose a methodology on how existing local telecenters can be enhanced with additional services to work as level to deal with first respond after outbreak of environmental disasters (specifically for the disasters identified in the previous step).
- Design and implement innovative applications which can serve those areas in case of an emerging environmental risk situation (based on the methodology created in the precious step)
- Pilot actions within the already established telecenters in order to turn them into a place for the coordination of Civil Protection in cases of environmental risks. The action will focus on:
 - Planning
 - Population awareness
 - Emergency actions in case of an incident
- Create a final Plan with needed policies and activities in order to use the telecenters as a place for the effective crisis management and public awareness and information in case of crisis situations (based on the evaluation of the above pilots)

Expected outputs and results

Outputs:

- A study concerning environmental risks in SEE (with emphasis in rural/remote territories)
- A study existing Telecenters usage within SEE rural territories (existing services and status)
- A roadmap report on how existing local telecenters in rural territories can be enhanced with additional services to work as level to deal with first respond after outbreak of environmental disasters
- 10 pilot common implementations of the roadmap
- Workshops to inform about the roadmap and the pilot implementations
- Seminars – Conferences to raise further interest on project actions and results
- Staff exchanges and training sessions to train local staff of participating telecenters, in relation with the new methodology for the provision of services in relation with risk/crisis management
- A final publication of results
- Web site of the project

Results:

Wide interregional collaboration within SEE in relation with risk/crisis management in disadvantaged territories.

Local staff in telecenters and local actors with increased capacity in relation with the provision of services for crisis management,

Faster and better allocated and targeted reaction after the outbreak of an environmental disaster. Within a rural/remote/isolated territory

Improved policies with environmental aspects and adaptation on local level

Increased readiness after an environmental disaster within a rural/remote/isolated territory

Impact: Mainstreaming of project results to local and regional policies in all participating territories.

Innovative character of the project idea

Demonstrating how to provide remote citizens with a mean for effective crisis management coordination using new ICTs may itself be an innovation bringing substantial change in the lives of millions in the participated areas. Nevertheless, the proposed work goes well beyond this point, to innovatively value the concept of telecenters towards the above dimension. It is envisioned that local telecenters within rural territories will act also as levers to support effective crisis management right after a disaster outbreak. Such local community networks will enable access to information for the entire population, providing resources that will support the effective dealing with environmental disasters.

Partnership

Partners involved at this stage

ERDF Partners	
IPA Partners	
ENPI Partners*	

Partners requested

ERDF Partners	Regional/Local government, Organizations involved in actions and policies for civil protection, Other organizations with experience in the field of risk/crisis management using new ICTs, Telecenters or organizations managing telecenters in rural territories.
IPA Partners	«»
ENPI Partners	

Estimated Total Budget

2.000.000 euros

Does your project idea foresee the application for the 10% rule*

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please, explain in detail what will it be used for and the relevance for the project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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Estimated duration
(in months)

30

X I would like my project's idea to be published on the Southeast Europe Transnational Programme's website and presented during the SEE kick off event. (YES)

* ENPI Funds won't be available for the 1st Call. Partners from Ukraine and Republic of Moldova can be involved by applying for the 10% rule.

* The 20% rule is not applicable for the 1st Call.