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Maritime education

E-Learning system for GMDSS VET

Progress Report

Public Part

Project information

Project acronym: E-GMDSSVET
Project title: E-Learning system for GMDSS VET
Project number: 142173-LPP-1-2008-1-SI-LEONARDO-LMP
Sub-programme or KA: Leonardo da Vinci
Project website: www.egmdss.com

Reporting period: From 01/12/2008
To 30/11/2009
Report version: 1
Date of preparation: 24/12/2009

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This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Executive Summary

Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) has been fully implemented worldwide since February 1999, specifying the GMDSS communication equipment for marine vessels, and rescue procedures for vessels and humans at sea with the objective to maximise safety at sea. People working in marine areas – mariners, i.e. seafarers, fishermen, yacht captains, sailing boat skippers, marina workers, nautical science students/cadets, etc. must be qualified through different VET to operate the specified equipment.

All mariners must obtain the appropriate type of GMDSS certificate, however, the access to the required knowledge is limited (traditional VET is expensive and distance learning is not feasible) which doesn't encourage regular refreshing of knowledge – lifelong learning even when it is crucial to ensure safety of the crew, passengers and freight (even though this is not a legal requirement).

The objective of the project is to offer online the most requested GMDSS courses (Short Range Certificate-SRC and Long Range Certificate-LRC course in several languages) to mariners and to offer GMDSS E-learning system to GMDSS VET providers to be able to maintain such courses.

The aims of the project is to encourage GMDSS life-long learning and knowledge updating to maintain the level of professional knowledge and skills of mariners, to facilitate do-it-yourself learning as well as tutoring and to facilitate distance learning.

GMDSS E-learning system is already available as a multilanguage environment on the project website www.egmdss.com. It already includes SRC course while LRC course will be delivered soon.

GMDSS E-learning system itself has been improving upon request of its end users. We will continue with this strategy to be able to give to end users the system functionality considering their needs. We will provide them soon a complete user manual and also a helpdesk service.

Any GMDSS VET provider may start to use www.egmdss.com services professionally after signing the copyright licence: they are able to use existing or build new GMDSS courses using also copyrighted material available on www.egmdss.com.

The GMDSS E-learning system should improve safety at sea resulting in lower loss of human lives and material damages.

The project is carried out by consortium members that have many years of experience in GMDSS VET and accompanying issues. The partnership comprises 12 members from 10 countries including educational bodies providing the GMDSS VET, enterprises providing maritime services and consultancy, enterprise providing software development and universities providing seafarer training including the GMDSS VET.

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1. Project Objectives

The aims of the project are:

- to offer dedicated e-learning system to GMDSS VET providers,
- to enable them to deliver all GMDSS courses online,
- to offer online GMDSS courses to mariners,
- to encourage GMDSS life-long learning and knowledge updating to maintain the level of professional knowledge and skills of mariners,
- to facilitate do-it-yourself learning as well as tutoring,
- to facilitate distance learning,
- to improve safety at sea due to better vocational training/qualification of mariners resulting in lower loss of human lives and material damages.

The objective of the project considering all above is to offer online the most requested GMDSS courses (Short Range Certificate-SRC and Long Range Certificate-LRC course in several languages) to mariners and to offer GMDSS E-learning system to GMDSS VET providers to be able to maintain such courses; both on www.egmdss.com.

A target group of mariners is very large. There are several million of mariners in EU alone. They are either starting their nautical VET or have to refresh their knowledge and skills at least once a year (so seafarers ranging from amateurs to professionals). They have a high demand for the opportunity to gain the access to the GMDSS knowledge anytime from anywhere. That is a common and well known demand and expectation of all people who are aware of their formal and informal education. Their demand can be fulfilled only by the GMDSS e-learning system available for free on the internet. Mariners are also involved in the quality assurance process as they are using already available GMDSS courses to obtain the certificates. In case of any complain they are able to send us an email or to post their message to the forum.

