

LEONARDO DA VINCI TRANSFER OF INNOVATION PROJECT

Under the Lifelong Learning Programme

AGREEMENT NUMBER - LLP-LdV/TOI/SE/09/1188

PROJECT NUMBER – 2009-1-SE-LE005-02277

FIREFIGHT II Mid-term Progress Report

Reference: Vocational training of fire fighting team leaders and commanders in strategy, tactics and methodology to ensure a safe working environment for firefighters (FIREFIGHT II)

Due date of deliverable: 30 November 2010

Start date of the Project: **1 October 2009** Duration: **24 months**

Beneficiary and coordinator: **Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)**

Project co-funded by the Program Office within the Lifelong Learning Program (2007-2013)

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1. The Project

The aim of FIREFIGHT II is to address the remaining needs and establish a complete training system, in which the strategy is to accept only a safe working environment for firefighters. The training is thus focused on fighting the fire from the outside of the building and the new Cutting and Extinguishing Concept (CEC) methodology and technology, which will also limit secondary damage from water and smoke and minimize negative environmental consequences.

1.1 The Project's Background

Too many fire fighters are killed or injured when responding to fires inside burning buildings, and therefore the policy needs to be changed urgently. A first important step was taken in the successful Leonardo FIREFIGHT Project, ending in December 2008 and creating an innovative e-learning package and a practical training for firefighters in public fire brigades

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and industry fire services. Now, it is necessary to take the next step to change the policy and establish through FIREFIGHT II a supplementary training in strategy, tactics and methodology for the intervention team leader and commander level, thereby developing the quality and attractiveness of vocational education and training (VET) systems and practices.

1.2 Objectives of the Project

The objective and tangible outcome is an integrated vocational education and training (VET) system adapted to the working conditions of firemen and response team commanders. The supplementary e-learning for team commanders will be combined with programmes for exercises conducted with modern technology, i.e. web based vocational training tools. The strategy, tactics and methodology, forming a major part of the training, will address firstly the initial phase of an intervention to create capability for early, efficient emergency response but also other related issues such as information and decision support, effective use of available response units and modern technology (IR camera, COBRA and PPV). The team commanders will not only be given capability for leading CEC interventions but also have a role of training the teams with the tools developed in the project and fostering the development of high quality VET pathways. The outcome will facilitate the introduction of the new concept widely and make it easily accessible and promote its use widely in the EU.

1.3 Participants

The FIREFIGHT II Consortium consists of earlier and new partners active in education and training, including one e-learning and distance firefighting education SME, and will collaborate with service and technology providers, some SMEs, and other stakeholders to enhance the governance and attractiveness of VET systems. The list of Partners is as follows:

PO	Sweden	Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap (MSB), Karlstad
P1	Czech Republic	Ministry of Interior, Fire and Rescue Service of Czech Republic including the Brno Fire School (MICR), Prague
P2	Estonia	Public Service Academy, Rescue College under the Ministry of Interior (RCE), Tallinn
P3	Finland	Emergency Service College Kuopio (ESCK), Kuopio
P4	France	High Academy of French Fire-fighter Officers (ENSOSP), Aix-en-Provence
P5	France	Fire Service of the Department of Somme (AMIENS), Amiens
P6	France	EducExpert France (EDUC), Paris
P7	Spain	The Spanish Fire Fighting Association (ASELF), Madrid

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- P8 Sweden Ovako Bar AB (OVAKO), Smedjebacken
- P9 Sweden Södra Älvsborg Fire & Rescue Service (SERF), Borås
- P10 UK Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS), Northampton
- P11 UK Unite the UNION (UNION), London

1.4 Description of the Work

The Project started in October 2009 with a Kick-off Meeting at the SERF International Competence Centre in Borås which was followed by a Meeting in March 2010 in Madrid, where the work was defined more closely in three Working Groups. The Mid-term Meeting was held in November 2010 in Prague. In between these meetings work was carried out under the responsibility of the WP Leaders. Some of the material developed in the course of the Project can be found in the enclosed file (pdf) **Some presentations prepared for the FIREFIGHT II Project.**

