

# Report on international collaboration and synergies

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Deliverable abstract	The OVERWATCH project aims to enhance crisis management by developing an integrated holographic system to improve communication, information gathering, and coordination among disaster response teams.
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<sup>1</sup> Nature of the deliverable: **R** = Report, **P** = Prototype, **D** = Demonstrator, **O** = Other

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## Acronyms and abbreviations

AI	Artificial intelligence
AR	Augmented reality
CMINE	Crisis Management Innovation Network Europe
COLLARIS	COLLaborative network on unmanned AeRIal Systems
EGNOS	European geostationary navigation overlay service
EO	Earth observation
EMS	Emergency management and security
ER	Emergency responders
FR	First responder
GIS	Geographic information systems
GNSS	Global navigation satellite system
GPS	Global Positioning System
LIDAR	Laser imaging, detection, and ranging
HAS	High Accuracy Service
ISAR	Interactive streaming for augmented reality
OSNMA	Open service navigation message authentication
NGO	Non-governmental organisations
R&D	Research and development
RTC	Responder Technology Cluster
SA	Situational awareness
SAR	Search and rescue
UCP KN	Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network
VR	Virtual reality
XR	Extended reality

## Executive Summary

The OVERWATCH project seeks to develop an integrated holographic crisis management system to enhance communication, information gathering, and coordination among disaster response teams. The project's primary objectives include creating a more intuitive, decentralised, informed, and precise tool for managing several types of disasters. The project also intends to ensure a safer, more resilient, and capable response infrastructure while reducing the risk to humans and material goods by providing better situational awareness and coordinated efforts.

The Overwatch system was developed to offer practical support to end-users involved in managing wildfires and floods, by efficient integration and leveraging all benefits and minimizing the disadvantages of advanced solutions: Earth Observation, drone technologies, fallback communication system, artificial intelligence-based backend management system, and augmented reality.

From the very beginning Overwatch project was created not as stand-alone system for directly involved stakeholders, but as an operational solution aiming at maximizing the end-user engagement and exploring possible synergies with other security-related initiatives at European level. To this end, a dedicated Task 5.3 International cooperation and synergies was conducted throughout almost whole project duration (since M7), involving all the consortium partners and basing on technological development and overall information/communication activities. This deliverable presents the main elements of cooperation between Overwatch and European networks and clusters, as well as with individual projects aiming at improving disaster management through innovative technologies that aid information gathering, communication, and coordination between disaster response teams.

Eventually, it is expected that Overwatch system due to its technological developments and cooperation relationships established during the project duration will contribute to mitigating the adverse impacts of natural hazards, specifically wildfires and floods, on human lives, benefiting economic stability and the environment, thereby creating a more sustainable future.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Overview of the OVERWATCH project

Climate change is causing increased natural hazards, resulting in death, displacement, destruction, and economic impact. Forest fires and floods represent a significant risk in the European Union (EU) Member States. The project aims to create a more intuitive, decentralised, informed, and precise tool for several types of disasters, deployable in several phases of a natural disaster. The project will ensure a safer, more resilient, and capable response infrastructure, carrying out the crisis operation more cohesively. Disaster management and control are crucial to mitigate the effects of these events.

The OVERWATCH project aims to develop an Integrated holographic crisis management map, supported by European Global Navigation Satellite System (EGNSS) and Copernicus Emergency Management Services (CEMS), to improve communication, information gathering, and coordination among disaster response teams. The system will use digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence, drones, and augmented reality, to provide accurate data and improve performance.

The project addresses the complexity of disaster management and control, which involves information and communication with several players to have a high-fidelity awareness of the situation to implement adequate and effective measures. The project will develop a reliable and efficient communications infrastructure enabling solutions such as OVERWATCH to gather and disseminate information for improved situational awareness.

The project will combine several services offered by EGNSS and Copernicus EMS with digital technologies, providing the necessary data and performance to make this system a valuable resource for environmental, citizen, and infrastructure protection.

OVERWATCH aims to create a TRL 7 prototype validated through two demonstrations in different countries. This prototype will enhance the disaster response team's capabilities, enabling them to deploy air, water, and ground assets through decision support tools integrated into an immersive and decentralised command platform. The project will also focus on pre-disaster planning, mitigation operations during the disaster, and relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

The project's desired end state will be to reduce the risk to humans and material goods by providing better situational awareness and coordinated efforts.

## 1.2. Purpose of the document

This document presents the report on contacts and collaboration with projects or other entities in the civil protection sector, established during the Overwatch project duration within the scope of Task 5.3 – International cooperation and synergies under WP5 Dissemination, communication and exploitation. All partners contributed to this task through their network of contacts, with overall leadership of CBK PAN and WP5 coordination of Alpha.

Already at the project proposal stage it was decided to make every effort possible to maximize the end-user engagement and identify and explore possible synergies with other security-related initiatives at European level. Therefore a specific task T5.3 was dedicated to building collaboration opportunities and synergies with ongoing EU and international projects, civil protection networks/groups/hubs and other initiatives in this sector. Technical elements of cooperation related mostly to the use of available European data from Copernicus and Galileo systems were included in WP2-WP4 scope whenever needed for the overall Overwatch system development.

## 1.3. Structure of the document

The deliverable report, this document, has the following structure,

- Chapter 1, this chapter, provides an overview of the OVERWATCH project and states its primary purposes. It also provides the structure of this report.
- Chapter 2 presents the details of cooperation initiated by Overwatch with EU organizations, clusters and working groups – Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network, Responder Technology Cluster on CMINE (Crisis Management Network Europe) and COLLARIS Network,
- Chapter 3 describes various EU projects with which some synergies were identified at the beginning of Overwatch and cooperation activities undertaken throughout the course of Overwatch,.
- Chapter 4 provides an overview of Emergency Management Workshop organized by Overwatch, UNICORN, COLLARIS2 and DIREKTION projects with the support from Horizon Results Booster initiative and RTC CMINE
- Chapter 5 provides brief conclusions and remarks for deliverable D5.4.

## 2. Cooperation with EU organizations, clusters and working groups

The activities undertaken in T5.3 were focused on two complementary lines – seeking collaboration opportunities with already established European thematic communities, network and clusters and in parallel analysis of „individual” projects for potential synergies to be further exploited (be they technological, procedural or informational ones). They were carried out in a continuous feedback loop with other WP5 tasks.

It was decided to focus on promoting the Overwatch development activities and at the last stage the achieved results in European networks and clusters prioritizing these offering direct access channels to end-users and field operatives.

Given these criteria, the first priority was for Overwatch to join the most formal – and offering opportunity to reach out with the relevant information to the highest number of end-users and crisis management practitioners with operational experience – community, i.e. the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network.

