

October 2024

One year into the GOBEYOND project: Empowering communities' response against extreme weather and geo events

GOBEYOND, a Horizon Europe project led by the Center of Applied Research in Hydrometeorology of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - BarcelonaTech (CRAHI-UPC), marks its first year of progress. Supported by a consortium of 17 partners and 10 associated partners from across 9 countries—including top-tier research institutions, industrial companies, Civil Protection Authorities, and municipalities—the project is poised to revolutionize early warning systems (EWS) for geohazards and extreme weather events.

A Year of Innovation and Collaboration

Launched in October 2023, GOBEYOND aims to enhance resilience against natural disasters by developing and testing Multi-Risk Impact-Based Early Warning System (MR-IEWS) platforms for geohazards and weather and climate events, including floods, flash floods, windstorms, storm surges, heatwaves, droughts, forest fires, earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and landslides. They are designed to better support Civil Protection Authorities (CPAs) and first responders in their situational awareness and rapid deployment at both regional and local levels.

Building a More Resilient Future

Our goal is to *go beyond* existing solutions by developing and testing MR-IEWS platforms in real-world scenarios. This innovative approach will empower communities across Europe, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) countries, and beyond, aligning with the UN's Early Warnings for All initiative, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the H2020 Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change.

Testing and Refinement Through Demonstrations

GOBEYOND will conduct regional and municipal demonstrations in 7 pilot sites during geo and weather events across various locations, providing critical data for refining the MR-IEWS platforms and ensuring they meet the specific needs of CPAs and first responders.

Regional Demonstrations: Andalusia (Spain), Attica (Greece), Campania (Italy), Province of Al Hoceima (Morocco), cantons of Zürich and Ticino (Switzerland).

Municipal Demonstrations: Setúbal (Portugal), Estepona, Lepe and Isla Cristina (Spain), Cannes, Sospel and Guillaumes (Alpes-Maritimes, France), Pozzuoli (Italy), and Piraeus (Greece).

These efforts will provide critical data for refining the MR-IEWS platforms and ensuring they meet the specific needs of CPAs and first responders.

Key Achievements in the First Year

- Successful Kick-Off and Plenary Meeting: These gatherings have strengthened collaboration and set a clear direction for the project.
- Establishment of Pilot Sites and Living Labs (LLs): Several workshops and LLs have been organized in the pilot sites, fostering co-creation and engagement with local authorities and communities.
- Submission of 9 deliverables: These reports highlight significant progress towards achieving the project's key milestones.

Looking Ahead: A Strong Foundation for the Future

With three years remaining in the project, GOBEYOND has laid a strong foundation for success. The project team is committed to continuous improvement and collaboration to deliver an impactful MR-IEWS platform that will significantly enhance preparedness and responsiveness in the face of geohazards and extreme weather events.



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