

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## A TRANSFORMATIVE WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE ON EMPOWERING DISTRIBUTED LEARNING APPROACH TO ENHANCE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE:

On June 28th, a SETOFF's project Workshop No.2, titled "Empowering Distributed Learning Approach to Enhance Disaster Risk Management and Strengthen Resilience" took place, leaving participants with valuable insights into the latest advancements in SETOFF's project and its application into empowering resilience on public and local communities' level. Led by distinguished experts, Dr. Dimitar Bogatinov, Dr. Nevena Serafimova, and Dr. Targoutzidis Antonis, the workshop attracted over 60 enthusiastic participants from various countries, with an additional 15 participants attending the event in person at the Military Academy premises.

Dr. Dimitar Bogatinov, a renowned expert in e-learning platforms, kicked off the workshop by providing participants with valuable insights into the technical aspects of e-platform usability. He explored the latest tools and techniques that can be harnessed to facilitate effective distributed learning in disaster risk management and occupational safety and health. The session not only deepened participants' understanding of the subject but also provided practical tips to ensure seamless user experiences in online learning environments.

Dr. Nevena Serafimova, took the stage to discuss various models and strategies that can be employed to maximize the impact of distributed learning in disaster risk management and occupational safety and health. With real-life examples and case studies, Dr. Serafimova demonstrated the potential of blended learning approaches, combining online and onsite elements, to enhance participant engagement and knowledge retention. The interactive session sparked lively discussions among the participants, fostering a collaborative learning environment.

Dr. Targoutzidis Antonis, an expert in occupational safety and health, presented a compelling use case scenario that showcased the practical application of distributed learning in strengthening resilience. Drawing from his extensive experience, Dr. Antonis highlighted the importance of applying the concepts learned during the workshop to real-world situations. Participants were actively engaged in analyzing the scenario and discussing innovative solutions, deepening their understanding of risk management and resilience-building.

The workshop successfully attracted a diverse group of participants from more than 60 countries who joined online, bringing their unique perspectives and experiences to the discussions. This global participation fostered an enriching exchange of ideas and allowed participants to learn from one another's cultural contexts and expertise. Additionally, the presence of more than 15 onsite participants at the Military Academy premises created an atmosphere of shared learning and collaboration.

The workshop left participants feeling empowered and equipped with new knowledge and skills to enhance risk management and strengthen resilience using distributed learning approaches. By incorporating technical aspects of e-platform usability, blended learning models and strategies, and practical use case scenarios, participants gained a comprehensive understanding of how to leverage modern educational technologies for effective disaster risk management.

The workshop, "Empowering Distributed Learning Approach to Enhance Disaster Risk Management and Strengthen Resilience," was a resounding success, inspiring participants to embrace new approaches in their respective fields. Dr. Dimitar Bogatinov, Dr. Nevena Serafimova, and Dr. Targoutzidis Antonis shared their expertise, sparking lively discussions and fostering a collaborative learning environment. With participants from various countries joining online and onsite, the workshop proved to be a testament to the power of distributed learning in transcending geographical boundaries and building global resilience.

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A few words about SETOFF Project

SMART EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVANTS: EMBRACE VULNERABILITY AS OUR GREATEST STRENGTH AND INNOVATIVE TOOLS FOR RISK MANAGEMENT (SETOFF)

SETOFF Project aims to improve the readiness and occupational safety of both civil protection and private sector Safety and Security Personnel against future crises and emergencies by developing an innovative e-training curriculum based both on a successfully tested and implemented simulation model combined with the latest scientific knowledge and on comprehensive needs analysis.

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