The next step was to initiate collaboration with Responder Technology Cluster on CMINE, covering a wide range of technological solutions for civil protection and crisis management purposes. And last but not least working relationship was established with COLLARIS Network – an interdisciplinary thematic community focused on operational use of drones (one of main technological elements of Overwatch). The details about Overwatch cooperation with each of these initiatives are described in the following sections of the document.

### 2.1. Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network

The concept of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network was first introduced with an intention to build up the EU's overall ability and capacity to deal with disasters in 2019. As one of the tools at the disposal of the UCPM and its community, the Knowledge Network was set up to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of civil protection training and exercises, to promote innovation and

dialogue, and to enhance cooperation in prevention, preparedness and response between Member States' national civil protection authorities and services.

After almost two years of intense consultations and negotiations with the UCPM Member and Participating States, as well as with the European Commission services actively involved in shaping the EU policy in disaster risk management, the mandate and the organisational structure of the Knowledge Network were endorsed in November 2021. The Knowledge Network's approach is closely aligned with and contributes to major EU priorities, which also shape the strategic agenda of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO).

The strategic objectives of the UCP KN are as follows:

- Goal 1: Stronger Community: enhance collaboration between scientists, practitioners, policy – and decision makers in civil protection and disaster risk management
- Goal 2: Shared Knowledge for Action: support knowledge sharing and learning to strengthen the collective capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond effectively to emergencies
- Goal 3: Research that Matters: strengthen application of research in civil protection and disaster risk management planning and operations.

Launched in December 2021, the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network is one of the tools of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and its community. It was set up to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of civil protection training and exercises, promote innovation and dialogue, and enhance cooperation between Member States' national civil protection authorities. The Knowledge Network is a hub that connects first responders, disaster risk managers, scientists, and decision-makers and matches their needs for expertise and good practices with methodologies, tools, solutions, and resources.

The online platform of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network serves as an information and collaboration hub for the civil protection and disaster risk management community in Europe. Practitioners, researchers, policy makers, volunteers and many other actors from the sector can find there news and community updates, knowledge and training repositories, as well as numerous possibilities to make contacts and new connections, and work together on areas of common interest. The information published there is divided into 3 main categories:

- news – UCPM developments, legislative and policy updates, news from the Member States and project community;
- stories – community testimonials promoting civil protection and disaster risk management policies and practices across Europe;
- events – conferences, seminars, workshops, project and networking events for the civil protection and disaster risk management community.

At first, the UCP KN platform was only available to the projects directly funded by DG ECHO mechanisms. At the end of 2023, the project working spaces were also opened to relevant civil protection (CP) and disaster risk management (DRM) related Horizon research projects to facilitate better knowledge exchange between their research activities and the more operational or capacity development focus of UCPM projects. The project spaces allow to disseminate events independently, upload deliverables, integrate better to DG ECHO officers' day-to-day work, submit material to the UCP Knowledge Library, and to create a dedicated project discussion group to facilitate exchange.

Overwatch decided to take advantage of this newly-offered opportunity to join the Union Civil Protection community already in February 2024. The application process required filling in a questionnaire with requested information about the project, including providing justification on the

project's relevance to the UCP scope and objectives. The decision to be allocated the project space is not automatic, but it is made by the Knowledge Network team with the project officer's assistance. Overwatch received positive feedback and joined the UCP KN platform in March 2024, starting with the general project description and contact information. Since then the project space has been regularly updated with relevant articles and videos presenting key project events and achievements 12 „stories” were published:

- Joint workshop with DIREKTION project, UNICORN Project and COLLARIS Network
- OVERWATCH Demo Test, Abrantes (Portugal)
- Video on OVERWATCH Web Dashboard overview
- OVERWATCH project at European Space Agency - ESA Living Planet Symposium
- The OVERWATCH presentation during the NIGHTINGALE Project Final Event.
- AR lens Testing Event
- The OVERWATCH presentation at the UNICORN project kick-off meeting
- The FireEUrisk Event
- MILTEC24 – Overwatch presentation
- National Conference on Public Policies in Civil Protection 2024.
- Mid-Term Review meeting of the OVERWATCH project
- Benefits for the end-users and their requirements

And 10 „news”:

- OVERWATCH demo in Warsaw, Poland
- OVERWATCH 30-DAY FREE TRIAL
- EUSPA AI Week 2026
- EU Science for Preparedness Conference, Turin, Italy
- 2025 Security Research Event (SRE2025)
- European Union Commissioner for Defence and Space (visit).
- Overwatch at the GEO Global Forum 2025,
- Video – EUSpace Innovation through Horizon Europe
- OVERWATCH project – Augmented Reality video
- OVERWATCH project – drone video

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## OVERWATCH

OVERWATCH project is perfectly aligned with the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network motto – applied knowledge for action. The project will develop an integrated holographic system that will support emergency and crisis management for wildfires and floods.

Food Wildfires

### Page contents

- Overview
- Description
- Project content

### Overview

Status	Start	End
Closed	1 November 2022	31 October 2025

Type: CPERSA funded selected projects

EU contribution amount: € 1 400 000,00 (EU) (CPERSA) (CPERSA) (CPERSA)

Funding source: HORIZON (A – HORIZON Innovation Action)

Geographic focus: all Europe (EU)

Contact email: [overwatch@ec.europa.eu](mailto:overwatch@ec.europa.eu)

### Description

OVERWATCH project is perfectly aligned with the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network motto – applied knowledge for action. The project will develop an integrated holographic system that will support emergency and crisis management for wildfires and floods. It will integrate a suite of the AI algorithms, computer-aided with necessary FSD activities, in four technological domains: Earth Observation, drones, artificial intelligence, and augmented reality.

Based on that knowledge, OVERWATCH will design and develop a backend management platform that will cover the whole lifecycle of data management going from the data ingestion, harmonisation, standardisation, and data processing into exploitable information that will allow:

- to have a situation awareness in 2D and 3D of the flooding and fire events, e.g. measuring direct and indirect impacts in the affected areas, even monitoring in real time with a high-resolution video satellite, thermal, and hyperspectral;
- to manage operations according to the structure of assets affected by fires, floods;
- to represent the asset systems (e.g. assets) according to the security of their network;
- connection of the responders through AI devices that will be virtually embedded in the real world;
- to monitor the exact position of the involved operators and assets.

