



Project name and abbreviation: Adapted situation awareness tools and tailored training scenarios for increasing capabilities and enhancing the protection of first responders (ASSISTANCE).

Programme: Horizon 2020.

Project duration: 1 May 2019 - 31 July 2022.

Budget: € 6 393 691,25.

ASSISTANCE in a nutshell:

When disaster strikes, emergency services are the first to arrive on the scene. Dealing with crises often requires separate teams – firefighters, law enforcement agencies, and paramedics – to cooperate quickly and efficiently in order to save lives.

The ASSISTANCE project, coordinated by Universitat Politècnica de València, aimed to enhance the safety, efficiency, and preparedness of first responders (FRs) through the integration of advanced technologies. By developing tailored situation awareness tools using UAVs, robots, and real-time data systems, the project enabled FRs to make faster and more informed decisions during emergencies. Furthermore, immersive training modules based on virtual, augmented, and mixed reality were introduced to simulate high-risk scenarios, improving the operational readiness of different types of FRs. These innovations addressed both technological and organizational needs, ensuring a comprehensive response to crisis management challenges.

Beyond the technological advancements, ASSISTANCE placed significant emphasis on human factors, including gender considerations and inclusivity, ensuring the tools and training developed were user-centric. The project also assessed the ethical, legal, and societal impacts of its solutions to align with European regulations and values. With strategic dissemination and exploitation plans, ASSISTANCE aimed to extend its benefits beyond the project's lifetime by engaging industry stakeholders and policymakers to support the adoption and commercialization of its outcomes. Overall, the project has left a lasting impact on the way first responders train and operate in complex emergency environments.

The project consortium included 19 partners from 10 different countries.

More information about the project: <https://assistance-project.eu/>.

More information on CORDIS: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/832576>.

Project field trials: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mxQwBx6l0c&t=1s.