Bo Andersson, coordinator of the FIREFIGHT II Project, opened the Mid-term Meeting and presented with a PPP the flow chart for the FIREFIGHT II e-learning package, encompassing the chain between the general goal, strategy, tactics and methodology and ending with role games conducted with different scenarios and full-scale CEC operational exercises. He supplemented with a more general PPP presentation of the ambition with role games, i.e. to create a realistic background to the strategic and tactical assessment/decision-making, allowing consideration of the most appropriate methodology and technology to use, and to improve the ability and enhance creative thinking for implementing the Cutting Extinguishing Concept (CEC) in firefighting. The role games also aim at giving sufficient knowledge to decide on the adequate strategy and apply the correct tactics. They provide a dynamic development of the incident, which will require monitoring and successive evaluation as a basis for adapting the strategies and tactics to the changing situation. Incident commanders will furthermore through role games gain capability to take appropriate decisions on strategy and tactics and to coordinate the committed units in order to achieve the set targets. These are for instance to protect people and mitigate the impact of fires, ensure a good working environment for the firefighters as well as minimize damage to property and prevent environmental consequences of the fire and the firefighting operation.

It was recognized by the Mid-term Meeting that the chain between the general goal, strategy, tactics and methodology will form the backbone to the e-learning production process coordinated by EDUC and the forum to be established for the purpose of facilitating the process. The work in FIREFIGHT II has been conducted at the following Partner Meetings:

Kick-off Meeting	Borås	October 2009
Meeting	Madrid	March 2010
Mid Term Meeting	Prague	November 2010

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and in between these under the responsibility of each Work Package Leader. Some presentations for the FIREFIGHT II have been compiled and can be found at the website www.eufirefight.com from which it is also possible to link to YouTube, where the ASELF video presentation from Prague, forming a basis of a multi information format for command and control learning level, can be downloaded. A copy of the presentations is provided together with this Progress Report.

2. The Work Packages

WP 1 Framework and requirements - MSB

The Framework and requirements have been reviewed successively in the course of the Project, in particular at the Partner Meetings. At the Kick-off Meeting there was a proposal that the Project Exercise should also serve as the Final Meeting of the Project and tentatively be organized in September 2011 at ENSOSP in Aix-en-Provence. Some adjustments of the timetable for Meetings have been made in the course of the Project. At this Meeting, it was found necessary to postpone the seminar to tentatively the first week in December 2011, subject to a decision to extend the duration of the Project to the end of 2011. The seminar will then also be the Final Meeting of the Project. The Exercise combined with a regular Meeting of the Project is now proposed to be organized by ENSOSP in Aix-en-Provence, or another venue in France if necessary due to having possibilities for conducting the practical parts of the exercise at the chosen venue, in the second half of May or June 2011. The adjusted time schedule for FIREFIGHT II will then be as follows:

Kick-off Meeting	Borås	October 2009
Meeting	Madrid	March 2010
Mid Term Meeting	Prague	November 2010
Exercise/Project Meeting	Aix-en-Provence?	May/June 2011
Seminar	UK	December 2011?

When considering the time schedule, attention should be given to how much each Partner can allocate of the available amount in the budget for the estimated participation of one – two persons (travelling costs, accommodation, etc. Generally, extra participation must be covered by the Partner outside the budget). In between Partner Meetings work is conducted within each Work Package.

WP 2 Strategy and tactics (efficiency and early response) – SERF

Objectives of this Work Package

FIREFIGHT II is based on the results of and supplements the FIREFIGHT Project which addressed the extremely urgent need for changing completely the present policy of responding to a fire inside a burning building and produced an e-learning system and

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practical training for education and training of the firefighters in public fire brigades and industry fire services. The Final Meeting of the FIREFIGHT Project concluded that there is a need for supplementing the FIREFIGHT Cutting and Extinguishing Concept (CEC) e-learning system with education and training aimed at the intervention team commander level, including fire chiefs, also in their role of training the teams.

The supplementary development of the e-learning system for the CEC in FIREFIGHT II will address strategy, tactics and methodology issues, not in the least the initial and final phases of a fire intervention. Some other issues related to tactics will also be dealt with. This work package thus aims at addressing the strategy and tactics within the VET of intervention team commanders. It will develop a study module for CEC strategy and tactics as basis for e-learning, forming an essential part of a tool for a self-tuition course, and the programme for drills and exercises for intervention team commanders. The module will be tested through drills and exercises in the course of the Project.

