



Project acronym:	FORTRESS
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Website:	<a href="http://www.fortress-project.eu">www.fortress-project.eu</a>

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## **Deliverable D9.11: Annual Newsletter**

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Final FORTRESS Newsletter

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## Message from the Coordinator

*(Dr. Leon Hempel, TUB: photo)*



On behalf of FORTRESS the project coordinators, TUB, would like to thank you for supporting the project, providing valuable insights and contributions over the years. We would like to take the opportunity to step back and remind you of some of the key outputs of the project, many of which are based on the active contributions of stakeholders and many of you reading this newsletter. Additionally, we would like to extend an invitation to continue this fruitful collaboration once the project ends on 31 March 2017. To this end, check out the upcoming ISCRAM conference at the end of this newsletter where FORTRESS and our partners will be organizing a workshop on scenario building and field tests.

## FORTRESS EVENTS

**Over the past year the FORTRESS Consortium have organised a number of events. To jump directly to an event, click on one of the links below:**

- [Cascading Effects Conference and joint final conference - 16-17 March 2017, Brussels](#)

- [FORTRESS Validation Field Trials](#)
- [Knowledge-sharing Workshop](#)

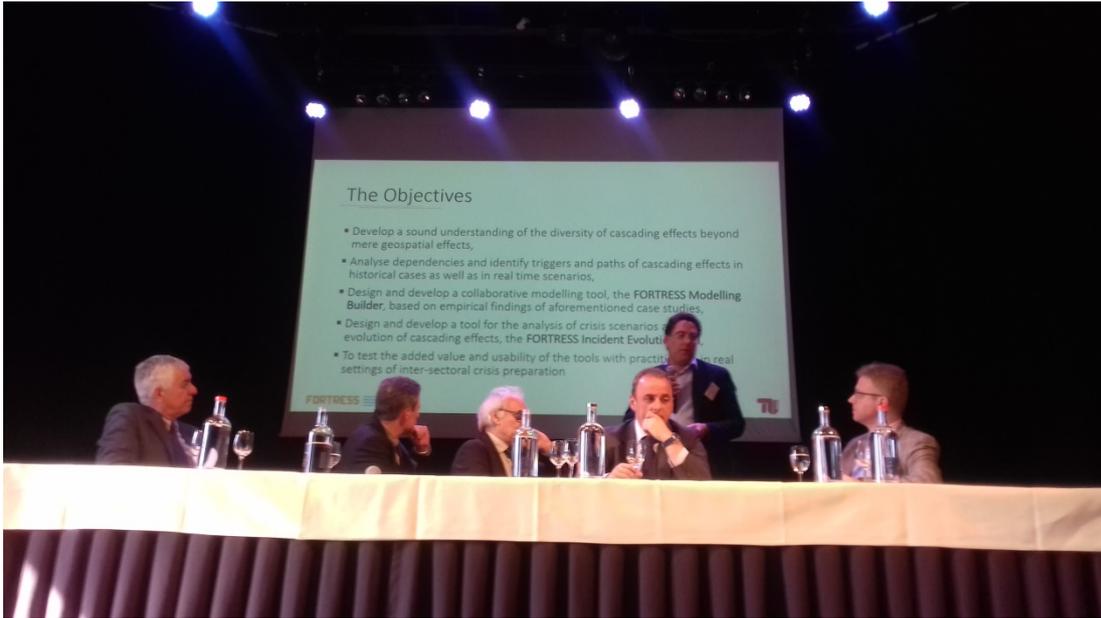


## Cascading Effects Conference and joint final conference - 16-17 March 2017, Brussels

[FORTRESS' final conference](#) involved a joint conference with the following EU FP7 projects focused on the mitigation of cascading effects during crises: [CascEff](#), [CIPRNet](#), [FORTRESS](#), [PREDICT](#) and [SnowBall](#). The conference was made up of four panels with topics ranging from discussions of concepts around cascading effects to optimum approaches for modelling cascading effects during crises. More than 125 people participated in the two day conference that culminated in an interactive World Cafe session that covered a variety of topics linked to crisis management.

FORTRESS coordinator, Dr. Leon Hempel (below, in photo) kicking off the cascading effects conference in Brussels with an introduction to the objectives of the FORTRESS project.

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## FORTRESS Validation Field Trials

FORTRESS partners have had a busy year putting the Fortress Model Builder (FMB) and the FORTRESS Incident Evolution Tool (FIET) into action through four validation field trials. The tools' purpose is to provide responders, crisis managers and critical infrastructure providers with the means to analyse various crises scenarios using real geographic and demographic data. The tools are intended to be used for training purposes, preparation phases prior to a crisis and in research for analysing how cascading effects develop during a crisis. The tools were tested using different crisis scenarios and feedback from stakeholders was collected. The four field trials, conducted between July and December 2016, included:

- Responsible partner: IFV. The Netherlands and Germany (cross border Rhine flooding);
- Responsible Partner: TUB. Germany (electrical blackout, Berlin and Eastern states);
- Responsible partner: EDF. France (flooding in Paris region);
- Responsible partner: SiTi. Italy and France (cross-border avalanche).

