



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF  
CIVIL PROTECTION  
VOLUNTEER TEAMS

[www.EVOLSAR.eu](http://www.EVOLSAR.eu)



# EVOLSAR – The Concept

- **Idea behind the European association –**

**HUMANITY IS NOT UNITED BY POLITICS BUT BY SOLIDARITY**

**EVOLSAR is based on such solidarity and therefore:**

- Small teams can join in and form part of a bigger organisation
- Individual teams can deploy with partner teams
- Synergising all the teams together and creating standards
- Increased opportunities of training
- Pooling of training and operational resources
- Minimising of expenses to volunteers
- Possibility of training abroad



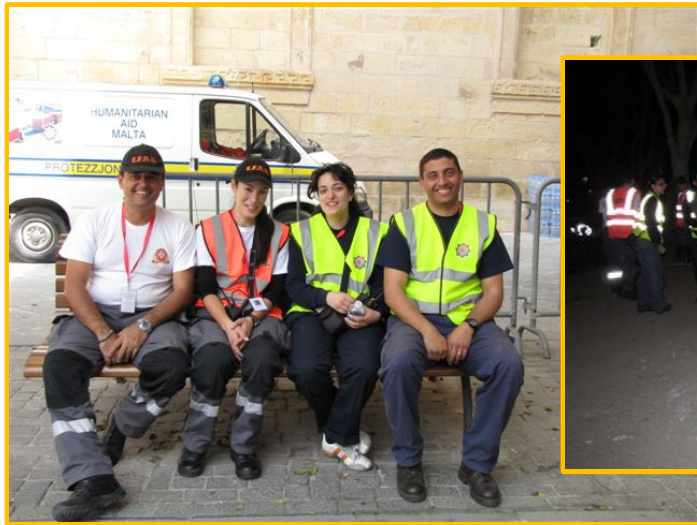
# EVOLSAR – The Objectives

- **Objectives set for EVOLSAR:**
  - Sharing of ideas / knowledge
  - Interoperability between teams and individuals
  - Possibility of accreditation for smaller teams as one association
  - Harmonisation of operations
  - Pooling of resources – manpower and equipment
  - Capacity building of individual teams



# EVOLSAR – The First Steps

- Malta 2010:
  - The first paces in Malta: EFRU – Edelweiss
  - Exchange of training opportunities in Malta and Italy in 2010, 2011 & 2012







# EVOLSAR – The First Steps





# EVOLSAR – The First Steps

- Italy 2011:
  - Signing of a Twinning Protocol between EFRU (Malta) and EDELWEISS (Italy)
  - An agreement to commence search for possible partners







# EVOLSAR – Developing the Association

- Greece 2013:
  - The day the Association was agreed upon between:
    - EFRU (Malta)
    - EPS (Portugal)
    - EDELWEISS (Italy)
    - CCPVC (Cyprus)
    - EP. O.ME.A. (Greece)





# EVOLSAR – Its Birth

- Italy - 10th May 2014
  - The signing of the EVOLSAR STATUTE and the Foundation Agreement by the 5 teams







# EVOLSAR — The Statute

- EVOLSAR has been set up with the SCOPE that:
- each group would be able to travel to assist fellow members, from other countries
- EVOLSAR volunteer teams within an affected country may call upon other European teams within EVOLSAR to assist under their own umbrella
- Upon EVOLSAR's arrival in the affected area, the home team will inform the LEMA / OSOCC of its strength and capabilities



# EVOLSAR – Membership

- Constituted of Voluntary Rescue Organisations coming from various European countries
- **Lead Member Team**
- The first organisation to join EVOLSAR from any given European country will act as a Lead Team for any subsequent rescue organisations that are to join EVOLSAR from that same country
- The Lead Team is responsible for managing the administration of any teams coming from its country and it shall be the principal point of liaison among the EVOLSAR Presidency, the EVOLSAR Administration Office and any EVOLSAR authority



# EVOLSAR – Membership

- **Affiliate Member Team**
  - Member teams that will join EVOLSAR from countries already represented in EVOLSAR shall join as **Affiliate Teams**. Affiliate teams are represented at the Executive Committee level by the Lead Team of that respective country.
  - For any specific country, the affiliation of other teams apart from the lead team will have to be nominated / approved by the country's lead team for consideration at the Association's Executive Committee.





