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Newsletter March 2011



Welcome to European Union project CoSafe.

Cooperation for Safety in sparsely populated areas.

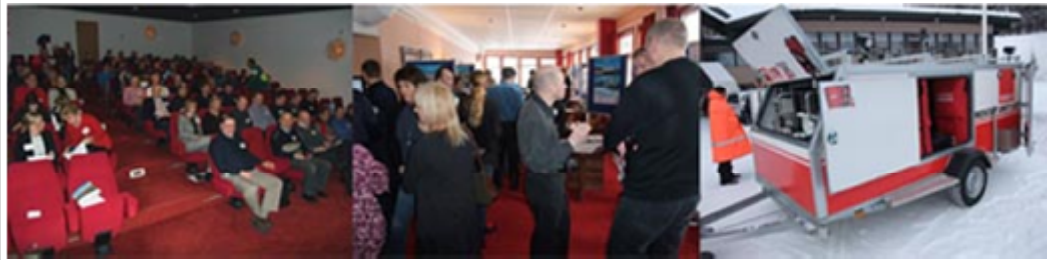
**In this letter you can find reports
about what is going on in some of the CoSafe teams.**

Report from the Swedish team

The CoSafe project had its sixth and final meeting in Sweden on the 15th – 17th of February, 2011. The first two days we had a workshop at Hotel Källan in Norsjö and the meeting ended with an international seminar at Hotel Lappland in Lycksele.

Hotel Källan was the perfect place for the final workshop. It is located in a sparsely populated area of Västerbotten County and this time of year it is not uncommon with very cold weather conditions. Our meeting was no exception and we had -15°C to -30°C during the entire meeting. These weather conditions provide challenges for public services, especially rescue operations in our region. The focus for our last workshop was dissemination, an analysis of project performance and the final report.





Our final seminar was held in Lycksele on the 17th of February, 2011 with the title “Major accidents in rural areas – experiences and results from the CoSafe project”. This seminar was a good opportunity for us to share the results and experiences we have obtained during the project period. The international seminar was attended by nearly 100 participants from 6 countries (Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Scotland, Norway and USA), all working with issues related to the preparedness and management of major accidents and disasters. An exhibition had been built up which presented the results from the CoSafe project and several companies was invited to display their products. The EU-project “Cross-border mountain rescue, stage 2” which we have had collaboration with in the past, attended the meeting and presented their project at the exhibition.

Report from the Finnish team

The Finnish CoSafe partners have disseminated results of the project both nationally and internationally. Two Finnish partners, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health and Northern Ostrobothnia Hospital District, took part in the 6th European Congress on Emergency Medicine, EuSEM 2010, in Stockholm, Sweden, 11-14th of October, 2010. Results of the casualty protection against cold in prehospital care were presented in poster presentation. In addition, the results of the CoSafe project will be published in a national trade journal.

The Finnish partners have been working closely with two informative booklets; Casualty and Rescue Worker in Cold and Development of Rescue Process. The aim of the booklets is to increase awareness of the effects of cold on casualty, prehospital care, rescue worker and rescue process in Northern periphery areas. These booklets will be available in paper and pdf format.

The training module, Waiting for the Ambulance, developed in the project has been used in the Oulu-Koillismaa area in Finland. The objective of this module is to standardize and increase the level of the basic rescue services for part time fire fighters and volunteers when arriving first to a scene of an incident in the extreme, cold and isolated conditions. So far in total 75 part time fire fighters, volunteers and professionals have been trained. In addition, during this spring about 30 persons will be trained in Oulu-Koillismaa area.





Report from the Icelandic team

The work during the last weeks has been focused upon finishing the reports on local products and services related to the CoSafe project plus taking part in our regular national and international meetings. We have finalised our six fact sheets:

- Rescue Report summary – to be published in an article later this year.
- Results of questionnaire II ““Preparedness and knowledge of rescue workers in Finland, Sweden, Iceland and Scotland” which identified that there are gaps in knowledge, communication and equipment relevant to emergency preparedness. It is recommended that NPP countries should repeat this study (or parts of it) in order to improve the deficiencies in equipment, communication and knowledge.
- Reports of major accidents and disasters in the area during this project time.
- Disaster and preparedness plan for the Akureyri hospital which is a comprehensive and coordinated work on preparedness plans within the health care settings.
- Report about the successful SNAM exercise in Akureyri in September 2009
- Short guidelines for the customers of TETRA equipment

The CoSafe group had a booth at the international congress about search and rescue - RESCUE 2010- which took place in Reykjavík in October 2010. We presented the project and gained a lot of interest from local and foreign delegates. We also had inputs in the successful seminar in Lycksele in February 2011 where we presented the Icelandic work. The project coordinator also took part in the live demonstration at the seminar by telling the story of the SNAM exercise in photos.

The focus in the next weeks will be to finish all requested reports and start preparing the final reports and dissemination of the project.

Report from the Scottish team

During the last few months the Scottish partner has been working on the products, making sure that they were delivered to the Finnish Institute of Occupational health for testing in the extreme climate laboratory. The product work sheets have been completed and in collaboration with the Swedish partner product cards have been produced for them.

In October a major presentation was made to the NHS Western Isles Corporate Management Team to keep them up to date with CoSafe progress.

The Scottish group has been working on Work Package 5 - Transnational Implementation and Dissemination of Results. The two major components have been:

1 The CoSafe Catalogue which has been designed and is in the process of being finalised for printing.

2 A DVD of the CoSafe project which is being produced by Ged Yeates, Andrew Cassels and Annie Cheape. They filmed and interviewed key personnel during the

final workshop and conference. This will be a 15 minute DVD hosted on YouTube.

One of the Scottish team took part in a preliminary planning meeting for the final conference, this was held in Copenhagen at the NPP Headquarters. This laid the foundation for what turned out to be a very successful final CoSafe work shop in Norsjo and conference in Lycksele, four members of the Scottish team attended.

A local meeting is being organised for the 7th April to present the outcome and findings of CoSafe. Local people will be invited to attend a series of formal presentations and given the opportunity to ask questions about how the project has been performed and what has been achieved. It is expected that the CoSafe Catalogue will be formally launched in Scotland at this meeting.

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