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Newsletter June 2010



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## Welcome to European Union project CoSafe.

### Cooperation for Safety in sparsely populated areas.

#### In this letter you can find reports about what is going on in some of the CoSafe teams.

##### *Report from the Icelandic team*

The work during the last weeks has been focused upon finishing the international conference which was successfully held in Akureyri in the middle of March 2010. Then the writing up and finishing the financial and activity report was completed plus we have been taking part in our regular national and international meetings.

The main work now is focused upon the results of questionnaire II. The results will be presented in a special report "Preparedness and knowledge of rescue workers in Finland, Sweden, Iceland and Scotland". The report should be ready soon and presented to the CoSafe partners in due course. We are also preparing a summary of the different rescue systems in the participating countries. The developing work on products and services within the CoSafe project is ongoing and the national group is taking part as needed e.g. sending protective rescue clothes to the research institute in Oulu so they can test the clothes, preparing reports on the applicability of the TETRA equipment etc.

As many of you know, and many have been affected by it, the volcano eruption in Eyjafjallajökull has been ongoing since the CoSafe partners left Iceland on the 20th of March. The national preparedness for disasters like this has been activated, at different stages, since the beginning of the eruption. The CoSafe group will write a small report on this later as part of major disasters in the participating countries. Those who are interested in live images of the eruption can follow this link <http://eldgos.mila.is/english>

##### *Report from the Finnish teams*

'WAITING FOR THE AMBULANCE' - training module

The objective of this training module is to standardize and increase the level basic rescue services for part time fire fighters and volunteers once arriving first to a scene of an incident in extreme, cold and isolated conditions. The focus of the training is in preparing the patient(s) for transportation and managing the handover of the patient(s) to the Rescue Services.

The training methods was based on the 'Train the trainers'- method, eLearning tools, hands on training as well as theory and practical exercise modules. Theoretical material was produced in Northern Ostrobothnia Hospital District and in Finnish Institute of Occupational Health.

The training was carried out as follows: The instructors, 8 professionals from Regional rescue services of Oulu-Koillismaa, were educated at Emergency Services College for two days (March 2010). After this, the educated instructors carried out a one day training session for part time fire fighters and volunteers under the supervision of ESC instructors in Kuusamo region (April 2010).

According to the participants, feedback of this course was very important. Nearly all told that this sort of training is needed, because of the environmental special features. Northern Finland has difficult areas from large sea side and lakes to wide forests and rural lands in Lapland. This course also showed the lack of adequate equipment for rescue operations in the rescue department. It will be changed in the near future. The course also raised willingness to organize annual training program improving knowledge and management of rescue operations in cold and rural environment.

The outcome of the pilot is a course module containing a structured method for training as well as validated material for education how to treat patients in cold, isolated and extreme conditions.

##### *Report from the Swedish team*

To increase safety for inhabitants and tourists in the northern region, we have produced a DVD film showing how to act when the ice breaks. It shows a snowmobile driver and his actions during and after getting into the cold water. You can find the DVD on [www.cosafe.eu](http://www.cosafe.eu), it will be translated to English.

We have ongoing discussions with the other CoSafe teams about how to present the results from Questionnaire 1 and 2.

The national group is also taking part in the common tests on rescue personnel clothing and we have sent clothing to FIOH, Finland for testing.

The GUIDE program will be further developed in cooperation with the Department of Computer Sciences, Umeå University. Focus will be on search function, security, transnationality (language) and the possibility for users to enter data into the program themselves. The work on the injury card is progressing and 12 cases are to be made for dynamic injury scenarios.

Our new project desk officer Rachel Burn and Niclas Forsling from the Secretariat in Copenhagen visited Umeå in May 2010 in order to discuss our project. They were presented the products and services developed so far.

In the beginning of June we are going to do an exercise in Storuman together with the "Cross-border Mountain Rescue, stage 2" project. In this exercise we are going to test different off-road transport solutions for casualties. During the tests we are going to measure comfort, stress and strain on a person lying on the stretcher.

The outcome will be written in a report as users guide for rescue people. The test is done in order to find out the most convenient way to transport people on a stretcher off road.

- Latest updated information you always find at our homepage [www.cosafe.eu](http://www.cosafe.eu)

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