Progress in this Work Package

At the Madrid Meeting, the conclusion was that the strategy and tactics for fire fighting interventions should be seen in the scope of setting operational objectives and establishing plans on the basis of risk assessments exercised before the intervention, during the intervention and after the intervention. The presentations at the Meeting demonstrated that the Partners had in general a common approach to the strategy and tactics for fire fighting interventions. Work would continue to establish a common structure or model which could serve as an input to the elaboration of the education and training. There is a need for taking into account the practical experiences from the implementation of the CEC in fire fighting interventions.

The results of a test of the use of IR technology for scanning combined with cameras for documenting simultaneous visual observations indicated that both IR data and visual observations are important for assessing and monitoring the fire in the course of the intervention. The results of the test will be coordinated with and presented in a similar way as the simulations developed in FIREFIGHT. There is a need for pursuing the work in relation to all the different FIREFIGHT II scenarios and one possibility could be implementing existing simulation programmes on the FIREFIGHT II scenarios, such as <http://www.digitalcombustion.com>, in the development of the strategies and tactics.

The elements of the chain between the general goal, strategy, tactics and methodology were presented at the Mid-term Meeting more in detail with the support of a PPP. These elements consist of the general goal of the fire and rescue service, the general strategies of the fire and rescue service and the tactical decision making. A table top exercise involving the participants in the Meeting and implementing a role game model of a fire in terraced houses was conducted with the aid of a PPP presentation. The intention is to elaborate role game models for the other adopted scenarios for the work in the FIREFIGHT II Project. The models can in each game be adapted to other scenarios and fire conditions as well as available resources in a fire incident. Finally, the possible use and capacity of the latest IR

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camera technology as part of the decision support for the incident commander was demonstrated in a PPP and with an IR camera.

There has been general support by the Partners for using role games as a basis for training but also demonstrating the CEC and changing the mindset or thinking in the fire and rescue services regarding fire extinguishing. The role game type of exercises is already implemented in the UK fire and rescue services in respect to two operational levels of ambition. It was recognized as important to see these games as models or examples as the conditions in fire incidents differ considerably from one incident to another.

Work expected to be delivered in this Work Package

The role games for developing the capability of incident commanders in respect to strategy, tactics and methodology for fighting fires will form an essential part of the e-learning package. Based on the present model, in the next step NFRS will elaborate an example covering the factory building scenario and ENSOSP an example covering one of the remaining scenarios, for instance a block of flats, a meeting hall, shopping centre or store. This continued work will be coordinated with EDUC's development of the e-learning.

SERF will continue its work in collaboration primarily with ASELF on decision support to meeting the e-learning requirements related to the immediate analysis and assessment of the basic operational conditions and risks for decision making in respect to strategy, tactics and methodology. The work will also be focused on the ability of the PPV method and its use as an important tactical and methodological component for protection through pressurization.

The questions in the role games and their relation to expected and anticipated as well as unexpected results of actions decided on in the game and what the consequences are of wrong answers/decisions will be considered by EDUC and SERF in the creation of the role games and visual tools to be used. Other issues to address are how and in what way or extent to integrate IR scanning data and visualization with videos. The importance of being able to keep the participants in the role game involved with the help of different stimulations was noted. There is a tendency that videos make the participants "lazy" which needs to be taken into account. The e-learning also needs to be blended with the existing general education and training of firefighters in strategy and tactics.

In conclusion, the role games for developing the capability of incident commanders in respect to strategy, tactics and methodology for fighting fires will form a part of the e-learning package. This continued work will be coordinated with EDUC's development of the e-learning.

WP3 Safe working environment/minimized environmental consequences – UNION/NFRS (Seminar)

Objectives of this Work Package

This work package aims at addressing the ambition to achieve a safe working environment for the firefighters and to use methodology and technology which will limit secondary damage from water and smoke and minimize environmental consequences. This ambition is of fundamental importance within the VET of intervention team commanders. The development of the e-learning system for the CEC in FIREFIGHT II will focus on this and develop a study module for the CEC strategy for fighting fires in buildings, which accepts only a safe working environment for the firefighters and the use of methodology and technology leading to limited secondary damage from water and smoke and minimized environmental consequences of the fire and response action. The study module will supplement the FIREFIGHT e-learning package, forming an essential part of a self-tuition course, and the programme for drills and exercises for intervention team commanders. The module will be tested through drills and exercises in the course of the Project. A seminar targeted on a wider group of stakeholders will be organized.

