

Rapid Multi-Risk Needs Evaluation and Planning Platform

101193586 - EMERGE - UCPM-2024-KAPP-PV

Dissemination

Workshop and training session as side event
(EMERGE WBP BETA version)

Work package: 05
Deliverable: 5.4

Lead Beneficiary: IZIIS
Coordinator: IZIIS
Contributing Beneficiaries: IZIIS, UPT, AUTH, EUCENTRE, IUSS, NOA, CMC, PRD, AKMC, PPI, INFRATECH

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WP-05 | DL5.4

September 30, 2026

Executive summary

The first EMERGE workshop and training session (WS1) was held in Ohrid on 24 September 2026 as part of WP5 deliverable D5.4. In line with Tasks T2.5 and T5.2 of the Grant Agreement, the event presented the EMERGE WBP beta version to project partners and stakeholders, provided hands-on training, and collected end-user feedback to inform development of the final version (1.0). The first session covered project progress, civil protection challenges and needs in the North Macedonia–Albania–Greece cross-border region, the importance of rapid needs assessment, and the EMERGE Rapid Needs Assessment module. The second session demonstrated the platform’s exposure, hazard and scenario functions, near real-time ShakeMap workflow, estimated post-disaster needs, resource gaps and routing. Participants then tested the platform and shared feedback and operational perspectives. Comments on the data, methodology and platform functions are consolidated in this report. The consortium will assess their technical feasibility and consider suitable improvements for version 1.0.

Date & venue: 24 September 2026, Laki Hotel and Spa, Ohrid, North Macedonia (hybrid).

WS1 objective: Demonstrate and test the EMERGE WBP beta version, train users on rapid needs assessment, and collect practical feedback from civil protection actors and project partners.

Chairs: *Prof. Vlatko Sesov and Prof. Igor Gjorgjiev*

WORKSHOP SUMMARY NOTES

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Speaker: *I. Gjorgjiev (IZIIS)*

The director of IZIIS welcomed project partners, representatives of civil protection authorities, local government and other stakeholders attending in person and online. He explained that, under the Grant Agreement, WS1 provides a setting to present the beta version, train prospective users and collect their feedback before the development of WBP version 1.0. The programme was organized in two parts: the project and needs assessment context, followed by platform demonstration, hands-on training, feedback and practice perspectives. WS1 took place in Ohrid after the venue originally foreseen in the Grant Agreement was changed from Bitola; both locations are in the pilot CBR of North Macedonia.

Part 1. Project overview and rapid needs assessment framework

Chair: *Prof. Dr. Vlatko Sesov*

EMERGE project summary and current status

Speaker: *R. Salic Makreska (IZIIS, EMERGE coordinator)*

For participants encountering EMERGE for the first time, the coordinator set out the project objective and its basis in the earlier UCPM CRISIS project. EMERGE extends the CRISIS web platform from scenario-based risk analysis toward rapid multi-risk impact and post-disaster needs assessment for the North Macedonia–Albania–Greece cross-border region. As specified in WP2 of the Grant Agreement, the platform is intended to provide an initial view of the event, affected people and assets, immediate needs, available resources and gaps, so that civil protection authorities can prioritise early response. The 12-partner consortium brings together scientific and technical organisations, civil protection authorities and operational partners from six countries.

The presentation showed the project additions to the CRISIS framework: expanded exposure data for population, residential, commercial and industrial buildings, schools, hospitals and bridges; social vulnerability information; updated earthquake and earthquake-induced landslide assessment; and a ShakeMap component for near-real-

time shaking information. The Rapid Needs Assessment module uses impact results to estimate demands for the affected population, critical services and response resources. Comparison with available capacities produces an indicative gap analysis and supports the prioritisation of municipalities and resource types.

The coordinator reviewed progress across the five work packages, the submitted deliverables, milestones, platform integration and dissemination. The presentation identified completion and harmonisation of information on civil protection resources and capacities as a continuing need for meaningful gap estimates. WS1 was positioned as the Grant Agreement's beta-stage user testing and training event: feedback on functionality, data and interpretation would inform the remaining development toward version 1.0.