The project will bring scientific and technological developments into operational implementation to meet the needs of end-users from the crisis management community. It is carried out by an international consortium of 18 partners across 5 different countries: Ireland, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and Denmark. The consortium represents key stakeholders within the value chain of solutions for safety and crisis management: AI&I institutions, SMEs, and crisis management practitioners – each one contributing with specific valuable knowledge to meet OVERWATCH objectives. The entire system is developed in an iterative process with the active involvement of targeted end-users outside of the project core consortium (operational, tests, demonstrators, dedicated training programs), to ensure that the operational needs are considered and appropriately reflected in the real solution. The backend management platform will allow the collaboration of different kinds of users, with different roles that will manage information sources, capture new ones, or integrate other crisis management systems to have a consistent system that will contribute to creating a comprehensive crisis response. The solution will support emergency and crisis management covering a wide range of situations, practices, approaches and regional practices and contribute to shaping the right implementation plan suitable to the needs of the different stakeholders and addressing its needs. OVERWATCH will try to provide on the intermediate-term results as the overall objectives of the Knowledge Network: conduct test responses, disaster risk managers, scientists, and decision-makers and enable their needs for expertise, and good practices with methodologies, tools, solutions, and resources. It is expected that the outcomes of the project will be of interest – and practical use – to the UCP Knowledge Network community.

### Project content

#### News

- OVERWATCH DEMO in Warsaw, Poland**  
On March 29, 2025, the OVERWATCH demo meeting took place in Warsaw.
- OVERWATCH 30-DAY FREE TRIAL**  
The OVERWATCH 30-DAY FREE TRIAL is now available. Contact us at [overwatch@ec.europa.eu](mailto:overwatch@ec.europa.eu) for more information. Last month: 2024-11-19 15:00. Available UNTIL: 2025-02-18.
- EUSPA AI Week 2026**  
The OVERWATCH project was featured in the "AI for crisis management" session during EUSPA AI Week (16-23 Jan 2025).

See all news >

#### Stories

- Implementation of New Technologies in Operational Activities of Crisis Management and Civil Protection Services**  
November 2024
- Online Joint Workshop**  
Joint workshop with the UCP project INCOJAN Project and CCI 1 AION Network.
- OVERWATCH DEMO Test, Abrantes (Portugal)**  
During the week of 27-31 October, the OVERWATCH Project carried out its first demo test exercise in Abrantes, Portugal.
- VIDEO - OVERWATCH - Web Dashboard Overview**  
The OVERWATCH Web Dashboard provides an intuitive tool for emergency management personnel.

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Figure 1 – Overwatch project space on UCP KN platform (screenshot)

## 2.2. Responder Technology Cluster on Crisis Management Innovation Network Europe

The Crisis Management Innovation Network Europe (CMINE) is funded by the European Commission through its Horizon programmes. It was established as part of the sustainability strategy for Driver+ project in 2019. The community is currently facilitated and maintained by the Resilience Advisors Network under a formal Memorandum of Understanding created with the European Research Executive Agency.

CMINE was launched in 2019 to enable the project teams to interact with other resilience focused, Horizon 2020 supported projects engaging in an open dialogue about joint cooperation, creating a baseline for closer interaction, building up on synergies and generating added value collaboration, based on the conviction that community platforms simplify communication exchange, mandate cooperation and also calibrate joint efforts in the research arena.

Further on, due to increased interest of various projects with different portfolios of activities, several thematic groups were established – they are called clusters. A Cluster is an informal, voluntary, and free subset of the CERIS Disaster Resilient Societies (DRS) community, comprising projects focused on related research areas. It serves as a platform to foster collaboration, share best practices, and identify opportunities for efficiency, such as joint dissemination activities and knowledge sharing. Clusters promote innovation and resilience by connecting projects funded through Horizon Europe and recently concluded Horizon 2020 initiatives under the DRS framework. Membership includes current projects supported by Grant Agreements, with a focus on sustaining the legacy of past initiatives while aiding newly established projects as they begin their work.

The Responder Technology Cluster (RTC) focuses on advancing technologies to enhance the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of first responders during disasters and crises. The Cluster was created to address the need for greater collaboration between projects working in this critical field. By fostering connections and enabling shared activities, the RTC aims to accelerate impactful advancements in responder technologies, ultimately benefiting first responders and the communities they serve.

RTC was initially established to enable closer cooperation between a few Horizon 2020 projects, but currently gathers numerous members from various programmes. Responder Technology Projects involved in the Clustering Initiative include the following completed projects: COLLARIS, CURSOR, INTREPID, iProcureSecurity PCP, MED1stMR, NIGHTINGALE, PathoCERT, RESCUER, RESPONDA, Search and Rescue and TeamAware, POWERBASE and ongoing ones: FORESIGHT, DARE, CARMA, COLLARIS2, Civil Security Hub Poland, DIREKTION, SYNERGISE, TeamUP, TRIFFID, HURRICANE, OVERWATCH, AWARE, UNICORN.



Figure 2- Responder Technology Cluster members (screenshot)

The closer cooperation provides a window to co-create, participate in and observe discussions on innovation and thereby establish an unprecedented sharing of knowledge across resilience related fields and diverse audiences. With the support of the CMINE platform, the involved projects' teams are linked to provide access to activities and initiatives while providing a platform for focused discourse and cooperation on specific deliverables, reducing repetition and fragmentation. The Cluster-based interaction is designed to encourage active sharing of new ideas across the project implementation cycle and enable the teams to jointly identify innovative solutions to improve European resilience.

RTC project members can:

1. Jointly participate in activities, initiatives and develop shared outputs, providing support to their further dissemination and uptake.
2. Enjoy facilitated interaction between Cluster project teams, maintaining space for dialogue and cooperation across the project implementation cycle in a safe, supportive working space flexibly adjusted to their needs.
3. Benefit from a contact point for institutions and initiatives wishing to provide space for the promotion of the Responder Technology Cluster objectives and outcomes.
4. Create interactive space to share project implementation related challenges, lessons learned and improved knowledge transfer between the project teams, other institutional partners, including research organisations and solution providers.
5. Facilitate exchange of information and experiences and promote collaboration in the relevant domains within the Responder Technology Cluster and beyond, in line with the respective Horizon 2020 programmes' and individual member project's strategic objectives.

The Cluster members benefit from a dedicated workspace on CMINE, which acts as a platform for communication, exchange of information, sharing of documents and joint organising of events. Regular (virtual) meetings of the Cluster Coordination Team and as required the entire Cluster (with participation of all project teams) are organised to discuss experiences and lessons learned, engage in the preparation of events and identify opportunities to collaborate. In addition to the virtual meetings, at least one or two times a year, a joint workshop is organised to facilitate a more in-depth sharing of experiences in a specific area of focus relevant to all involved project teams. The Cluster also creates space for other project teams to attend and observe selected activities, trials, tests, training or exercises, in order to learn from each other and to get a better understanding of project actions and outcome delivery processes. The shared experiences are well documented and accessible, and can be used for, e.g. defining recommendations regarding use and/or further development of deliverables and organisation of events.