Progress in this Work Package

It became clear that the main objective of this Work Package was to exercise influence on to the work on strategies and tactics and ensure that these provided a safe working environment for the firefighters. These considerations must be exercised during the risks assessment and planning in the initial phase of the intervention with inputs from human sources and IR camera scanning, during the intervention when choosing between conventional means inside the burning building, external extinguishing with COBRA, the use of PPV in an attack or from outside the fire compartment and monitoring the evolution of the fire and changes in the environment and finally after the intervention with natural or forced ventilation, combined with monitoring and checks conducted using an IR camera. Measures to minimize the environmental consequences are a natural integrated part of the whole process.

The environmental consequences of the firefighting will depend as was indicated in a PPP to a large extent on the type of buildings and their size and what they contain, for instance hazardous substances in factories. The amount of water needed and used to extinguish the fire is an important fact in the consideration of how a safer environment can be achieved. The tactical and methodological approaches for reducing amount of water needed in buildings of different sizes and physical conditions need to be developed. The bibliographic scientific knowledge and experiences of fires in large compartments in the form of bibliographic inputs are limited. Further and more systematic elaboration of strategies and tactics for an early response and the implementation of the CEC should be undertaken. This can lead to significant effects on the ways for achieving a better environment, including an acceptable working environment,. Generic figures for the reduction of water used for extinguishing the fire in buildings, even if this will also depend on the conditions in each building and incident, would be of considerable benefit to have access to. NFRS has established contact with ARGUS for further development of the implementation of IR scanning for risk analysis and assessment which is also important in this context.

Regarding the seminar the conclusion was that a dialogue is necessary with inter alia the health and safety and environment protection stakeholders to reach the overall aims of the Project. For this purpose an open seminar should be organized. The seminar will also serve the purpose of disseminating the Project's results. It has been found necessary to have more time than anticipated for preparing the seminar but it also should also be organized near the end of the Project to make it possible to present concrete results at it. The seminar will thus be aimed at gathering key persons involved in matters related to a safe working environment for firefighters and minimized environmental consequences of the firefighting, which means that good and sufficient preparation are necessary to give it high quality.

Work expected to be delivered in this Work Package

The need for improved knowledge in respect the tactical options in particular in large fire compartments has been identified. One option could be to conduct more advanced research and testing for instance at the Kuopio College, where there is a large testing hall. Some tests in larger compartments have however already been carried out in Kuopio and in Oslo and at SP in Borås, but most of the tests have been made in containers of a limited size. It is however not possible to scale up the results from the tests in small fire compartments and achieve useful results for the fire behaviour and effects of the firefighting in large compartments on fire. The tactical decision-making in fire interventions in larger buildings or compartments can therefore at present mostly only be based on practical experiences. One example of this is the arson fire in a large industrial hotel on Trandaredsgatan in Borås in which it was found necessary to use six COBRA cutting extinguishers to put out the fire, combined with pressurization of the adjacent compartments to prevent the fire from spreading. The results of further evaluation of tests and experiences can give certain guidance, but possibilities for carrying out more advanced research and testing in large compartments should be investigated, for instance at the Kuopio College where there is a large testing hall.

The work under the lead of NFRS on the tactical and methodological approaches for achieving a reduction of the amount of water used for extinguishing fires in buildings should be continued. Even if the conditions in each fire will differ and in many cases quite considerably, some different general models could be elaborated. The possibilities for conducting further tests within FIREFIGHT II are limited and therefore use must be made of studies conducted and earlier tests and practical experiences. SERF for instance has experiences gathered from about 1000 fire interventions and can assist in this work together with MSB. The ability of the cutting extinguisher to reduce the amount of water used for extinguishing fires in buildings is a major and important issue for reaching the objectives of FIREFIGHT II and NFRS should therefore continue its work in collaboration with SERF on this issue. The final result is expected be a module on a safe working environment and minimized environmental consequences for VET of intervention team commanders in CEC firefighting which can be integrated in the e-learning production process in collaboration between NFRS and EDUC.