A target group of GMDSS VET providers is much smaller than the first one (several hundreds only in EU), but at least of the same importance. They are invited to sign a copyright licence that enables them to use existing or build new GMDSS courses using also copyrighted material available on www.egmdss.com. GMDSS VET providers contributing in the content development on GMDSS E-learning system are obviously involved in the improvement process of the system.

2. Project Approach

The consortium has many years of experience in GMDSS VET to be able to produce excellent product, but the consortium members are aware of the fact that their activities should be well managed because almost all of them are distributed among them. They are aware also of the fact that distribution of the activities is causing different levels of quality. So, the consortium has developed a special quality assurance plan. The sustainability of the project is strongly dependent on valorisation activities, so the valorisation plan was prepared with a special attention based on previous research outcomes.

The quality assurance plan has been in charge from the beginning of the project. It covers mostly the development of the LRC course as one of the main project outcomes. As the LRC course is not yet delivered, only internal evaluation has been used. When the LRC course will be delivered, we will continue also with external evaluations on testing groups formed by end users and EDEXCEL certification.

GMDSS E-learning system as another main project outcome has been improving upon request of its end users (by email, forum, by direct contact). We will continue with this strategy to be able to give to end users the system functionality considering their needs.

We are very proud of the fact, that consortium members are able to evaluate and follow the development of all project outcomes over online GMDSS E-learning system as they have been produced right there – online. All improvements, changes, new learning material, etc. are confidential until they are evaluated, i.e. protected with a password and accessible only by the consortium members. They are published just after being evaluated.

The project has two different target groups.

A target group of mariners is very large. There are several million of mariners in EU alone. They are either starting their nautical VET or have to refresh their knowledge and skills at least once a year (so seafarers ranging from amateurs to professionals). We are addressing them through web advertising and we will start publishing general articles in nautical magazines.

A target group of GMDSS VET providers is much smaller than the first one (several hundreds only in EU), but at least of the same importance. We are addressing them through presentations on maritime conferences and just indirectly through web advertising. We are offering them to sign a copyright licence that enables them to use existing or build new GMDSS courses using also copyrighted material available on www.egmdss.com. We expect from GMDSS VET providers to use our GMDSS E-learning system as a learning management system for their courses and/or accompanying GMDSS equipment simulators.

3. Project Outcomes & Results

The consortium members have been working on the project in the first half of the project duration as it was planned with just few small deviations.

The major result which is public is improved GMDSS E-learning system www.egmdss.com.

The screenshot displays the GMDSS.com website interface. At the top, the logo 'Egmdss.com' is visible alongside the tagline 'Simply the Quickest and Easiest Route to obtaining knowledge about Marine GMDSS Communication'. A language dropdown menu is set to 'English (en)'. The main content area features a large banner with a woman at a computer and a man with a globe. Below this, a section titled 'Improve your safety at sea with our online SRC course!' highlights that users can operate GMDSS VHF radio, NAVTEX receiver, SART, and EPIRB. It describes the online SRC course, which includes a DSC VHF radio simulator and NAVTEX receiver simulator, available online for free. A 'START for FREE' button is prominently displayed. Testimonials from John Smith (UK) and Marco Sesanna (Italy) praise the simulator's effectiveness. A statistics box shows '23273 Users - 13405 for GMDSS VET providers'. The footer includes logos for 'mcmurdo', 'navico', 'SIMRAD', and 'Thrane & Thrane', along with the European Union flag and 'Education and Culture 06 Lifelong Learning Programme'.

Any user (mariner or GMDSS VET provider) can easily find complete and comprehensive information on how the E-learning system may be used. Mariners are able to enter the system after creating a user account and after that they can take the online SRC course for free. We are already providing GMDSS VET providers the possibility to build their own courses in which our copyrighted material may be used.

For this reason we produced the special copyright licence document which should be signed by GMDSS VET providers that want to use our E-learning system and it is available on the website <http://www.egmdss.com/gmdss-vet-providers/> and also in this report (chapter 7).