Overwatch joined the RTC cluster in November 2024 and has been actively involved in the group meetings and discussions. Information about key project events and achievements was presented during RTC coordinators meetings and shared on the discussion channel (the latest post concerning the 30-day free trial offered by Overwatch). Overwatch team in turn also benefitted from news and updates given by DG HOME, CERIS and other project's representatives, for instance enabling their participation in relevant online and physical events. In particular, the membership in RTC and working contacts with other projects established there led to the organization of Emergency Management Workshop in November 2025 – for details please refer to section 3.9.

## 2.3. COLLARIS Network

COLLaborative network on unmanned AeRIal Systems is a capacity-building initiative to develop a sustainable European network of scientific, engineering, and end-user expertise related to unmanned aerial systems (UAS) in civil protection and disaster response.

COLLARIS offers a networking platform for information exchange and experimentation with advanced concepts of UAS for disaster response and crisis management. These activities are accompanied by thematic workshops, webinars, and moderated discussions as well as trials and embedded first responder trainings, aimed at increasing the efficiency of UAS operations by bringing knowledge closer to operational use.

COLLARIS1 covered the following thematic focus areas:

- identification and sharing of operational procedures, lessons learnt, and best practices using UAS
- elaboration of air traffic management challenges, solutions, and operational practices
- acquisition of solutions for data analysis and data sharing, as well as auxiliary support systems (e.g. simulators)
- development of methods for increasing end-user competences
- foresight of new developments and future use case scenarios to identify tomorrow's needs and gaps, technological capabilities, and their potential applications.

COLLARIS was very successful in establishing an international network of crisis management and civil protection practitioners, research institutions and public administration interested in collecting and transferring knowledge, exchanging experiences, skills, good practices and information on operational procedures for the optimal use of drones in crisis management and rescue missions. At the beginning (2023) the network was composed of 5 core partners from 5 EU MS and 4 associated partners, in 2026 COLLARIS2 has 8 core partners from 7 MS and 21 associated partners. COLLARIS 1 was operational in 2023-24 and COLLARIS 2 will last until the end of 2026. The overall objective of the Network remained the same, i.e. to effectively stimulate a wider and more complex use of UAV/UAS, whereas the detailed activities are focused on sharing lessons learnt from the adoption of innovative solutions and their absorption into operational practices; supporting the development of skills, knowledge and competences among people implementing them; delivering knowledge and recommendations supporting the development and implementation of systemic solutions which represent enablers for effective use of UAV/UAS, in particular related to air traffic management and data analysis and sharing.

Given the thematic scope of COLLARIS Network and Overwatch, information exchange at working level was quickly initiated (including participation in the same online events and membership in RTC CMINE). Overwatch decided to ask the COLLARIS community for help regarding the development of the Graphical User Interface for its map solution, in order to fulfill the underlying assumption to develop the system modules in close cooperation with the end-users to eliminate any existing gaps between the proposed solutions and real needs, thus ensuring a project result oriented towards adoption. The occasion for that was COLLARIS ATM Trial in Poznań, which took part on 1-4 October 2024. The participants included COLLARIS partners, team of specialists under the Union Civil Protection Exchange of Experts Programme: Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Croatia, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden, and additional experts from Norway) – 25 people altogether. A dedicated time slot was reserved in the agenda of the event to organize a short online demo session on the Web Dashboard to show end users the current status and also give an insight into future developments. This session was also an opportunity to show the general aspects of the dashboard

and its features, in order to provide end users with the basic knowledge to be able to effectively evaluate the work done so far on the Overwatch Web Dashboard. As part of the evaluation and feedback collection process the participants were asked to fill in a dedicated survey (Likert scale for questions) and provide any comments they had either directly during the meeting or later on by e-mails. This physical session and the survey were a critical element of the iterative validation through end-user feedback loops focused specifically on the usability of the user interface, necessary to ensure that the final Overwatch product is as „user-friendly” as possible.



Figure 3 – Photos from COLLARIS ATM Trial in Poznań.

The second round of GUI online tests was conducted in Jan/Feb 2025. A dedicated „guide” presentation was prepared and sent out to the participants of COLLARIS Trial in Poznań, as well as to all core consortium members and associated partners. The presentation gave a brief overview of the Overwatch project and its proposed solutions and detailed instructions on how to operate the web dashboard and provide usability feedback by filling in a dedicated survey and giving „free comments”. The participants in the online session were given test access to OVERWATCH system and asked to set an area of operation, access and check available mapping products and deploy and task a drone mission. The ones who took part in the first feedback session during COLLARIS Trial had an opportunity to see and verify the enhancements and bug fixes made by the project technical team on the basis of their previous remarks and suggestions, whereas for the others (mainly among COLLARIS associated partners) it was a totally new user experience. The feedback gathered thanks to COLLARIS involvement during both surveys was deemed valuable by the Overwatch specialists and served to improve the final products.

Cooperation between Overwatch and COLLARIS Network on drone and GIS-related issues was continued and led to the joint organization of Emergency Management workshop on the 21st November 2025 (please refer to chapter 4 for details).

Last but not least, COLLARIS meta-study on „Public Perception of Drones in Disaster Management” was presented (online) during Overwatch PL Demo in Warsaw (25 March 2026) by its author, Jasmina Schmidt from DCNA. The report provides insights into how UAVs are perceived by the public, how this transfers into practices of drone deployment in disaster management entities and what strategies can enhance legitimacy and long-term acceptance. Public attitudes toward drones are highly context-dependent. Acceptance is strongest when UAVs are used for clear public benefits such as emergency response, while recreational or commercial uses face scepticism. The study was relevant for Overwatch possible further use in the future, as drone deployment is a critical element of the whole system.



## COLLARIS Network

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COLLARIS2 Study on Drones Presented at OVERWATCH Expert Meeting in Warsaw

...more

The screenshot shows a LinkedIn post from the COLLARIS Network. On the left is a presentation slide titled "Best practices for strengthening trust and acceptance" with the COLLARIS2 logo. The slide lists four main categories: Regulation & Training, Make legitimacy visible, Visual identification of drones, and Public relations, each with several bullet points. On the right is a video of a woman, Jasmina Schimdt, wearing a headset and smiling. Below the video is her name in a blue box. At the bottom of the post, there are engagement metrics: "You and 29 others" (with icons for likes, comments, and shares) and "2 comments • 2 reposts".

