

'SMS4EMS' PROJECTS EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP TRAINING INITIATIVE

The Safety Management Systems (SMS) training for Emergency Medical Services (SMS4EMS) project has been co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme to enhance safety, hazard and risk management to improve safety performance for EMS professionals, patients and the public, writes Derek Ross, project co-ordinator at Trinity College Dublin.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals, reports and recommendations from safety incidents, and an emerging body of literature from recent research, have recognised a need for a systematic and systemic approach to safety risk management within the EMS sector.

In response to this, the SMS4EMS project – a European partnership training initiative – will design, develop and deliver a SMS training solution to the EMS sector. The need for the project has been identified by EMS organisations who recognise the importance for safety, hazard and risk management for their personnel, the patients they serve, and as part of civil protection for the public and wider society.

In addition, the need for the SMS4EMS project is driven by the recent World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Patient Safety Action Plan (GPSAP) 2021-2030 that calls for improvements to safety in health services and posits a system-wide approach to manage safety. This new 24-month project, which began in November 2021, ends in October 2023.

'SMS4EMS' CONSORTIUM

Engaging with project partners and associate partners from the emergency medical services (EMS) sector, academia, education, training and research, the project is being co-ordinated by the Centre for Innovative Human Systems (CIHS), School of Psychology at Trinity College Dublin.

The project partners include Kratis Training and Consulting, Cyprus; the Emergency Ambulance Physicians Association, Turkey; and Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e. V, Germany. The project associate partners who are vital to the development of SMS4EMS project results are Dublin Fire Brigade, Ireland; Cyprus Apollonion Hospital Ambulance Service; Izmir Fire Department, Turkey; Izmir Democracy University Buca Seyfi Demirsoy Training and Research Hospital, Turkey; Tinaztepe University, Turkey; Braunschweig Fire Department Braunschweig Fire Department and Emergency Ambulance Service, Germany; Akkon University, Berlin, Germany; and Thessaloniki HSPEC (a non-profit scientific society that represents emergency health), Greece.

Collectively, the co-operation of partners and associate partners will co-design and co-create a safety management system that will lead to improvements to safety performance.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT

SMS4EMS will implement research into safety risk management competence needs, management and development through training, and evaluation activities.

The logo for SMS4EMS features the text 'sms4EMS' in a lowercase, sans-serif font. 'sms4' is in blue and 'EMS' is in red.

In addition, SMS4EMS will undertake dissemination activities that will share the project results with target groups in the EMS, health education and training, research organisations, and other relevant stakeholders. SMS4EMS will also disseminate project results through conference presentations, professional and academic journal publications, and web based activities.

The SMS4EMS project will deliver the following four related project results:

- SMS Capability Analysis and Gaps in Emergency Medical Services;
- Competency Framework and Learning Objectives for SMS in EMS Organisations;
- SMS Training Design and Development for Emergency Medical Services;
- Evaluation of SMS Training for Emergency Medical Services.

The SMS4EMS project will provide an off-the-shelf training programme that can be used to develop the competence required to develop a safety management system in an emergency medical services.

Collectively each of the project results will offer a comprehensive suite of methods and tools that can be used to inform the existing capabilities, gaps and potential for a SMS in EMS; establish the competence framework and learning objectives of a SMS for EMS; design and develop SMS training to be localised within an EMS; and provide an evaluation model to support an EMS organisations comprehensive training and development cycle.

For further information: Updates will be provided on its development. If you are a member of an Emergency Medical Service or have an interest in 'SMS4EMS' contact project co-ordinator Derek Ross, Centre for Innovative Human Systems, School of Psychology at TCD. Email derek.ross@tcd.ie and visit www.tcd.ie/cihs for more details.



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