



# International rescue services test for the first time the latest European technology against floods in Piedmont

- The technological tools for flood response developed by the European innovation project I-REACT will be tested for the very first time in a three-day non-stop flood simulation.
- European Civil protection agencies from France, Spain, Belgium and Luxembourg meet from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> March at the city of Alessandria to work together in this flood response emergency drill.

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A year and a half ago, the region of Piedmont suffered a flood that caused **€550 million losses**. Back in 1994, another flood devastated the region, killing 70 people and displacing more than 2000. To improve the response against floods like these, the European project I-REACT is developing a set of technologies for emergency responders, citizens and decision makers that will be put to the test for the first time in the Region of Piedmont. This will be done within a three-day flood simulation exercise that the European Consortium APELL – EUROMODEX has organised in the city of Alessandria, at the core of the Region of Piedmont.

The **technological tools** developed by I-REACT provide protection agencies with services that offer real-time information before, during and after the disaster situation. The project integrates and models data coming from European monitoring systems like satellite observations, historical information and weather forecasts. It also combines this information with data gathered by new technologies created by I-REACT: a **mobile app, a wearable, augmented reality glasses and a social media analysis tool**, that monitors Twitter to gather real-time information on the disaster situation.

During the three-day drill, international emergency services coming from France, Spain, Belgium and Luxembourg will simulate **25 different rescue scenarios**, with a team of more than 30 volunteers that will perform as families trapped by the rising water levels, people



injured in the flood or citizens in need of displacement. The volunteers will be provided the I-REACT app, that allows them to report real-time information **that can be visualized at** the emergency coordination services about the flood situation, like geolocation photos.

The rescue teams will be coordinated by the “Settore Protezione Civile e Sistema Antincendi Boschivi” of the Piedmont Region, that will test for the first time the visualisation software developed by I-REACT. Thanks to this software, the experts at the control room will be able to **track the position** of the people affected by floods, **communicate** with them and **see the information reported** by them, shortening the response time and providing the emergency services with crucial information that will help them take the best decision possible.

When they are fully developed and tested in several drills like this one, the I-REACT technologies aspire to be adopted among the European emergency services. Innovative cyber technologies, like those proposed by I-REACT, can provide a more accurate situational awareness and response in flood related emergencies, which improves the response of the European emergency services to floods, and help them save lives.

## **Contact**

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## **Additional information of the I-REACT technologies**

### **Citizens protecting citizens: Crowd participation to reduce disaster impacts**

Local citizens will be able to make a difference in their communities thanks to a smartphone app, one of the key elements of the new platform. Through this app, citizens and civil protection agents will be able to submit photos and real-time reports. The platform will also analyse messages from social media such as Twitter and extract key information published about ongoing disasters.

### **Smart glasses and other new technologies to improve response**

I-REACT will also integrate information coming from mobile phones, wearables, and augmented reality tools from on-site operators. Civil protection services will be equipped with wristbands and smart glasses to visualize information in real-time and submit very accurate reports to the operation centres without using their hands.

### **Aiding decision-making before and during disasters**

All this information will be integrated into a Decision Support System for authorities that will help preventing future disasters and improve the communication with first responders and citizens during emergencies.

### **I-REACT, a collective effort to fight disasters**

I-REACT (Improving Resilience to Emergencies through Advanced Cyber Technologies) is a 3-year project (2016-2018) funded by the European Commission Horizon2020 programme.

The project is coordinated by the Istituto Superiore Mario Boella of Turin. Consortium partners include: Geoville, Eoexplore, Terranea, Alpha Consult, UNESCO (Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice), Politecnico di Torino, Celi, JoinPad, Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Finnish Meteorological Institute, Meteosim, Bitgear, Ansur Technologies, Technical University of Vienna, Scienseed, CSI Piemonte, Aquobex, Answaretech, and Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission.

**Webpage:** [i-react.eu](http://i-react.eu)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ireactEU/>

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**Graphical material**

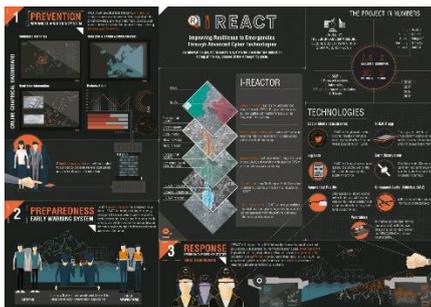
[Motion graphic: I-REACT in two minutes](#)



[I-REACT brochure: English](#)



[Project infographic](#)



[Project technologies](#)