### Best practices for strengthening trust and acceptance

**Regulation & Training**

- Drone license separates toy drones from professional drones
- Government regulation + training increase trust
- Clarity for private vs. professional use

**Make legitimacy visible**

- Uniforms, high-visibility vests with "Drone Pilot" print
- Signifies official use, not private use
- Reduces concerns & complaints

**Visual identification of drones**

- Corporate design / colored stripes Option: blue light-like markings
- Increases recognisability & differentiation

**Public relations**

- Education about benefits ("Drones for Good")
- Open houses, demonstrations, community events
- Goal: reduce fears, make positive benefits visible

Jasmina Schimdt

Figure 4 – Info about COLLARIS presentation during Overwatch event published on COLLARIS Network LinkedIn profile (screenshot)

## 3. Cooperation and exchanges with other projects

The second main line of activities pursued in T5.3 was the mapping of other EU projects with thematic relevance for Overwatch to identify potential synergies and opportunities for cooperation. The first input to that process was provided in the context of WP1, where an initial list selected research and development (R&D) projects cofinanced by EU funding programmes, notably FP7 and Horizon 2020, in the same scope as the OVERWATCH project, was elaborated. It was later complemented by an internal “mapping” process among Overwatch consortium members, who were asked to add relevant national and international projects that they were aware of. The main selection criteria were thematic use-cases (projects focused on wildfires and/or floods), technologies involved (projects using/developing/integrating solutions based on EO, drones, AI algorithms, augmented/virtual reality, data processing and fusion) and broad end-user/practitioners community involvement. As a result, the following projects (list in alphabetical order) were chosen for Overwatch team to initiate bilateral contacts and explore possible collaboration options.

### 3.1. Centaur



**Full Project Name:** Copernicus Enhanced Tools for Anticipative Response to Climate Change in the Emergency and Security Domain

**Acronym:** CENTAUR

**Grant Agreement No.:** 101082720

**Funding Source:** Horizon Europe

**Duration:** 01 December 2022 – 31 March 2026

**Coordinator:** E-GEOS SPA (Italy)

**Consortium:** The CENTAUR consortium brings together 13 partners from 8 countries (DE, EL, ES, FR, IT, NL, PT, RO). It includes Earth Observation service providers, research institutions, modelling experts, SMEs specialising in geospatial analytics, and public-sector end users involved in risk management and emergency planning.

**Project Overview:** CENTAUR was established to strengthen Europe’s anticipatory capacity in relation to climate-driven crises and complex emergencies. The project uses Copernicus data, predictive analytics and advanced modelling tools to support earlier identification of emerging threats such as floods, droughts, water scarcity and food insecurity. By moving beyond reactive crisis management, the project aims to help authorities take preventive and pre-emptive action.

**Key Activities:** The project has focused on integrating Copernicus datasets into risk intelligence systems, developing predictive models for multiple climate hazards, building early warning dashboards, testing scenario-based simulations and co-designing services with civil protection authorities and institutional users. Activities also include validation exercises to ensure that outputs are operationally relevant and scalable.

**Achieved Results:** CENTAUR has already delivered prototype analytical tools, integrated large Earth Observation datasets into operational workflows, and developed interfaces that improve access to forward-looking risk intelligence. The project has also strengthened dialogue between data providers and end users, helping shape more practical anticipatory services.

**Current Status:** Ongoing. Aims to deliver operational Copernicus emergency applications that strengthen European resilience by enabling faster, more accurate and data-driven emergency response and recovery.

**Relevance for Overwatch and activities undertaken:** Information exchange on user needs and EO (Copernicus) data analysis and operational use in the context of floods (in particular intersection of Earth Observation and AI solutions), invitations to online workshops in November 2024 and February 2026 shared with Overwatch team.

### 3.2. DIREKTION



**Full Project Name:** Improving Disaster Resilience through Enhanced Coordination, Planning and Decision-Support

**Acronym:** DIREKTION

**Grant Agreement No.:** 101121249

**Funding Source:** Horizon Europe

**Duration:** 01 September 2023 – 31 August 2026

**Coordinator:** INERIS DEVELOPPEMENT (France)

**Consortium:** The DIREKTION consortium is a multi-country European partnership involving organisations from 9 countries (AT, BE, DE, ES, FR, IT, NL, PT, RO). It includes research centres, emergency management agencies, public authorities, technology developers, policy experts and organisations specialising in crisis coordination and resilience planning. The structure reflects the project's focus on interoperability and multi-agency cooperation.

**Project Overview:** DIREKTION addresses the growing need for better coordinated disaster management systems in Europe. Increasingly complex emergencies require faster information exchange, stronger institutional cooperation and more advanced decision-support capabilities. The project develops integrated frameworks and digital solutions to improve preparedness, response efficiency and resilience governance.

Its approach links operational users with technical developers to ensure that solutions are practical, interoperable and aligned with real emergency management needs.

**Key Activities:** Current work includes development of decision-support systems, coordination workflows for multi-agency response, integration of data streams for situational awareness, preparedness planning tools, governance models and validation with stakeholders through exercises and demonstrations. The project also analyses lessons learned from previous crises to improve future response structures.

**Achieved Results:** DIREKTION has already produced early-stage coordination concepts, prototype digital support tools and improved models for information sharing across agencies. Initial stakeholder engagement confirms strong relevance for civil protection and resilience planning communities.

**Current Status:** Ongoing. Aims to deliver fully operational coordination and decision-support solutions.

**Relevance for Overwatch and activities undertaken:** Information exchange, in particular about Overwatch wildfire and floods scenarios and technical components of the system. Organization of the Emergency Management Workshop in November 2025 with Overwatch, COLLARIS and UNICORN projects – please refer to chapter 4 for details.



Figure 5 – Recording from the joint Emergency Management Workshop organized by Overwatch, UNICORN, COLLARIS2 and DIREKTION (screenshot)

### 3.3. Firelogue



**Full Project Name:** Cross-sector dialogue for Wildfire Risk Management

**Acronym:** FIRELOGUE

**Grant Agreement No.:** 101036534

**Funding Source:** Horizon Europe

**Topic:** Coordination and Support Action (CSA) – Wildfire Risk Management

**Duration:** 01 November 2021 – 30 November 2025

**Coordinator:** FRAUNHOFER GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FORDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG EV

**Consortium:** The FIRELOGUE consortium consists of 11 partners from 8 countries (DE, ES, FR, EL, IT, PT, RO, UK). It includes research organisations, innovation agencies, communication specialists, governance experts and representatives connected to EU wildfire initiatives. The partnership was structured to maximise coordination, policy relevance and knowledge exchange across Europe.

**Project Overview:** FIRELOGUE was created to connect the growing number of European wildfire projects and ensure stronger alignment between research outputs, operational needs and public policy. Rather than developing a single technical product, the project serves as a strategic coordination platform helping transform fragmented project results into coherent European added

value. Its mission is to support a more integrated wildfire resilience agenda across institutions and sectors.