We started also with the production of users manuals for GMDSS VET providers, but they are not yet published as they are not yet complete. We have been supporting GMDSS VET providers only through the helpdesk service.

We produced also the following brochure about the GMDSS E-learning system which will be used to exploit the results of this project through GMDSS VET providers much easily. The content of the brochure is so much explanatory that there is no need to say more about it.

Maritime Online Learning Like No Other

Join over 23,000 users from more than 190 countries*

Produce your own GMDSS courses for FREE using any copyrighted material available on our web site egmdss.com!

Give your students the possibility to follow parts of your lectures from home for FREE! As well as giving them the possibility to use our simulators for FREE!



Project contractor and partners



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Give Your Students More



DISTRESS

GMDSS

Make Their Learning Experience Fun & Interactive



- **ENRICH YOUR CURRICULUM WITH OUR BTEC/EDEXCEL* APPROVED SRC, LRC AND OTHER COURSES, OR**
- **CREATE AN UNLIMITED NUMBER OF YOUR OWN COURSES THAT MAY INCLUDE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**
 - Text material, images, graphs, tables, maps, and quizzes you can change at your own,
 - Simulators: Simrad's GMDSS VHF/FM200 radio simulator, McMurdo's NAVTEX receiver NAV 6 Plus simulator, Thorne's Thorne's SAILOR 5100 MF/HF radio simulator, Thorne's Thorne's SAILOR TT-3020 GMDSS transceiver simulator, Thorne's Thorne's SAILOR TT-3600E Message Terminal simulator, and more],
 - Simulations that simulate operations on all above simulators,
 - Other simulations: VHF range, HF range, simplex/duplex channels, INTERCO etc.]
- **SIMPLE PROCEDURE:**
 1. You need to sign the copyright license,
 2. We will create a new course container for you,
 3. We will give you an administrator access to your course,
 4. We will support you with user manuals and helpdesk.

All material is available in more than 10 languages.
Our learning management system can support any language.

*Based on the information provided by the authors and external qualifications. External operators in over 100 countries, offering the widest range of courses and external qualifications, will have their best results people ready for the qualifications in over 1000 courses annually.

GMDSS equipment simulators available:

- VHF radio simulator
- NAVTEX simulator
- MF/HF radio simulator
- INMARSAT-C simulator
- and more

