



A Letter from Brussels

The European Emergency Number Association shares news from the European Union.

Children Emergency Preparedness Kit project

Following a call for proposal of the European Commission, EENA has submitted a project aiming at providing educational materials to all organizations willing to educate children on how to behave in case of an emergency situation and on the European emergency number 1-1-2. If selected by the European Commission, the Children Emergency Preparedness Kit project will focus on encouraging the introduction in schools of educational materials (standardized tools and resources) on emergencies in order to prevent injuries as well as to drop their severity. It will review and gather existing materials, as well as related literature, from EU Member States and develop standardized content in all EU official languages based on a common graphic identity thanks to the participation and advices of experts from emergency services, child safety and education backgrounds.

For more information, contact Jérôme Pâris at jp@eena.org.

Universal Service Directive

EENA, its Advisory Board's Legal Committee and its 1-1-2 Emergency Services Staff Network have been very active in providing expertise to the EU institutions concerning the 1-1-2 in the framework of the Universal Service Directive's reform. Major improvements concern the access to 1-1-2 for people with disabilities and the provision of caller-location for calls to the 1-1-2. The caller-location information will have to be provided "as soon as the call reaches the authority handling the emergency" and "competent regulatory authorities shall lay down criteria for the accuracy and reliability of the location information provided." This concerns landline and mobile phone calls. Due to issues pertaining to Internet download, the Universal Service Directive's final version shall not be accepted before September 2009. However, the provisions concerning the 1-1-2 shall not be modified.

Roaming

Following EENA proposal, the regulation on roaming on public mobile telephone networks has been amended. It now provides for information to be sent on mobile phones (within the roaming messages) when citizens travel between EU countries "on the possibility of accessing emergency services by dialing the European emergency number 1-1-2 free-of-charge." This should very much contribute to increase the knowledge of 1-1-2. The final text was adopted by the European Council on June 12, 2009 and effective from July 1, 2009.

Workshop on 1-1-2: 22 – 23 June, Brussels

On June 22 and 23, EENA organized a Workshop on 1-1-2 with the participation of 90 international experts, including 50 representatives of emergency services and relevant public authorities from 25 European countries. This was the first time that major stakeholders in the field of the 1-1-2 from almost all the EU Countries met to share experience and propose actions to the EU institutions. The recommendations prepared during the Workshop on 1-1-2 will be published in the next "Letter from Brussels."

NG1-1-2 EENA Technical Committee

The NG1-1-2 EENA Technical Committee activities started in April 2009 and have already gathered 85 international experts participating in online discussions and bi-weekly conference calls. The objectives of the NG1-1-2 EENA Technical Committee are to define the access to and the architecture of IP-based emergency services in the European Union. The committee is chaired by Hannes Tschofenig, also Chairman of the IETF-ECRIT, and vice-chaired by Roger Hixson, NENA Technical Issues Director. NENA is actively participating in the NG1-1-2 activities and a platform has been set up for document sharing between NENA NG9-1-1 Committees and the NG1-1-2 EENA Technical Committee.

For more information on any of the news items, please contact Gary Machado at gm@eena.org.

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