**Key Activities:** The project has organised cross-project cooperation mechanisms, stakeholder consultations, thematic workshops and policy dialogues involving public authorities, scientists and practitioners. It has also focused on synthesising lessons learned from multiple wildfire initiatives, identifying gaps in current governance systems and preparing recommendations for future EU investment priorities. Communication and dissemination activities have been central to increasing visibility of wildfire innovation outcomes.

**Achieved Results:** FIRELOGUE has established a structured European network for wildfire cooperation, significantly improving communication between projects and institutions. The initiative has generated policy-oriented recommendations, increased awareness of available research results and created mechanisms that support long-term knowledge transfer between science, operations and governance communities.

**Current Status:** Ongoing. Aims to strengthen long-term coordination and policy uptake in wildfire risk management.

**Relevance for Overwatch and activities undertaken:** Information exchange on wildfire scenarios, user requirements and lessons learned from previous wildfire-related projects, available technological solutions overview. With the support of Horizon Results Booster initiated by SAFERS and joined by Firelogue, TREEADS and Overwatch two webinars were organized in November 2023, aiming at cross-project peer learning (please refer to section 3.6 for details).



Figure 6 – Invitation to a joint webinar organized by SAFERS, Firelogue, Overwatch and TREEADS

### 3.4. FirEURisk



**Full Project Name:** Developing a Holistic, Risk-based Framework for Wildfire Management in Europe

**Acronym:** FirEURisk

**Grant Agreement No.:** 101003890

**Funding Source:** Horizon 2020

**Duration:** 01 June 2021 – 31 May 2025

**Coordinator:** ASSOCIACAO PARA O DESENVOLVIMENTO DA AERODINAMICA INDUSTRIAL (Portugal)

**Consortium:** The FirEUriSk consortium brought together 38 partners from 15 countries (BE, CH, DE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, IT, NL, PT, RO, RS, TR, UK). It combined leading European expertise in wildfire science, climate modelling, environmental management, risk governance, land-use planning, emergency response and socio-economic analysis. The partnership was designed to ensure both scientific excellence and practical policy relevance.

**Project Overview:** FirEUriSk was created in response to the increasing complexity and intensity of wildfires across Europe. Traditional approaches focused mainly on hazard were no longer sufficient under changing climate conditions. The project therefore developed a holistic risk framework integrating hazard, exposure, vulnerability and resilience factors in a single methodology applicable across different European regions.

The project also examined how social, economic and governance factors influence wildfire losses and preparedness capacity.

**Key Activities:** Work focused on the development of harmonised wildfire risk assessment methodologies, modelling of future fire regimes under climate scenarios, analysis of vulnerable landscapes and communities, creation of European-scale datasets, preparation of policy support tools and validation through regional case studies. The consortium also worked on governance recommendations and operational guidance for decision-makers.

**Achieved Results:** FirEUriSk delivered one of the most comprehensive wildfire risk frameworks developed in Europe. The project generated advanced risk maps, improved understanding of climate-driven wildfire dynamics, integrated socio-economic vulnerability into risk planning and supported evidence-based policy development. It also strengthened cooperation between science institutions and authorities responsible for wildfire resilience.

**Current Status:** Ongoing. Aims to deliver harmonised European wildfire risk assessment framework.

**Relevance for Overwatch and activities undertaken:** information exchange on wildfire scenarios and possible prevention/mitigation solutions in the context of Overwatch technological developments. Participation of Overwatch in the FirEUriSk European Territory Demonstration Event (16th September 2024) showcasing an assessment of the methods developed within the FirEUriSk project (including the FirEUriSk risk framework, strategies for fire mitigation and adaptation, climate scenarios for Europe, the impact of wildfires on ecological values, and other fire-related issues). Overwatch took part in the event to discuss how advanced technologies such as Earth Observation, artificial intelligence, augmented reality, and drones can enhance wildfire management strategies, contributing to a more effective and data-driven approach to fire mitigation.

### 3.5. NIGHTINGALE



**Full Project Name:** Next Generation Integrated Toolkit for Collaborative Response to Emergencies

**Acronym:** NIGHTINGALE

**Grant Agreement No.:** 101021957

**Funding Source:** Horizon 2020

**Duration:** 01 January 2021 – 31 December 2023

**Coordinator:** Institute of Communication and Computer Systems (ICCS), Greece

**Consortium:** The NIGHTINGALE consortium involved 23 partners from 11 countries (AT, BE, CH, EL, ES, FR, IT, NL, NO, RO, UK). It brought together emergency response agencies, communication technology developers, medical organisations, research centres and public authorities working in crisis management.

**Project Overview:** NIGHTINGALE was launched to improve the interoperability, efficiency and safety of first responders during major emergencies. The project addressed long-standing fragmentation between communication systems, medical triage processes and multi-agency coordination structures. Its objective was to create a common operational toolkit enabling faster and more integrated response.

**Key Activities:** The consortium developed interoperable communication solutions, responder coordination systems, medical triage tools, wearable and situational awareness technologies, as well as integrated command-support applications. Extensive pilot demonstrations and field exercises were conducted with emergency services to validate usability under operational conditions.

**Achieved Results:** The project delivered a validated interoperability framework, improved communications for first responders, tested digital triage and medical support tools, and enhanced cross-agency coordination in complex emergency scenarios. Demonstrations confirmed the value of integrated tools for large-scale incidents.

**Current Status:** Completed (2023).

**Relevance for Overwatch and activities undertaken:** Information exchange, presentation of Overwatch during Nightingale Final Event in January 2025. The presentation was focused on showcasing the finalization of system components and the integration of advanced technologies (drones, Earth Observation, AI algorithms, Augmented Reality) into one solution, providing an overview of these technologies and their operational applications.



Figure 7 – Overwatch presentation during NIGHTINGALE Final Event, 16th January 2025 (screenshot)

### 3.6. SAFERS



**Full Project Name:** Structured Approaches for Forest fire Emergencies in Resilient Societies

**Acronym:** SAFERS

**Grant Agreement No.:** 869353

**Funding Source:** Horizon 2020 – Research and Innovation Programme

**Call / Topic:** Disaster-Resilient Societies / Climate Adaptation / Emergency Management

**Duration:** 01 October 2020 – 31 March 2024

**Coordinator:** Fondazione LINKS – Leading Innovation & Knowledge for Society (Italy)

**Consortium:** The SAFERS consortium brought together **16 partners from 10 countries** (BE, DE, EL, ES, FR, IE, IT, PT, RO, UK). It included research organisations, universities, SMEs, civil protection stakeholders, environmental experts and digital technology providers.

