



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 883315.



SIXTHSENSE Kick-off Meeting Press Release

Donostia-San Sebastián, 10 June 2020

Lifesaving technology for those charged with saving lives

The European Project *SIXTHSENSE* on health monitoring with sensory feedback for enhanced situational awareness was launched in Donostia-San Sebastián on May 19-20, 2020

On May 19 and 20, the kick-off meeting of the EU-funded project *SIXTHSENSE* – “Smart Integrated eXtreme environmenT Health monitor with Sensory feedback for ENhanced Situation awareNess” took place in the virtual space shared between nine participating countries. The project is a multidisciplinary innovation and research action with the overall aim of developing a wearable health monitoring system with closed loop tactile biofeedback, that allows first responders in hazardous situations to sense their current health status. It will allow early detection of risk factors that could lead to rapid deterioration of health or operation capabilities of first responders, by leveraging predictive models based on multimodal biosensor data (e.g., lactate, Na, K, HR, temperature). As a team management tool, it will enable real-time monitoring of all deployed operatives, helping increase team effectiveness and operational safety.

To help accelerate the pace of technological advancements aimed at first responders, beyond the scope of the project, *SIXTHSENSE* will establish a novel research methodology for sustainable inclusion of first responders in a co-development process.

SIXTHSENSE is funded withing the EU Horizon 2020 programe as a 36 months project, with the overall funding of €7.242.442,5. The project consortium comprises 21 organisations from nine European countries, coordinated by TECNALIA Research & Innovation (Spain). The project consortium comprises three universities: Aalborg Universitet (Denmark), Universidad de León (Spain) and Technische Universitaet Chemnitz (Germany); five European Research and Technology Organisations: TECNALIA (Spain), Joanneum Research Forschungsgesellschaft (Austria), BioNanoNet Forschungsgesellschaft (Austria), Eucentre Foundation (Italy) and Tecnalia Serbia (Serbia); two large industry representatives: Jobst Technologies (Germany) and Methrom DropSens (Spain); and five SME partners: Senetics healthcare group (Germany), TeleGroup (Germany), Smartex (Italy), Global Electronic Solutions (Serbia), BiFlow Systems (Germany) with different areas of expertise. The project also counts active participation from first responders organisations, as Serbian Mountain Rescue Service, Association of Mountain Rescue Organizations of B&H and four fire fighter companies with different profiles from Gumpoldskirchen (Austria), Postojna (Slovenia), Rijeka (Croatia) and Pavia (Italy), and a fire rescue training and risk management experts - IFR (Austria).

Rijeka Fire Brigade will participate in this project as a **practitioner**, sharing the 156 years of experience and domain knowledge in actual needs, constrains and challenges occurring in firefighting operations in extreme conditions. Rijeka FB will participate with it's firefighters in the co-development activities to help the consortium to obtain adequate information on the environmental exposure, physical effort and high stakes stress impacts during firefighting operations. In the infield testing of *SIXTHSENSE* prototypes Rijeka FB will provide training facilities (for earlier stages) and real world operations (for the later prototype) to measure



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stress level on firefighters' body during operations in urban and rural terrain as well as in nature (forest, mountains, sea, rivers, lakes...), where firefighters performs all types of fire&rescue emergencies (structural firefighting, industrial fire&rescue operations, highrise firefighting, forest firefighting, marine firefighting, rope rescue, USAR, water rescue, diving emergencies...). Furthermore, Rijeka FB will provide CFBT (Compartment Fire Behavior Training) facilities.

For further information see the project's website <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/883315>.

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