The presentation concluded with the need to complete the planned platform and consider its sustainability and potential later expansion. Additional hazards, exposure elements or geographic coverage were discussed as possible future developments beyond the agreed EMERGE implementation.

National civil protection challenges and needs

Speakers: *Valentina Atanasovska (PRD, North Macedonia), Hervis Nakuci (AKMC, Albania), and Areti Plessa (Region of Attica, Greece)*

The North Macedonian contribution focused on shared risk profiles, flood and landslide monitoring, wildfire response, information exchange, interoperable GIS and communications, Host Nation Support, border facilitation and joint exercises. The practical emphasis was to turn cross border procedures into deployable capacity, including reception, staging, logistics and coordination of incoming assistance.

The Albanian contribution described a response system in which local capacities are used first and higher levels provide support when required. Disasters can affect several municipalities or countries while specialised personnel and equipment are dispersed. Timely, compatible information is needed to connect hazard and impact to needs, priorities and resource allocation. Challenges included uneven municipal capacity, fragmented data, volunteer training, and integrating information from field teams, institutions, satellites and drones into a common operational picture.

The Greek contribution used lessons from earthquakes, the 2018 Mati wildfire, the 2023 Rhodes wildfire and Thessaly floods to discuss warning, evacuation, spatial planning and coordination. It noted progress in public alerting and evacuation alongside continuing local capacity and governance gaps. Cross border needs included shared capacity and resource information, attention to vulnerable groups, multilingual communication, compatible procedures and regular exercises.

The importance of rapid needs assessment in crisis management

Speaker: *Prof. Orce Popovski (Military Academy, UGD)*

The presentation outlined the basic information required after a major earthquake or landslide: affected territory, population characteristics, vulnerable groups, damaged structures, evacuation and sheltering, water and sanitation, food, operational forces and critical infrastructure. It discussed minimum planning standards and the need for clear institutional responsibilities. These standards supplied context for the subsequent EMERGE module presentation; they were not all adopted as platform parameters during the workshop.

The EMERGE Rapid Needs Assessment module

Speaker: *Prof. Radmila Salic Makreska (IZIIS)*

The module was presented as an early decision support calculation, producing indicative post disaster needs from scenario damage and risk results. The first implementation addresses emergency shelter and longer-term temporary housing, shelter units and covered living area, water, toilets, food, casualties and medical teams, hospital beds, search and rescue, building safety inspection, temporary learning spaces, resource gaps and municipality priorities. The slides set out initial assumptions, including a three-day default horizon for consumables, a five-person family tent and 50 people per communal toilet in the acute phase. Some needs, such as isolated population and road or landslide clearance resources, were identified as not yet implemented.

The presenter explained that available resources must be considered alongside requirements; a resource gap is meaningful only when the location and operational availability of capacity are known. Several assumptions remain country or context dependent and can be refined as better data become available.

Discussion after Part 1

The discussion clarified the role of rapid model-based outputs as preliminary estimates in a period when verified field information is scarce. Participants noted that field teams must subsequently confirm actual needs and that reassessments may be necessary as the response develops. Questions concerned the spatial resolution of estimates, the population considered in the water calculation, and how field observations might update the platform. These points were recorded as methodological feedback; no revised calculation was agreed during the session.

Group photo & Lunch

Informal partner networking and bilateral coordination discussions.

Part 2. Platform demonstration hands on training and feedback

Chair: *Prof. Dr. I. Gjorgjiev (IZIIS)*

Demonstration of the EMERGE WBP beta version

Speakers: *Dr. Barbara Borzi and Davide Quaroni (EUCENTRE)*

EUCENTRE introduced the browser-based platform and the functions inherited and expanded from CRISIS. The demonstration showed project and navigation information, base layers, exposure, hazard and scenario tabs, post disaster needs and routing. Users can add private map layers in CSV or GeoJSON, inspect mapped attributes and download data. Default exposure can be supplemented with custom data; individually located assets and municipality distributed building portfolios require different handling.

The scenario demonstration covered user specified earthquake parameters and examination of damage outputs by asset type. The presenters showed mapped results and downloadable numeric information. The needs demonstration used a sample resource file to compare modelled demands with available resources by municipality, displaying surpluses and shortfalls in a color-coded table and on the map. The sample file was for demonstration and should not be mistaken for a validated regional inventory.

