



Web Portal

European Virtual Academy 4 Civil Protection



WWW.EVA4CP.ORG

Background

- The Community Action Programme for Civil Protection supports and complements civil protection measures taken by the Member States at national, regional and local level.
- It promotes cooperation, the exchange of experience and mutual assistance and does not affect the division of competences within the individual Member States.
- Ever since 1994 the Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance has carried out projects within the framework of the Community action programme, the most recent being the crisis communication project of 2004 and 2005.
- In addition, the BBK has contributed in terms of conceptual ideas and planning to the further development of the Community protection mechanism. Among others, it has designed training courses to prepare experts for their advisory function within the framework of the Community civil protection mechanism together with the Commission and the Member States.
- The final report of the project will make recommendations to Member States, among others, on how this new platform can be used to exploit the resulting synergies for training at the EU level and to implement new curricula.
- In addition, proposals will be made for the joint preparation, implementation and evaluation of EU exercises.

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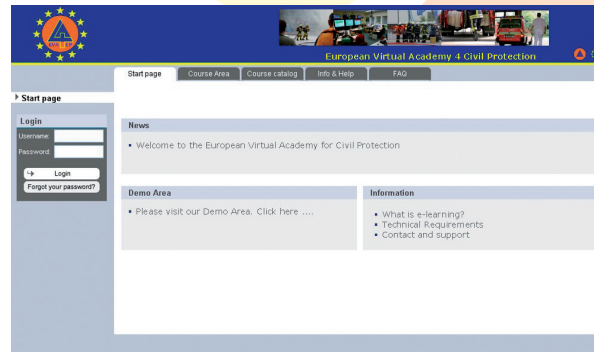
What happens?

- In July 2005, the Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK), together with SBS (Siemens Business Services), submitted a bid in response to the European Commission's call for tender for the EU project Virtual Academy for Civil Protection, within the framework of the Community Action Programme on Civil Protection.
- Presenting a solution that was convincing both in terms of content and proposed technologies, the BBK and Siemens were awarded the contract.
- The Commission signed the contract on 21 December 2005. The project is granted 75% of its total costs by the European Commission.
- In January 2006 the BBK and SBS (Siemens Business Services) began work on the project.

Objectives of the Virtual Academy project:

- Implementation of the project
- Harmonizing the European training systems in the field of civil protection
- Creating a network for the exchange of experience between European training centres and the Commission.
- Establishing forums for preparing Europe-wide exercises
- Modernizing training courses by introducing electronic learning systems. Developing an e-learning module for orientation courses within the framework of the EU's Community civil protection mechanism
- Optimising the efficiency of training courses by switching to blended learning courses (combination of classroom and IT-based distance learning)

- Implementing EU-wide curricula (e. g. for a course on communication in crisis situations) with a modular structure. Establishing recommendations and training guidelines for Member States and EEA states
- Creating a virtual platform for the preparation, implementation and evaluation of missions and operations under the Community's civil protection mechanism
- In addition, using the virtual platform also as a virtual classroom for the joint and simultaneous training of participants in different locations.



Implementation of the project

- The first step will be to set up a platform on the Internet, thus creating the technical prerequisite for running the different networks and organizing the exchange of data.
- This will also link up the individual expert forums that are tasked with developing solutions for different target groups.
- The SBS (Siemens Business Services) and BBK project team will be supported and advised by a working group consisting of specialists from different Member States (France, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Slovenia, Czech Republic).

- The initial core-group meeting in the framework of the project EVA4CP takes place in February 2006 in the premises of the European Commission in Brussels.
- There will be a constant exchange with the European Commission for the duration of the project.
- An initial workshop will serve to design and implement networks for the technical platform that will enable training centres to exchange experience, curricula and best practices directly.
- A major element of this innovative project will consist in developing an e-learning module for EU training courses.
- To this end, the present state of affairs will be analysed, taking into account the content and insights of present EU training courses as well as the experience of lecturers involved.

Outlook

- The BBK, together with SBS (Siemens Business Services), will report step by step on the results of the project "Virtual Academy for Civil Protection at EU Level" at the following web-sites:

www.eva4cp.org

www.eva4cp.net

www.eva4cp.eu (requested)