**Project Overview:** SAFERS was established to strengthen Europe’s resilience to increasingly severe wildfire events by creating an integrated digital platform supporting prevention, preparedness, emergency response and post-fire recovery. The project combined Earth Observation services, meteorological information, in-situ sensors, geospatial intelligence, crowdsourced information and artificial intelligence in order to provide more accurate and timely support to authorities managing wildfire crises. The initiative directly addressed the growing pressure caused by climate change, prolonged droughts and changing land-use patterns.

**Key Activities:** The project focused on designing a modular wildfire management platform capable of integrating multiple data sources into one operational environment. Work included the development of early warning systems, wildfire danger prediction models, fire spread simulations, decision-support dashboards for responders, post-fire damage mapping tools and recovery planning functions. SAFERS also tested the integration of social media and citizen-generated information to improve situational awareness during incidents.

**Achieved Results:** SAFERS delivered a validated operational platform capable of improving real-time awareness during wildfire emergencies. The project enhanced predictive capabilities for fire behaviour, accelerated access to critical geospatial information for decision-makers and strengthened post-fire recovery planning processes. It also demonstrated how Copernicus services and AI tools can be effectively embedded in practical wildfire management operations.

**Current Status:** Completed (March 2024).

**Relevance for Overwatch and activities undertaken:** SAFERS covered several topics of interest for Overwatch, on which working information exchanges were carried out – intelligent services from the fusion of EO and data collected in the theatre of operations, key findings relating to wildfire management requirements identified from the online survey, outcomes of the scenario analysis, especially for wildfire-related response activities, the user requirements concerning data and information. Overwatch was invited to SAFERS demonstration event in Spain in October 2023. With the support of Horizon Results Booster initiated by SAFERS and joined by Firelogue, TREEADS and Overwatch two webinars were organized in November 2023, aiming at cross-project peer learning. The first one on the 6<sup>th</sup> November was devoted to “Activating citizens’ participation in wildfire risk management”. Overwatch presented the forest and wildland fires in Portugal as of October 2023, the role of Civil Protection and community response to the challenges of wildfires (the Portuguese Civil Protection ecosystem and engagement of citizens) planned contributions from future Overwatch system to improve the situation. The second webinar took place on November 8<sup>th</sup> to showcase “Innovations in wildfire risk management” while presenting results from EU-funded projects. Overwatch presentation was focused on the role of drones and augmented reality technology in emergency management. Recordings and presentations from both webinars are available online.



Figure 8 – Invitation to a joint webinar organized by SAFERS, Firelogue, Overwatch and TREEADS

### 3.7. TREEADS



**Full Project Name:** A Holistic Fire Management Ecosystem for Prevention, Detection and Restoration of Environmental Disasters

**Acronym:** TREEADS

**Grant Agreement No.:** 101036926

**Funding Source:** Horizon Europe

**Duration:** 01 December 2021 – 31 May 2025

**Coordinator:** RISE FIRE RESEARCH AS (Norway)

**Consortium:** TREEADS brings together 47 partners from 13 countries (AT, BE, CY, DE, ES, FR, EL, IT, NO, PT, RO, TR, UK). The consortium combines universities, fire research institutes, technology SMEs, drone developers, AI specialists, first responder organisations and environmental stakeholders. Its scale reflects the project's ambition to cover the full wildfire management cycle.

**Project Overview:** TREEADS was launched to develop a comprehensive technological ecosystem supporting prevention, detection, response and ecological restoration in relation to wildfires and environmental disasters. The project seeks to integrate multiple advanced tools into one coordinated operational framework for authorities and emergency services. It also responds to the need for better firefighter safety, faster information exchange and more efficient recovery after major incidents.

**Key Activities:** Activities have included the development of AI-based wildfire prediction systems, drone-supported surveillance tools, firefighter wearable technologies, robotics applications, command-and-control integration platforms and immersive AR/VR training environments. The

consortium has also worked on restoration planning tools designed to support ecosystem recovery after fire events, with multiple pilot demonstrations across participating countries.

**Achieved Results:** TREEADS has already delivered tested drone and sensor solutions, advanced predictive wildfire models and improved responder monitoring systems. It has validated innovative training tools, enhanced interoperability between technological components and created practical approaches for post-fire restoration planning. The project is now progressing toward final operational validation.

**Current Status:** Ongoing. Aims to deliver a fully validated integrated wildfire management ecosystem.

**Relevance for Overwatch and activities undertaken:** Information exchange on end-user needs and operational limitations, use of AI for wildfire data analysis and modelling, AR/VR solutions for trainings. With the support of Horizon Results Booster initiated by SAFERS and joined by Firelogue, TREEADS and Overwatch two webinars were organized in November 2023, aiming at cross-project peer learning (please refer to section 3.6 for details).



Figure 9 – Presentation from Overwatch project during the joint webinar on “Activating citizens’ participation in wildfire risk management” organized by SAFERS, Firelogue, Overwatch and TREEADS on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2024 (screenshot).

### 3.8. UNICORN



**Full Project Name:** UNICORN – Copernicus Emergency Applications and Resilience

**Acronym:** UNICORN

**Grant Agreement No.:** 101180172

**Funding Source:** Horizon Europe (via EUSPA)

**Duration:** 01 October 2024 – 31 March 2027

**Coordinator:** Ethniko Asteroskopeio Athinon (National Observatory of Athens, Greece)

**Consortium:** The UNICORN consortium is a multi-country partnership bringing together partners from **7 countries (EL, ES, FR, IT, PT, RO, RS)**. It includes research institutions, Copernicus data users, application developers, Earth Observation specialists, SMEs and public-sector stakeholders responsible for resilience, civil protection and emergency planning. The consortium is coordinated by the National Observatory of Athens and combines scientific, technical and operational expertise required to transform Copernicus services into deployable emergency applications.

**Project Overview:** UNICORN develops next-generation Copernicus emergency applications designed to transform satellite and geospatial data into practical services for authorities, businesses and communities exposed to natural hazards. The project addresses a range of threats including wildfires, floods and geophysical hazards, with a strong emphasis on resilience, preparedness and rapid access to actionable information.

**Key Activities:** Current work includes development of hazard-monitoring applications, integration of Copernicus services with user platforms, creation of forecasting and early warning modules, demonstration of use cases in real operational contexts and direct engagement with end users to tailor solutions to practical needs.

**Achieved Results:** UNICORN has already produced early-stage applications for hazard intelligence, improved access to Earth Observation-based data streams and validated several use cases demonstrating the operational value of Copernicus services. The project is also building pathways for wider market and public-sector uptake.

**Current Status:** Ongoing. Aims to deliver operational EO-based emergency applications.

**Relevance for Overwatch and activities undertaken:** information exchange about operational use of Copernicus data and integration with other data sets, wildfire and flood scenarios. Presentation of Overwatch during UNICORN Kick-off meeting (25 Nov 2024), focused on an in-depth look at the goals and progress of Overwatch, technologies developed in the project and field pilots, workshops, and end-user training to be organized in the next phase. Organization of the Emergency Management Workshop in November 2025 with Overwatch, COLLARIS and DIREKTION projects – please refer to chapter 4 for details.