The routing demonstration showed how a damaged bridge can interrupt a route and prompt a search for an alternative, subject to the available road network. The presenters also explained the integration of the IZIS ShakeMap service with EMERGE WBP, connecting event-based shaking information to subsequent impact and needs calculations. No precise processing time is stated in this report.

Hands on training and participant feedback

Participants explored the beta environment and asked about data access, customization and practical use. The developers explained that user uploaded layers and results are private to the account in the demonstrated arrangement. Test users were invited to continue exploring the platform, with a request to remove their uploads and results afterwards; periodic cleanup of the shared test environment was also mentioned.

Custom exposure and geographic scope: A participant proposed using custom data to demonstrate the platform in municipalities outside the present cross border area. Asset level uploads were described as possible; broader municipality distributed building exposure would require boundary data and an extension of the input workflow.

Social vulnerability: Participants asked how the displayed indicators relate to needs calculations. The distinction between contextual information and variables used in a calculation should be made clear to users in the platform and its manual.

Operational presentation: Participants asked for a concise scenario level summary of consequences and clearer descriptions of damage state categories, so nonspecialists could interpret the results. The team pointed to downloadable scenario data; a new consolidated report was discussed as a suggestion.

Resources: The platform accepts user supplied resource data and compares them with estimated needs. Questions concerned the visibility of expandable stocks and how a shortage could be displayed for planning. The team explained the custom resource inventory and gap display.

Routing: Participant asked how damaged bridges influence route priority, whether landslide damage to bridges is included, and whether vehicle size and road dimensions can constrain a route. The team explained the present bridge interruption logic and stated that landslide damage to bridges and vehicle dimensions were not covered by this beta workflow.

Insights from practice data technology and operational perspectives

Speakers: *Vlatko Jovanovski (PPI), Jan Pol (Janson Bridging, online) and Makel Baballeku (UPT)*

Vlatko Jovanovski (PPI) distinguished initial impact information, rapid needs assessment, subsequent multi sector assessment and longer-term post disaster needs assessment. He emphasised that information must lead to decisions and deployable response, particularly where assistance crosses borders and requires liaison, customs, staging and local absorption capacity. A discussion of stress testing considered cascading effects, plausible scenarios and the capabilities needed when events exceed familiar plans.

Theo van Wijk and Jan Pol (Janson Bridging, online) discussed how a common operational picture must be understandable to different authorities and across language and organisational boundaries. They used emergency bridging to illustrate scarce specialist resources and explained public private availability arrangements, industry networks, training and exercises that can secure scalable capacity before a disaster. They encouraged authorities to define the effect required and work with providers on feasible solutions.

An additional Albanian presentation on post-earthquake building damage and usability assessment drew on the 2019 Durrës experience, when approximately 40,000 buildings were inspected was given by Markel Baballeku. It described the development of a more consistent national form and manual, the central role of engineering judgement, and the separation of life-safety usability decisions from compensation. The speaker observed that the EMERGE assumption of ten buildings per inspection team per day may be optimistic under some field conditions. This was practitioner feedback for later calibration, not an agreed parameter change. A suggestion was made to compare an EMERGE scenario for the 2019 Durrës event with available observed assessment data, to examine exposure quality and damage estimates. The Albanian contributor indicated that much of the data may be available and that the comparison could be explored. Completeness, definitions and method are still open.

Final comments and conclusions

The closing discussion considered whether municipality boundary data from the three countries could support user-defined, municipality-level exposure outside the current project area. This was a possible extension of the custom data function and requires technical review. The coordinator confirmed that feedback from WS1 would be

consolidated and discussed within the consortium, with feasible improvements considered in light of the remaining project time and resources. Presentation materials were to be shared with participants through the project folder.

The final workshop was expected in Skopje at the end of January 2027, with the precise date to follow. The workshop closed with thanks to participants and an invitation to continue the exchange at the joint dinner and optional Ohrid visit.

Consolidated action points

The follow-up points below distinguish commitments stated in the closing remarks from proposals requiring technical and partner review.

