



**Strengthening resilience by offering targeted national and local scientific and practical training activities for capacity building and awareness-raising of the risks and impacts of manmade disasters**  
**GROWTH**

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**NEWSLETTER n°1 – 31.3.2023**

**Dear reader,  
Welcome to the first newsletter of the GROWTH Project.**

We are delighted to share the latest updates and achievements of our project aimed at Strengthening resilience by offering targeted national and local scientific and practical training activities for capacity building and awareness-raising of the risks and impacts of manmade disasters. Through the collaborative efforts of our dedicated partners and stakeholders, we are making significant strides towards building a resilient and disaster-ready community.

GROWTH is a 36 months project that has been started on 01/01/2023 and is implemented by a consortium led by the International Hellenic University – IHU (Greece) in cooperation with the Volunteer fire department Sveti Nikole - VFD Sveti Nikole (North Macedonia), Emergency Management Agency, Ministry of Interior, Republic of Kosovo – EMA (Kosovo), Engineering And Risk Management Consultants Sh.P.K. – ERM (Albania), Chemical industry "Poliex" JSC Berane - CI POLIEX JSC (Montenegro), RESHUB LTD – RH (Bulgaria) and BL SAFETY SOLUTIONS – BL (Kosovo) while the ASSOCIATION OF OFFICERS AND SUB-OFFICERS WITH UNIVERSITY DEGREES OF HELLENIC FIRE CORPS (EPAYPS) and Institute of Management of Manmade and Natural Disasters-Panhellenic Network for Civil Protection and Crisis Management-SCE (IDAFK) support the partnership. The project is co-funded under the ERASMUS Lump Sum Grants (ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CB-VET) call of the European Education and Culture Executive Agency.



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GROWTH consortium distribution

## **Strategic Objectives (SO)**

**SO.1:** Connecting education and vocational training with manmade disasters

**SO.2:** Support cooperation, capacity building and awareness in public communities of the participating member states on emergency response measures and actions (Workshops / Private Sector-HEI events)

**SO.3:** Promote scientific and practical approaches to private sector Safety and Security Personnel, Civil Protection Personnel for extreme emergency situations

## **Operational Objectives (OO)**

**OO.1:** Design and implementation an effective and efficient vocational education and training system

**OO.2:** Design an innovative approach that each participant will follow its own path

In order to fulfill these, the project will develop better training, including virtual reality simulators. In detail the specific objectivities of the project are the following:

**O.1:** Provide high quality training for both civil protection and private sector Safety and Security personnel to increase readiness and action ability

**O.2:** Facilitate and support professionals by validating practices acquired in the field

**O.3:** Identify knowledge and performance gaps through various comprehensive training needs assessments

**O.4:** Develop a common e-training curriculum resulting the cooperation between 6 countries (Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Greece, Republic of North Macedonia & Bulgaria) based on findings gathered from simulations



(Discussion Exercises) that will address existing knowledge and performance gaps

**0.5:** Develop an e-platform, accessible from any portable device to host the training modules and develop a community of demanders

**0.6:** Generate new and better simulation scenarios to improve the knowledge database through collaboration of experienced professionals from different countries

**0.7:** Mitigate the resource availability issues, sharing already existing installations among participants of the Project, both on-site and through distance learning

**0.8:** Further use and mainstreaming of a successful training model

We express our sincere gratitude to all our stakeholders, including the public administration, civil protection authorities, municipalities, educational institutions, and the dedicated members of our community. Your unwavering support and active participation have been instrumental in driving the success of this project.

**Stay tuned** (<https://growtherasmus.eu/newsletters/>) **for more updates as we continue to make significant progress towards our shared vision of a resilient and disaster-ready community. Together, we can build a future that is better prepared, safer, and more resilient in the face of manmade disasters.**

**Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support.**

GROWTH Project's Partners

IHU	International Hellenic University
VFD Sveti Nikole	Volunteer fire department Sveti Nikole
EMA	Emergency Management Agency
ERMC	ENGINEERING AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS SH.P.K.
CI POLIEX JSC	Chemical industry "Poliex" JSC Berane
RH	RISHAB (RESHUB LTD)
BL	BL SAFETY SOLUTIONS



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