



Press Release

Athens September 26, 2014

The EVITA Workshop organized on the 10th of September in Palma de Mallorca by “Prodigy Consultres S.L.”, associate beneficiary of the EVITA Consortium, brought together four prominent public sectors that engage in the field of civil protection: the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), the Hellenic General Secretariat for Civil Protection (GSCP), the Regional and Local Authorities of the Balearic Islands as well as the Regional Authorities of Sardinia.

The EVITA Workshop provided the opportunity to disseminate pertinent information with regard to the use of the EVITA model, a project that focuses on the important issue of initiating a controlled evacuation of the population, as a prevention measure in view of an approaching wildfire, via specifying the “evacuation trigger buffer zones”.

It also provided fertile grounds for the region of the Balearic Islands to elaborate – amongst other – on past major incidents, on the operational responses and on the potentials that the model may offer in order to improve the cooperation between all parties involved in the strategic decision-making process such as the Civil Protection Authorities and the stakeholders at a national and a regional level, the Industry, the hotel resorts as well as civilians.

Professor Chis Kiranoudis, EVITA project coordinator from NTUA, explained the use of the model with regard to specifying the “evacuation trigger buffer zones” around an area threatened by a wildfire.

One of the principal case studies analyzed was the major forest fire that erupted at the region of Andraxt, Mallorca, in the summer of 2013. During the field trip organized in the area, on the 11th of September, the Regional Minister of Public Administration Ms Nuria Riera Martos, the Mayor of Andratx, Mr Llorenç Suau Simó and the National

Representative for Civil Protection in the EU, Dr KN Saini discussed issues concerning the operational response capabilities of the respective Authorities to manage effectively the aforementioned disaster.

Finally, the latter underlined that the EVITA model will offer the technically advanced tools necessary to improve the response strategy and tactics thus contribute to the reduction of risk and, eventually, lead to expeditious recoveries.