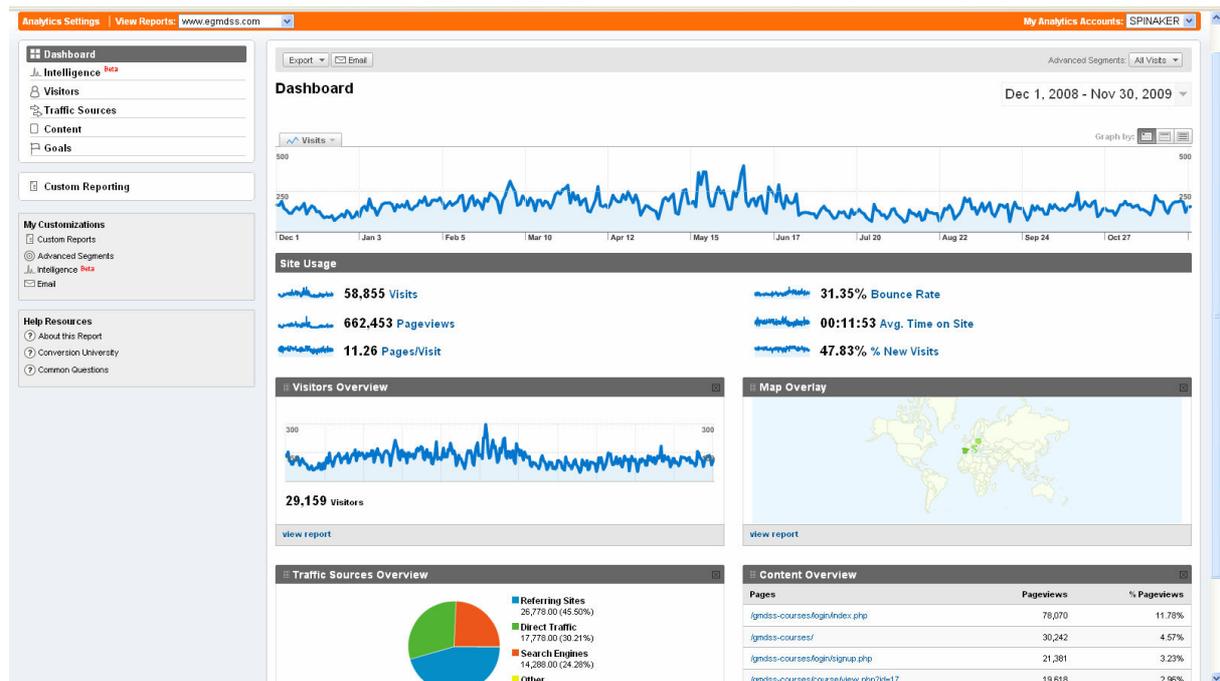




GMDSS VET providers
(Vocational Education and Training)

The GMDSS E-learning system has been disseminated on many international maritime conferences, i.e. BRIDGE, IMEC, IMLA, KNLIT etc., and over the internet through web advertising. The result of this activities are:

- the copyright licence has been already signed by three GMDSS VET providers and it is in the signing procedure at many GMDSS VET providers,
- the following promising web statistics.



The major result which is not yet public is almost finished Long Range Certificate (LRC) course which includes the following chapters:

- Global Maritime Distress and Safety System,
- Radio communication,
- VHF radio,
- MF/HF radio,
- INMARSAT communications,
- MSI,
- Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon,
- Search And Rescue [Radar] Transponder,
- Technique,
- Appendix,
- Glossary.

We got the licence from Thrane&Thrane GMDSS equipment manufacturer to produce and deliver online simulator of MF/HF DSC radio and Inmarsat C system. Both simulators will be delivered soon and will be included in the LRC course.

4. Partnerships

The formal consortium members have many years of experience in GMDSS VET and accompanying issues. The partnership comprises 12 members from 10 countries:

- 2 educational bodies providing the GMDSS VET and some other maritime adult education,
- 2 enterprises providing maritime services and consultancy including on the GMDSS,
- 1 enterprise developing maritime education and training programmes of study including the GMDSS,
- 1 educational body providing maritime VET including the GMDSS VET,
- 1 enterprise providing software development including the GMDSS simulators and simulations and LMS (Learning Management System),
- 5 universities providing seafarer training including the GMDSS VET.

The consortium was not chosen accidentally but in accordance with:

- the skills required to undertake this proposed project,
- interest in resulting GMDSS e-learning system (in its use in their own educational system)
- past experience in Leonardo da Vinci and other EU projects,
- success in the EGMDSS associated project.

Having a multi-country (10 countries) partnership is a must for the project as the consortium want's to build a GMDSS E-learning system that would:

- with its content fit to as many as possible national regulations on GMDSS certificates,
- provide GMDSS courses in many languages,
- consider best GMDSS VET practices used by the partnership.

The consortium members are working together on many projects (not just EU funded). They have been starting to work together on research and development projects in 2005. The consortium is changing from a project to project, because in different projects a different expertise is needed. That means we have a vast pool of potential project memebers and we are aware of their strengths and weaknesses. Our project partnerships have usually 10+ members.

Almost any project being run within our consortium is delivering the outcomes over the internet directly to target users. This is happening also in this project through project website www.egmdss.com. We are always providing to target users the possibility to affect the research and development of the consortium and we are also encouraging them to do that. We are aware that the outcome not being suitable to target user needs won't be used by them, so we are using different strategies to avoid that.

