IDIRA – End User Advisory Board NEWSLETTER

Vienna, May 7, 2012

Dear EUAB members,

It has been a while since we gathered in Vienna to discuss IDIRA's findings of the initial research and assess your needs, requirements and expectations in various work sessions. In this newsletter we want you to grant a look behind the scenes of IDIRA and the on-going work.

WORKPACKAGE 1

The report on State-of-the-art and user needs was prepared during months 1 to 8 of the IDIRA project. In this period closer definitions and comprehensions for a common understanding were stated.

To prepare a basis for future developments within the project the organisational and the technological state-of-the-art were analysed. The strong user integration (qualitative and quantitative survey as well as the feedback by the End-User Advisory Board) provided insights into user needs and expectations regarding technical solutions.

At the moment the IDIRA project, besides other work, is in the process of integrating all user input into technical understanding, for that future developments can benefit from user insights. Therefore IDIRA would like to thank all users who helped us with their experience.

WORKPACKAGE 2

In workpackage 2, the Framework Concept (specification of processes, workflows and information) is progressing and will be finalized in May 2012. The deliverable elaborates use cases for parties involved in disaster response actions based on the idea of multi-organisational and multi-national intervention scenarios. These use cases will be the basis for the functionality developed in later phases of the project and thus serve as important input for the requirements for the IDIRA MICS design and architecture.

The elaboration of deliverable D2.2 (System architecture including technical component specifications and interface specifications) is currently ongoing and planned to be finalised in July 2012. Besides the overall IDIRA architecture and core principles of the MICS design, the deliverable will include a detailed description of all IDIRA subsystems, their relationships and the input/output each subsystem will require/provide.

The prototypical implementation of the IDIRA GUI currently enables the geo-referenced visualisation of different kinds of reported disasters (see screenshot below).

Figure 1 - IDIRA GUI

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WORKPACKAGE 3 COMMUNICATION

The communication in IDIRA will distinguish three different areas.

- Communication from the end devices (small distance)
- Communication in the field (medium distance)
- Communication to the rest of the world (large distance)

For the end device of the field commanders only communications technologies which are already built-in into end devices are applicable. End devices will use WLAN for their communication. Within the reachability of the WLAN of the end devices Communication Field Relays (COFR) have to be installed. The COFR allows to plug in different technologies for the communication to the container. Which technology to plug in depends on the local environment. Each COFR can work as relay node for other COFRs to extend the distance between container and field commanders.

The container will be interconnected to the rest of the world by using different available wide area technologies such as Satellite, DSL, UMTS. The best available technology will be selected for the communication. The container, the COFR as well as the end device will support basic offline functionality if the communication to the container is lost, such that major interaction between IDIRA and the end user is still possible.

WORKPACKAGE 5 - DEMONSTRATION AND TRAININGS

In the later course of the project (2014) three large scale-trainings will help IDIRA to test the developed tools and functionalities in a real environment and train responders in using the IDIRA components.

The first training will be an earthquake scenario most likely taking place in Umbria, Italy. The second will be a large scale flood scenario affecting several Czech and German provinces in a combination of a desk training and a field exercise. A third training will follow. Its location has yet to be determined.

For October 2012 we are already preparing an abstraction of the flood scenario for demonstrating a first implementation of IDIRA functionalities to our project officer. This indoor demonstration of some IDIRA components is taking place in Dresden, Germany.
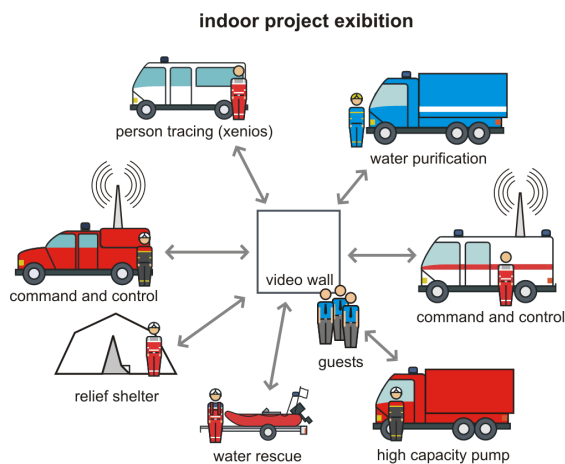
Figure 2 - elements of the project demonstration

UPCOMING EUAB ACTIVITIES

- Annual Meeting of the EUAB in September 2012 (tbc.)
- We may contact you individually in case of needing your expertise.

CONTACT

If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate and contact us replying to: idira@redcross.at.

For the IDIRA project team,

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