The planning of the seminar will be continued by UNITE primarily in collaboration with NFRS and MSB on the lines presented above with the previously defined target group and objectives. It was however found that the e-learning package needs to be close to its finalization and its presentation should form an important part of seminar. The time for holding the seminar should therefore be after next summer and, to be able to use an existing education and training facility when it is available after the normal courses at a lower cost, the best time would be the first week of December 2011. This requires that a prolongation of the Project to the end of 2011 is requested. It was estimated that there could be around 100 participants in the seminar.

WP 4 Surveillance/assessment/decision support – ASELF

Objectives of this Work Package

The need for intervention team commanders including fire chiefs to be capable of implementing sensors and other instruments, including means of communication, are addressed in this Work Package. Decision support consisting of technology for surveillance and databases and other sources of information for assessment of for instance buildings' fire conditions are parts of making decisions, issuing orders and taking actions, within a complete and coherent Cutting Extinguishing Concept (CEC) for fighting fires in completely new way. These issues are of very great importance in the VET of intervention team commanders and will be addressed in the development of the e-learning system for the CEC in FIREFIGHT II. The result will be a study module for the e-learning package and form an essential part of a tool in a self-tuition course and the programme for drills and exercises for intervention team commanders. The module will be tested through drills and exercises in the course of the Project.

Progress in this Work Package

ASELF has the responsible for risk analysis as a basic instrument for the operational decision making and in this respect provide inputs to the e-learning development process. In connection with the Madrid Meeting practical comparison tests were made of IR data with visual observations documented with cameras of various arranged fires within a furnished building. The results were aimed at forming a basis for assessing and monitoring for the risk assessment of the situation and testing different strategies and tactics as well as different methodologies and combinations of these for fighting the various fires inside the building. They form a part of an information and decision support system and should be coordinated with, and presented in a similar way as, the simulations developed in FIREFIGHT.

A presentation has been produced of the practical comparison tests of IR data of various arranged fires within a furnished building with visual observations documented with cameras. Different tactical approaches for responding to the fires were conducted in these tests. The results of these tests form a basis for assessing the risks and monitoring the situation as well as implementing different strategies and tactics and methodologies, also combinations of these, for fighting the various fires in the building. This material will form an input in the

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development of the e-learning, which can be achieved under the lead of ASELF and in collaboration with EDUC and SERF. In this context the further improvement and use of IR cameras presented at the Meeting will also have a significant role to play together with for instance results from the collaboration between NFRS and ARGUS.

Work expected to be delivered in this Work Package

A module on implementing sensors and other instruments including means of communication for surveillance and together with databases and other sources of information for assessment of for instance buildings' fire conditions and providing decision support for VET of intervention team commanders in CEC firefighting. This will be supplemented with an outline of the normal building constructions in the EU for which ASELF will have a leading role. This outline will be based on the established scenarios for the Project.

WP 5 E-learning – EDUC

Objectives of this Work Package

FIREFIGHT II has the aim of supplementing the FIREFIGHT training for firemen which has the form of e-learning and a short practical training and addresses the intervention team commander level, including fire chiefs. FIREFIGHT II is planned to result in an e-learning package and programmes for drills or exercises conducted with modern technology, for instance web based vocational training tools. The aim is thus to elaborate a life long career learning VET that can serve as an instrument for improved skills and competence and also improve the conditions for introducing a safe working environment for firefighters and in this context the e-learning part of the VET is of significant importance. The e-learning can be particularly valuable for firefighting personnel as they are spread in relatively small units all over EU countries and the costs for bringing them together for traditional institutional training would be very significant. Traditional VET would therefore delay the important introduction more generally of the new methodology and its contribution to creating a safe working environment for firefighters. E-learning and distance education tools are therefore due to the difficulties and costs for conducting training of the personnel in the fire and rescue services already being used in the fire and rescue services. In this sense it is a matter of adapting and transferring pedagogical methods or rather supplementing pedagogical materials. FIREFIGHT II has the aim of supplementing the FIREFIGHT training for firemen which has the form of e-learning and a short practical training and addresses the intervention team commander level, including fire chiefs.