5. Plans for the Future

GMDSS E-learning system available on www.egmdss.com is already well working and is offering Short Range Certificate course in many languages.

The E-learning system itself has been improving upon request of its end users. We will continue with this strategy to be able to give to end users the system functionality considering their needs. We will provide them soon a complete user manual and also a helpdesk service.

The content of GMDSS E-learning system will be enhanced with Long Range Certificate course, which will:

- include the GMDSS communication devices simulators (MF/HF DSC radio and Inmarsat-C terminal),
- be available in English, Slovenian, Turkish, Italian, French, Polish, Finnish, Spanish, Greek and Dutch (and possibly other languages),
- include real-life animation of the GMDSS communication device operation (conveying to the learner how a device operates),
- include separate quizzes for each chapter,
- be developed considering the harmonised examination procedures for maritime radio operator's certificates (CEPT/ERC/RECOMMENDATION 31-05 E) issued by European Radiocommunication Office,
- be certified with a BTEC vocational education certificate by world renowned awarding body EDEXCEL.

Before the LRC course will be published on www.egmdss.com it will be evaluated by internal and external evaluators including testing groups formed by end users.

We will continue to disseminate and exploit our GMDSS E-learning system among all target groups focusing on mariners and GMDSS VET providers.

We will also support any initiative from other sectors interested to use our distance learning approach.

6. Contribution to EU policies

This project directly contributes to many key EU policies, objectives and priorities.

It addresses the following Objectives of the Lifelong Learning Programme:

- to support the development of innovative ICT-based content, services, pedagogies and practice for lifelong learning: GMDSS E-learning system available on www.egmdss.com is innovative ICT-based service for lifelong learning in VET in the GMDSS field. Already available SRC course and the LRC course currently in the development phase are innovative ICT-based content for lifelong learning.
- to contribute to the development of quality lifelong learning and to promote high performance, innovation and a European dimension in systems and practices in the field: Our GMDSS e-learning system is already significantly improving VET in the GMDSS field. It is already used as a tool by many GMDSS VET providers (20+) and as a self-education tool (23000+ users).

and also programme specific and operational objectives.

It addresses Lisbon Education & Training Progress Indicators:

- Skills for the Knowledge Society: The target group includes also fisherman that are initially low qualified people. The LRC course as a result of this proposal will encourage them to learn to enable them to obtain the LRC certificate as the existing SRC course is often not suitable for them.
- Open Learning Environment: Any course available on www.egmdss.com is free for anyone from the large target group of mariners. That is definitely encouraging lifelong learning.

It addresses also strategic objective 2 of the Education and Training 2010 Work Programme – facilitating the access to all of education and training systems. Any courses available on www.egmdss.com sre contributing to the open learning environment because they are free for anyone from the large target group of mariners. That is definitely encouraging lifelong learning.

7. Copyright licence for GMDSS VET providers

Any GMDSS VET provider may start to use www.egmdss.com services professionally after signing the following copyright licence: they are able to use existing or build new GMDSS courses using also copyrighted material available on www.egmdss.com.

People involved

»Us« Spinaker d.o.o., Sončna pot 8, 6320 Portorož, Slovenija, for and on behalf of the »E-learning system for GMDSS VET« project partnership (Project number: 142173-LPP-1-2008-1-SI-LEONARDO-LMP (2008-1933))

»You« _____

Definitions

- 'copyright material' Any material available free of charge for individuals on the www.egmdss.com web site.
- 'reproduced material' The material you produce because of this agreement within the www.egmdss.com web site.

Supply and licence

- In line with the conditions of this agreement, we give you a licence to reproduce, translate or adapt the copyright material to make the reproduced material during the licence period.
- This licence is valid for a period of five years beginning at the moment it enters in force.

Procedure

- We will create you new course/s within the www.egmdss.com web site on your request which will be able to contain the reproduced material and your own material.
- Your course/s may be an exact copy of any other course available free of charge for individuals on the www.egmdss.com website.
- You will give you an administrator access to your course/s.
- We will support you with user manuals for learning management platform and helpdesk.