# EVOLSAR - Membership

- **ASSOCIATE Member Team**
  - First **major change in statute** discussed in late 2015 allowing teams coming from non EU countries to team up in EVOLSAR as Associate Member Teams.
  - The **Associate Team** will have the right to participate in any event and activity including training opportunities with other members of EVOLSAR. Associate Teams will be managed directly by the EVOLSAR EC and the Administrative office depending on the situation vis-à-vis operations in training or deployment.



# EVOLSAR – To Date

## – Greek Deployment in Serbia







# EVOLSAR – To Date

- Joint rope rescue training in Greece in Jan 2015
- Joint rope rescue training in Italy in Apr 2015
- Joint USAR training in Portugal in June 2015







# EVOLSAR – To Date

- Portugal, SAR Day in Nov 2015
  - Accession of Serve On (UK) as UK's Lead Team





# EVOLSAR – To Date

- Italy, Rescue 2016 in Apr 2016
  - Accession of OPVE Hungary as Hungarian Lead Team





## ERASMUS+ KA2 Strategic Partnerships Project 2015 – 2017

- ***Project Name: Synergising European Volunteer Rescue Teams – A Rescue Operations Manual***

- *Project Leader:* EFRU (Malta)
- *Project Partners:* CCPVC (Cyprus)  
Edelweiss (Italy)  
EP.OM.E.A. (Greece)  
EPS (Portugal)  
Serve On (UK)

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All partners are EVOLSAR members.