Action	Responsible partner(s)	Due / timeframe	Status
Consolidate feedback and assess feasible beta improvements	IZIIS coordination and EUCENTRE / relevant consortium partners	After WS1	Stated in closing
Share presentation materials through the common folder	IZIIS coordination	After WS1	Stated in closing
Consider municipality boundaries to enable broader custom distributed exposure	Country partners to supply boundaries; EUCENTRE to examine implementation	No deadline stated	Proposal discussed; ownership to confirm
Explore Durrës scenario comparison with observed Albanian building assessments	Albanian contributor with EMERGE technical team	No deadline stated	Exploratory proposal
Plan final workshop in Skopje	IZIIS coordination and partners	Expected end of January 2027	Date to confirm

Other feedback for the WP2 review includes the use of field observations, the scope of the water calculation, scenario summaries, damage terminology, landslide effects on bridges and vehicle constraints in routing. These points have not been assigned individual owners or deadlines.

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda

Agenda

Workshop and Training Session on the EMERGE WBP BETA Version (WS1)

101193586 — EMERGE — UCPM-2024-KAPP

Date: **Thursday, September 24, 2026**

Venue: Laki Hotel & Spa, Ohrid, North Macedonia

Location coordinates: 41.06845183890817, 20.801671198012734

Virtual meeting link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/331436257043699?p=zvkciBqKQMfEfZQ Q2v>

10:00 – 10:15 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Prof. Igor Gjorgjev (Director, IZIIS)

Introduction of the participants

Part 1. ***EMERGE Project Overview and Rapid Needs Assessment Framework (Chair: Prof. Vlatko Sesov)***

10:15 – 10:45 **EMERGE Project Summary and Current Status**

Prof. Radmila Salic Makreska (IZIIS, EMERGE Coor)

10:45 – 11:30 **National Civil Protection Challenges and Needs in the Cross-Border Region**

- *Representative of the Protection and Rescue Directorate, North Macedonia (PRD), Ms. Valentina Atanasovska*
- *Representative of the National Civil Protection Agency, Albania (AKMC), Mr. Hervis Nakuci*
- *Civil Protection Practitioner from Greece – Region of Attica Civil Protection Directorate, Ms Areti Plessa*

11:30 – 12:00 **Group photo & Coffee Break**

12:00 – 12:20 **The Importance of Rapid Needs Assessment in Crisis Management**

Prof. Orce Popovski (Military Academy, UGD)

12:20 – 13:00 **The EMERGE Rapid Needs Assessment Module**

Prof. Radmila Salic Makreska (IZIIS)

13:00 – 13:15 **Discussion**

All participants

13:15 – 14:15	Lunch
Part 2.	<i>EMERGE WBP BETA Version: Demonstration, Hands-on Training and Feedback (Chair: Prof. Igor Gjorgjiev)</i>
14:15 – 14:45	Demonstration of the EMERGE WBP BETA Version <i>Barbara Borzi (EUCENTRE)</i>
14:45 – 15:15	Hands-on Training on the EMERGE WBP BETA Version <i>Davide Quaroni (EUCENTRE)</i>
15:15 – 16:00	Participant Feedback on the EMERGE WBP BETA Version <i>All participants</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break
16:30 – 17:15	Insights from Practice: Data, Technology and Operational Perspectives <i>Vlatko Jovanovski (PPI)</i> <i>Theo wan Wijk (JBI) - online</i> <i>Rezeart Zgjanolli (INFRATECH)</i>
17:15 – 17:30	Final Comments, Conclusions and Closure <i>Prof. Igor Gjorgjiev (IZIIS)</i> <i>Dr. Barbara Borzi (EUCENTRE)</i>
20:00 – 23:00	Joint Dinner <i>Restaurant Sv. Sofija (41.112780949193045, 20.794303206746164)</i>
Date:	Friday, September 25, 2026
10:00 – 12:00	Guided Visit to the Old Town of Ohrid <i>Optional activity, subject to prior registration</i>



Annex 2: Attendance List



Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid

Attendance List
Workshop and training session as side event
(EMERGE WBP BETA version)

24.09.2026

#	Name Surname	Institution	E-mail	Signature
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Annex 3: Workshop Photos