## Knowledge-sharing Workshop

On 20 September 2016, the FORTRESS consortium together with six other EU projects (INTACT, PREDICT, SECTOR, CIPRNET, CASCEFF and DRIVER) focused on mitigating cascading effects during crises, held a knowledge-sharing workshop in Tiel, the Netherlands (<http://fortress-project.eu/workshops/>). The workshop provided a platform for the exchange of research outcomes between related European projects.

The workshop discussions revealed that the separate research being conducted in the various projects present were identifying common denominators for the causes of cascading effects. These common denominators were reflected in a common declaration signed and ratified at the end of the workshop by all the projects present, which highlights the ongoing close cooperation between projects, researchers and first responders.



Demonstrating the various tools control rooms used by crisis managers during a crisis scenario



Communication and Collaboration: Planning responses to a cross-border crisis scenario

### The Joint Declaration

Following the Domino conference in Zwijndrecht May 2015, the participating projects continued their collaboration, leading to the Domino II conference in 19th-21st September 2016. Presentation and discussion of results to date indicated continued interest and support for collaboration to continue to strengthen our mutual understanding of large-scale social and economic disruptions caused by major crisis events – the “domino effect” also known as cascading effects. All participants recognize the value arising from our open cooperation and exchange in the preceding period.

Therefore,

1. We affirm our continued commitment to our shared goal of improving the mitigation of the effects from all threats to European public safety, including natural and manmade hazards leading to failure of critical infrastructure and their cascading effects.
2. We recognise the need for wider collaboration and understanding between public

and private organisations and citizens supported by an appropriate and sustainable European consensus mechanism.

3. We affirm that measures to strengthen safety in Europe are dependent on the willingness to share (Qualified) information between these vital partners.

4. We recognise that sharing of vital information is complex and requires preparation and innovation in partnerships, procedures and tools.

5. In order to achieve the necessary innovations we recognise that practitioners, researchers, policy advisors and industry developers must openly collaborate to deliver acceptable and workable solutions applicable in European member states.

6. Our conferences have established an ongoing and constructive dialogue around key themes identified by the participating experts.

7. We recognise and support the need to continue this dialogue for greater benefit through usage of the building blocks provided by the participating partnerships.

8. We support wider European inclusion of active Member State partners from critical infrastructure, Government, emergency services, research and development.

9. We recognise the need to continue to connect the outputs of collaborative innovation projects to the wider European and national policy actions.

10. We, the stakeholders in DOMINO, continue our commitment to promote the uptake of European collaborative project results delivering building blocks, concepts and examples for improved European Civil Protection, Safety and Security.



**To find out more about the FORTRESS project check out our latest publications:**

- Nones, M; Pescaroli, G; (2016) [Implications of cascading effects for the EU Floods Directive](#). *International Journal of River Basin Management* , 14 (2) pp. 195-204
  - Pescaroli, G. and Kelman, I. (2016), [How Critical Infrastructure Orients International Relief in Cascading Disasters](#). *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*.
  - Pescaroli, Gianluca and David Alexander, "[Critical infrastructure, panarchies and the vulnerability paths of cascading disasters](#)", *Natural Hazards*, 12 February 2016, p. 1-18
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**Check out our most recent deliverables:**

***Public Deliverables***

D5.2 - [Report on information and communication demands and behavioural intentions of risk professionals and public authorities](#)

D5.3 - [Information and communication demands and behavioural intentions of the media during the crisis and the affected public](#)

D5.4 - [Managing cascading effects](#) (Report that details what information is required to mitigate cascading effects prior to, during and after a crisis)

D5.5 - [Policy recommendations](#) (Policy recommendations for better cross-border and inter-sectoral collaboration and communication)

D5.6 - [Revision of D3.5 –Requirement log book](#)

D8.3 - [Training manual for the FIET](#)

D8.4 - The demonstration and tutorial video (Link not yet available)

**Would you like to continue collaborating with us? Then join us at the next ISCRAM conference in France.**



**CRISIS SCENARIO INFORMATION STANDARD**

A workshop on **User-based Field Test Framework** for measurement of **Emergency Information Management Performance**. Users of EMS systems invite researchers and projects to participate in the discussion of scenario building and field trials with a

common reference framework. Scenarios will be presented by crisis managers to facilitate debate. Papers and presentations are invited. Visit the ISCRAM website: <https://iscram2017.mines-albi.fr>