Your rights

- You have met the qualifying conditions to reproduce, translate or adapt the copyright material only within the www.egmdss.com web site for only yours education purposes. We reserve the right to verify that you have met our qualifying conditions.

Your responsibilities

- You confirm that you are an educational institution which is offering also GMDSS vocational and education training.
- You agree to make sure that your contractors do not use the reproduced material for their own purposes.
- You will not allow your contractors to allow their existing or new subcontractors to work on the reproduced material.
- You will not make, and you will not ask or allow others to make, any claims that we have approved your products or services.
- You will not make, and you will not ask or allow others to make, any inaccurate or misleading statement about us or our products and services.

Intellectual property rights

- The »E-learning system for GMDSS VET« project partnership (Project number: 142173-LPP-1-2008-1-SI-LEONARDO-LMP (2008-1933)) own or control the copyright and all other intellectual property rights in the copyright material, including where you have reproduced, translated or adapted it to make the reproduced material. You do not get ownership or control of this material because of this agreement.
- You agree that you (including your staff or any other person or organisation who works for you) will only use the copyright material for the purpose we have allowed. You will make sure that your staff, or any other person or organisation who works for you, also agree to this restriction.

Fees

- We are not charging you for this licence because all your reproduced material is used for only yours education purposes.
- You will tell us as soon as possible (in writing) if the reasons we are not charging you for this agreement are not true anymore.

Ending the agreement

- Except as shown below, either one of us can end this agreement by writing to the other if the other one breaks the agreement. If it is possible to correct the break, you or we will give the other 30 days from the date of the letter to correct it.
- We can end this agreement by writing to you at any time if the reasons we are not charging you for this agreement are not true anymore. If we end the agreement because of this, we will offer you a new agreement but you may have to pay us for this agreement.
- If either one of us ends this agreement (for any reason), this will not affect the other one's rights and liabilities that exist up to the date the agreement ends.

Promises

- We confirm that we can give you this licence.
- You take full responsibility for using and reproducing the copyright material to make the reproduced material.
- You will pay us for any damage we suffer during this agreement or for 12 years after this agreement ends because:
 - you break this agreement;

- you, illegally or without our permission, supply other people or organisations with the copyright material or the reproduced material and they use or reproduce it, unless you have tried hard to tell others of the restrictions in this agreement and you have tried hard to make sure that they cannot use or reproduce it illegally or without our permission;

General

- You will try hard to tell anyone that uses the reproduced material of any condition in this agreement that could apply to them.
- You will not transfer your rights or responsibilities to another person or organisation without our permission, in writing. We can transfer or contract out our rights and responsibilities but we will tell you in writing if we do.
- If any part of this agreement is found to be illegal or cannot be enforced, the rest of the agreement will not be affected.
- No right is granted to any person who is not part of this agreement in their own right and the people involved in this agreement confirm that they have no intention of granting anyone this.
- This agreement replaces all other written or spoken agreements and working arrangements between us that are for the same or similar purposes to this agreement.
- You will tell us if you change your name, address or anything else that could affect this agreement within 10 working days of the change.
- Either one of us may suspend the other's responsibilities for a limited period if we both agree to it in writing. If either one of us decides not to take action against the other if they break the agreement, this will not prevent either one of us from taking action for any future break of the agreement (whether the break is the same or different).
- We may amend this agreement if we give you three months' notice in writing. Or, we may amend this agreement at any time if you agree to it.
- This agreement will be governed by Slovenian law and any disagreements will only be dealt with in the Slovenian courts.
- This agreement has been made out in two identical copies, one for each contracting party.
- This agreement shall enter in force upon signature by both parties.
- This agreement can be prolonged.

Done in Portorož on _____

Spinaker d.o.o.
M.Sc. Tomaž Gregorič
director