# Synergising European Volunteer Rescue Teams – A Rescue Operations Manual –

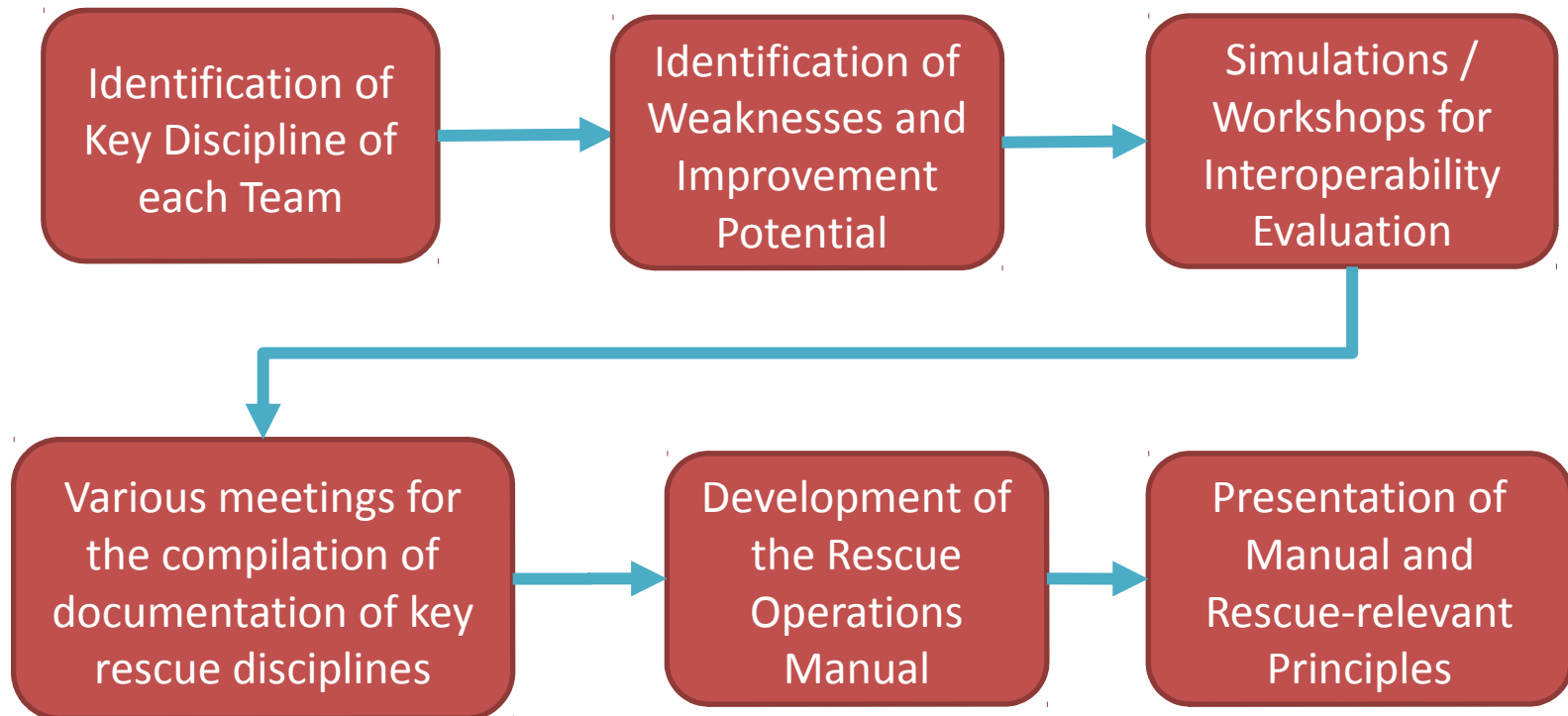
- **Project Objectives:**

- Volunteer Rescue team NETWORKING
- KNOWLEDGE SHARING and EXCHANGE of IDEAS
- ENHANCING volunteer rescuer SKILLS
- INTEROPERABILITY between volunteer teams
- Documenting the Principles of Key Rescue Disciplines in the RESCUE OPERATIONS MANUAL



# Synergising European Volunteer Rescue Teams – A Rescue Operations Manual –

*Project Life:* September 2015 – August 2017





# Synergising European Volunteer Rescue Teams – A Rescue Operations Manual –

- *Working Method:*
  - Transnational meetings bring together team experts to discuss the framework of each chapter of the manual
  - Each team develops the content of the respective rescue discipline
  - Peer review of the content by another team to approve it and suggest possible improvements
  - Training activities bring together rescue teams to test in practice some elements of the rescue techniques included in the manual
  - Feedback from these training activities is used to develop or improve the content of the rescue manual





# Synergising European Volunteer Rescue Teams – A Rescue Operations Manual –

## *Transnational Meetings:*





# Synergising European Volunteer Rescue Teams – A Rescue Operations Manual –

*Training Activity – Malta– February 2016:*





# Synergising European Volunteer Rescue Teams – A Rescue Operations Manual –

*Training Activity – Malta – February 2016:*







# Synergising European Volunteer Rescue Teams – A Rescue Operations Manual –

*Training Activity – Malta – February 2016:*







# EVOLSAR – Beyond 2016

- Further EU funding – Specific Programmes
- INSARAG recognition and possible accreditation in some modules
- Continue with steadfast enlargement within the EU sphere and even beyond.
- Other teams already interested (some in an advanced state of evaluation):
  - SARAID – UK
  - Bombeiros Voluntários De Peniche - Portugal
  - Unidad Canina Rescate y Salvamento Madrid - Spain
  - Gruppo Comunale di Protezione Civile di Fermo - Italy
  - Rescue GR - Greece
  - Serbian Rescue Team - Serbia



# EVOLSAR – Beyond 2016

- Establish a full deployment protocol for a possible Major Team deployment
- Establish a deployment procedure for within Europe and outside the continent
- Establish a deployment strategy:
  - Partial
  - Gradual
  - Full
- Establish a logistics branch that can tackle such deployments



# EVOLSAR – Beyond 2016

- Establish a good working relationship with EU Civil Protection Mechanisms in Brussels and in each country of member origin.
- See what funds could be made available to support EVOLSAR teams at home
- Investigate training opportunities already available through the Civil Protection Council for individual teams and key persons from the teams
- Investigate the possibility of enacting working protocols with local Civil Protection departments



# EVOLSAR – Beyond 2016

- Evaluate further Training Needs for the teams and individuals depending on criteria set by the EVOLSAR EC and operational needs
- Establish a system of evaluation and assessment for the teams and their volunteers
- Establish a training mechanism within EVOLSAR to facilitate training and continue with the standardisation of operations
- Establish a system of SOPs to guide each team and volunteer in their training and operations.
- Organise training activities in various countries to improve on the experience and interoperability





European Association Of Civil Protection Volunteer Teams

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# Thank You

Ευχαριστώ

Grazie

Obrigado

Gracias

Хвала вам

Köszönöm

Hvala ti

Спасибо