Progress in this Work Package

EDUC will contribute with the elaboration of the e-learning in accordance with the solutions presented “E-learning: an alternative to traditional!” and examples of different e-learning solutions provided by EDUC to fire and rescue services. The production process for the e-learning module will build on and consist of the elements raw content – flow chart – validation – production – validation – deployment. For reaching success in this e-learning

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production process, texts and scenarios, images and validation will be integrated well together which in the FIREFIGHT II context means that the different WP Leaders and other Partners will collaborate closely with EDUC and provide the necessary inputs for the integration to be conducted under the lead of EDUC. For this purpose and to facilitate communication and dialogue, EDUC will establish a virtual forum.

Work expected to be delivered in this Work Package

A e-learning module will be built successively and will include role games conducted with different scenarios. The role games have the aim of developing the capability of incident commanders in respect to strategy, tactics and methodology for fighting fires and form a part of the e-learning package. Based on the present model focused on terraced houses, NFRS undertook to elaborate an example covering the factory building scenario and ENSOSP undertook to elaborate an example covering one of the remaining scenarios, for instance a block of flats, a meeting hall, shopping centre or store. This continued work will be coordinated with EDUC.

WP 6 Exercises and drills – ENSOP/MICR

Objectives of this Work Package

The practical part of the VET for intervention team commanders including fire chiefs will have the form of programmes for drills or exercises conducted with modern technology for instance a web based vocational training tool. This will facilitate the introduction of the new concept widely and make it easily accessible and used by firefighting intervention team commanders and fire chiefs in the EU. The aim is to conduct the drills as table top exercises and to have one designated exercise to test the whole VET package.

To meet the different needs of the individuals in respect to supplementary or refresher training of present personnel on the one side and the fundamental education and training on the other, but also to achieve a better balance between men and women in the services, will require development of different approaches. The aim remains to provide equal professional education and training to all relevant personnel, men and women, in the EU so that they will achieve adequate and equal competence.

Progress in this Work Package

The plans for the exercises and drills Meeting are that the exercise will most probably have the form of a table top exercise and perhaps some practical demonstrations linked to this exercise. At the meeting also the on-going work in the Project in general will be followed-up and considered. The venue for the Meeting will be decided by ENSOSP in collaboration with the other Partner colleges and the Somme and Haut Rhine Fire Departments. The content of the Meeting when it has finally been defined and further consideration of where the practical demonstration parts can be carried out in a satisfactory way will influence the choice of the venue. It has been found appropriate to have the Meeting in the second half of May or in June.

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Work expected to be delivered in this Work Package

The aim is to present a proposal for drills as table top exercises based on the role game model and to have one designated exercise to test the whole VET package. Full-scale CEC Operational Exercise – it has recognized that the table-top form of exercises can be used both on a regular basis in the fire and rescue service and in CEC courses. These may end with an operational equipment exercise also being conducted to follow up the role game carried out during the table-top exercise. This matter will be considered further by ENSOSP in the preparations for the next Meeting. (To finalize a CEC Command and Control Course or as one of the regular exercises of a fire and rescue service a full-scale CEC Operational Exercise is conducted and will cover the normal elements of a more complex fire intervention, i.e. risk assessment to have sufficient situation awareness and monitoring the development of the incident, strategic and tactical decision making and coordination of resources. The operational exercise is preceded by a table-top role-game exercise using the same scenario and will be concluded by a common de-briefing)

WP 7 Management - MSB

MSB has taken the responsibility for coordinating the FIREFIGHT II Project which has been exercised by Bo Andersson with the assistance of Bo Nystrand and Ulf Bjurman as advisors. the financial management is being executed by Marie Norrby, MSB. Each Work Package Leader, a role conducted by different Partners, is responsible for the Work Package in consultation with the Coordinator.

WP 8 Dissemination and valorisation – MSB

- A draft communication plan has been adopted.
- A website www.eufirefight.com has been established and is up-dated frequently.
- For internal communication and virtual work the FIREFIGHT II Project has established the FIREFIGHT II Project Forum firefight-2@googlegroups.com

Participation in major events:

- Stockholm Conference “The Role of VET” 12–13 November 2010
- INTERSCHUTZ 2010 in Leipzig 7 - 12 June 2010 at which 125,000 people attended
- SKYDD 2010 Security, Fire and Rescue Expo 18 – 21 September 2010 in Stockholm

Other dissemination activities:

- Presentations at seminars/work shops for instance in Poland and Belgium
- National CEC arrangements in other Partner Countries for example in the UK
- MSB conducting national seminars – The modern fire and rescue services (CEC)