## 4. Emergency Management Workshop

Basing on positive collaboration experience as a project-partner in Horizon Results Booster initiative led by SAFERS in 2023, Overwatch team decided to apply to the program as a leader, joining forces with COLLARIS Network, UNICORN and DIREKTION (altogether 42 organisations from 17 European countries). The four projects recognized that the growing complexity of disaster scenarios in Europe requires stronger collaboration between research & development, policy, and practice to ensure emergency responders are equipped with effective and future-ready solutions. They therefore decided to join into the "Emergency Management Cluster" of projects which by combining Earth Observation, aerial systems, new technologies (like AI, Drones, Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality) and advanced crisis data platforms can deliver innovative tools for early warning, real-time monitoring, and coordinated response during disasters and crisis situations.

From volcanic eruptions to flood protection, and wildfires, each project addresses different challenges, different disaster types in different EU countries impacting on policy makers, first responders and EU citizens whose lives and homes can be affected.

The objective of the webinar was to bring together researchers, innovators, first responders and disaster managers and policy makers to discuss real-life experiences, needs and potential solutions and to build on recommendations already authored in the RTC Policy Brief "Strengthening Responder Technology in Disasters".

A series of working preparatory online meetings was held with active participation of the 4 project teams and Responder Technology Cluster CMINE coordinator, in order to elaborate the detailed event agenda, ensure the interesting thematic content and synchronize dissemination and promotional activities. The final agenda is provided in section 4.1.

The webinar was over 3 hours long in order to cover all chosen topics in sufficient detail and ensure time for questions from the audience. More than 80 participants took part in the event. The recording and presentations are available on UCP KN website (COLLARIS section) and respective projects' websites.

**21 Nov** EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Workshop

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The workshop offers a unique opportunity to engage with a network of EU projects at the forefront of emergency management innovation. Participants will gain insights into new technologies like AI, drones, and satellites that are transforming real-time situational awareness and disaster response, developing future-ready solutions tailored to increasingly complex disaster scenarios in Europe.

Figure 10 – Invitation to the joint Emergency Management Workshop webinar organized by Overwatch, UNICORN, COLLARIS 2 and DIREKTION promoted by CMINE

## 4.1. Workshop Agenda

### SESSION 1 – CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TODAY

- Framing the workshop and its aims Vanina Fissore, ITHACA (OVERWATCH Project Coordinator)
- How Europe is tackling addressing challenges and priorities in emergency management - Kalogirou Vasileios, OVERWATCH and UNICORN Project Officer
- Outcomes of the International Symposium on Safety, Security, and Rescue Robotics - Ivana Kruijff, German Rescue Robotics Centre
- “Strengthening Responder Technology in Disasters”: A European view LINK - Jon Hall, CMINE/RTC Cluster coordinator

### SESSION 2 – CHALLENGES AND NEEDS FACING THE RESPONDER COMMUNITY

- Intro from the Chair - Mariza Kaskara | National Observatory of Athens NOA (UNICORN Project Coordinator)
- Austrian Red Cross - Sandra Nestlinger (Österreichisches Rotes Kreuz Project Manager)
- CINAMIL (Centro de Investigação, Desenvolvimento e Inovação da Academia Militar) - José Alberto de Jesus Borges (Associate Researcher at CINAMIL - Army and GNR R&D centre)
- SIS2B (Service d'Incendie et de Secours de la Haute Corse)- Michael Pelissier (Commandant SIS2B)

### SESSION 3 – HOW EU RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IS TRANSFORMING DISASTER RESPONSE

- Intro from the Chair - Anna Kobierzycka | Centrum Informacji Kryzysowej CBK PAN (COLLARIS2 Project Coordinator)
- How the Disaster Resilience Network is impacting on disaster management - Jon Hall, DIREKTION project
- Drone foresight study key findings - Jakub Ryzenko (Head of the Crisis Information Centre CBK), COLLARIS2 project
- Using Earth Observation data, drones and augmented reality for disaster management in Portugal - Vanina Fissore (Head of Unit - R&D at Ithaca S.r.l.), OVERWATCH project
- Advancing Preparedness with UNICORN: EO-Driven Tools for Authorities, Citizens and Industry - Mariza Kaskara (Project Manager & Research Associate National Observatory of Athens), UNICORN project
- The Mount Etna Case study 2021-2022 using drones, satellites, and fixed surveillance cameras - Emanuela De Beni (Researcher INGV-OE), INGV-OE (Italian National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology - Etna Observatory)
- 24/7 multi-hazard advice service - Strengthening the monitoring and analysis functions of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) and its Situational Awareness Sector (SAS) - Alberto Michelini (Senior Researcher INGV-OE), ARISTOTLE - ARISTOTLE-eENHSP

#### **Successful solutions from needs to deployment. The 2025 DIREKTION Award winners**

- Intro from the Chair - Jon Hall | QFSM (Queen's Fire Service Medal) Founder of The Resilience Advisors Network (DIREKTION project Network Advisor & Exploitation Lead) DIREKTION Awards: "Best innovative solutions regarding Disaster and Resilience society gap for first responders"

Projects from the awards program present their solutions:

- Live-Lage - Ralf Berger (German Aerospace Center DLR)
- Terramind FX - Guillaume Cortes (Tyndall FX)
- CamiA - Jilane El Khouly (AzuriA)
- LIUM - Guilain Yvon (Lium Ceo)

Closing the loop: Final remarks and next steps - ALPHA Consult moderator

## **5. Conclusion and closing remarks**

Task 5.3 International cooperation and synergies was conducted as part of WP5 Dissemination, communication and exploitation, in close feedback loop and often direct coordination with other tasks in this WP. It also benefitted from relevant technology development activities of Overwatch to ensure interesting thematic content for the target audience, i.e. European networks, working groups and clusters gathering end-users, civil protection and crisis management practitioners and technology developers/solution providers.

At the very beginning of the the project two realistic scenarios, one relating to wildfires and the other to floods, were created to guide the interactions with emergency management and response end-users, as well as to analyse other EU projects dealing with the challenges and complexities that emergency management/response teams face in these scenarios and to ensure alignment of the requirements for the OVERWATCH technologies with end-users' needs and already available solutions.

By prioritising end-user needs and requirements, leveraging advanced technologies and establishing efficient information exchange and often communication cooperation with relevant EU projects, Overwatch team did their best to ensure that both the system developed as a whole and its

“individual” elements are more effective and efficient and have the potential to be used by overall European crisis management community.