



WESENSEIT
CITIZEN WATER OBSERVATORIES

WeSenseit is an EU FP7 project developing citizen observatories of water and flooding to facilitate closer engagement and interaction between citizens, authorities and other stakeholders in the governance of water resources.

<http://wesenseit.eu>

Autumn 2014



Beyond the lab

In this issue, we look at how the technologies developed in the WeSenseit project have been applied to manage a variety of real world emergency scenarios with great success.

WeSenseit technologies used to manage bomb evacuation

Vicenza, Italy, April 25, 2014

WeSenseit technology was used during a real national emergency caused by the discovery of World War II bomb situated in the city of Vicenza, Italy, which necessitated the evacuation of the city in order to safely defuse the 1,800kg bomb.

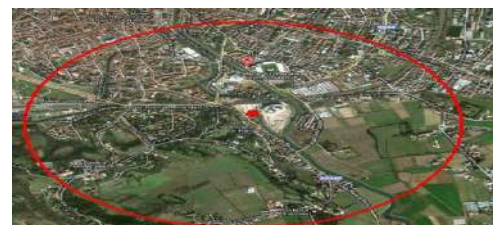
WeSenseit consortium members Alto Adriatico Water Authority (IT), the University of Sheffield (UK), K-Now Ltd (UK) and Quinary (IT) deployed a range of technologies and organized the associated training of Civil Protection volunteers. K-Now's StaffSense technology was used to organise the Civil Protection volunteers' activities during the evacuation operations of more than 27,000 people. At the same time social media analysis developed at the University of Sheffield was used to identify potential concerns raised by citizens in and around the evacuation area.

These monitoring operations were followed by the project partners within the Emergency Control Room together with the Director of the National Civil Protection (Dr. Franco Gabrielli) and the Mayor of Vicenza (Mr Achille Variati). The City of Vicenza formally sent a letter of thanks to the WeSenseit project for the assistance provided.



VICENZA - VENERDÌ 25 APRILE
EVACUAZIONE PER DISINNESCO BOMBA
LA SICUREZZA È UN OBBLIGO

Numero Verde Gratuito
800 127812





AQUADIKE Exercise

Vicenza, March 30, 2014



Stop press

Radio interview

Project partner Starlab were interviewed on Spanish national public radio on 3rd September 2014 to discuss the citizens' observatories involved in the WeSenseIt Project. The interview was part of a programme called *Europa Abeita* which focuses on European policy and news.

EC press release

The EC press release '*Faster, more accurate flood warnings through EU research*' showcased WeSenseIt's new mobile apps. The article described how communities can contribute by taking measurements using WeSenseIt's new mobile apps and sending information and images by mobile phone.

Academic recognition

Dr. Uta Wehn and Dr. Jaap Evers were nominated for the best paper award at the ICT4 Sustainability Conference (ICT4S) 2014.

GEO workshop

Leonardo Alfonso from UNESCO-IHE showcased WeSenseIt Project work at 8th GEO European Projects' Workshop with the presentation '*Citizen Observatory and GEOSS: WeSenseIt conceptual integration*'. The European Commission hosted the 8th Geo European Projects' Workshop (GEPW-8) in Athens, Greece in June 2014.

The Alto Adriatico Water Authority and the Municipality of Vicenza organised the 'Aquadike WeSenseIt' exercise involving 134 volunteers and 50 technicians and researchers. This was the result of the synergy between the Civil Protection of the City of Vicenza and the Basin Authority and had the dual objective to test new mobile barriers for the hydraulic safety of the city and to test the WeSenseIt Android smartphone application.



The WeSenseIt Android smartphone application was used to facilitate the exchange of information (hydrometric data, river levels, areas of flooding, etc.) between citizens and the Civil Protection Authorities. Information about staff position and activity was recorded using WeSenseIt consortium member K-Now's StaffSense technology; flooding and water level

monitoring was submitted using the core WeSenseIt app.

Operations were coordinated at the Municipal Operations Centre in Vicenza where the data collected by the WeSenseIt mobile apps was supplemented with information coming directly from citizens via WeSenseIt's analysis of social networks such as Facebook and Twitter. Together, this provided a much-improved level of situational awareness to the emergency control room.

Read more at <http://wesenseit.eu>



UK Festivals

Summer 2014

Since 2013, WeSenseIt technologies have been used to support the emergency control rooms of events involving over 1 million people, including emergencies and organised events such as large city and music festivals. This summer's events included Glastonbury and the Bristol Harbour Festival. Glastonbury Festival is a five-day music festival and is the largest greenfield festival in the world with an attendance of approximately 200,000 people. WeSenseIt's social media analysis technologies were used to assist the organisers and Silver Command in the control room throughout the festival with an emphasis on crowd management and safety.

The Bristol Harbour Festival consists of live music, street performances and a variety of live entertainment attracting over 250,000 visitors. In addition to social media analysis developed at the University of Sheffield and K-Now's StaffSense technology, WeSenseIt also deployed a number of new, low-cost sensing devices to provide information to the emergency control room for crowd management.