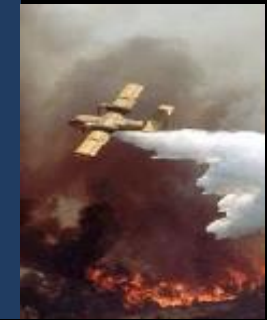




Awareness Events and Workshops of the IHU's Civil  
and Emergency Planning Dept. entitled «*Global  
Catastrophic Risks* »  
Conference Building "Evagoras Pallikaridis",  
Ground floor room, Serres Campus of IHU, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025



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# “*Safety Culture* in Civil Protection Operations for Wildfires”

*Pierantonios Papazoglou*

EUC Res. Assoc. Civil Protection & Safety of Responders

CERIDES Research & Strategy Manager



European  
University Cyprus

**CER!DES**

Excellence in Innovation and Technology



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UNESCO Chair in  
Disaster Risk Reduction  
and Societal Safety in  
South Eastern Mediterranean



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**SEMEDFIRE**

South Eastern Mediterranean  
Excellence Development in Fire Research



[Website – semedfire.eu](http://semedfire.eu)



[X – @semedfire](https://twitter.com/semedfire)



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**Funded by  
the European Union**

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**SEMEDFIRE**

South Eastern Mediterranean  
Excellence Development in Fire Research



# CER!DES – Projects on **Safety, Security, FRs, Climate**

→ **RESPOND-A**: Next-Generation Equipment Tolls and Mission-Critical Strategies for First-Responders (H2020-Security)

→ **NEMAUSUS**: Network of European Multihazard Capacities Hub Scientific Understanding and Sharing (DG ECHO)

→ **FirEURisk**: Developing a Holistic, Risk-Wise Strategy for European Wildfire Management (H2020-Climate-Environment)

→ **HEUREKA**: Civil Protection Knowledge Partnership Platform Middle East (DG ECHO)

• **PRESERVE**: Quick- Protecting euRoepan public spaces against Emergent hoStile drone thrEats thRough an adVanced multidimensional shield and cross-border intelligence (HEU-CL3)

→ **MEDEA**: Mediterranean practitioners' network & capacity building for effective response to emerging security challenges (H2020-Security)

→ **POP ART**: Protection Of Public spaces by means of Advanced secuRity platform (ISF)

→ **ALTER**: Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction (DG ECHO)

→ **PDEX-JIP**: Professional Dialogue Exercise – Jordan, Israel, Palestine (DG ECHO)

→ **CRiTERIA**: Comprehensive data-driven Risk & Threat Assessment Methods for Early and Reliable Identification, Validation and Analysis of migration-related risks

→ **RESALLIANCE**: Landscape-Resilience Knowledge-Alliance for Agriculture and Forestry in the Mediterranean Basin (HEU-CL6-GOVERNANCE)



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# Actions, Initiatives and Projects with Emphasis on **Climate** and **Environment**..!

*Very strong Scientific Expertise in Scoping Studies, Analysis & Reporting, Educational Activities, Advocacy*



CER!DES-Director Prof. George Boustras is appointed as the **Crisis Management & Civil Protection Special-Counselor** of H.E. the President of the Republic of Cyprus



CER!DES-Director Prof. George Boustras is **Mission Board Member** of the **EU-Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change**

EUC-CER!DES is **Affiliated Member** of **CLIMPACT**, the Hellenic National Network of “*Science at the service of the State and Society for tackling Climate Change*”, established by the Greek General Secretariat for R&I, coordinated by the National Observatory of Athens



EUC-CER!DES is **Member** of **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network – Cyprus**



EUC-CER!DES **Coordinates**, with Pedagogical Institute and Center for Social Innovation, **the Cyprus Country-Group** of the EC’s “**#EducationForClimate**” Initiative



Developing a Holistic, Risk-Wise Strategy for European Wildfire Management (H2020-Climate-Environment)



**ResAlliance**

Landscape-Resilience Knowledge-Alliance for Agriculture and Forestry in the Mediterranean Basin (HEU-CL6-GOVERNANCE)





# Overview of Safety-&Health and Disaster-Risk-Reduction Concepts in Safety-Culture for Civil Protection Wildfire-Operations

→ Emphasis on:

- Safety & Security
- First Response





# Speaker-Trainer Credentials

## • Professional Experience:

- 2000-2021. Laboratory Researcher (Aegean & Stevens), Environment Research Officer (Univ. Nicosia), NCP & PCM FP7 – H2020, CY-RIF: “MSCA” | EURAXESS | “Clima & Env” | Space, Cyprus Institute: Head-Project-Manager of TEAMING-CoE-“EMME-CARE”, Evaluator EC-Expert in R&I
- 2003-now. >100 projects | various sizes | mainly in scientific/ research domain  
→ various Roles: Implementer/ Task-Lead/ WP-Lead/ Manager/ Progr. or Portfolio Mngr.
- ETEK-Natural-Disasters, AvAΔ-Certified Voc.Trainer, PMI CY-Chapter, EARMA P&RC, IAEM, ICPEM, NEBOSH





## • EUC – CERIDES (<https://cerides.euc.ac.cy>):



- Research & Strategy Manager | Portfolio/ Project Mngt, Identif. of (funding) Opportunities & Networking
- Proposal Writing Support & Mentoring/ Training/ Capacity Build. for EU Grants.
- PhD → Safety of First Responders / Emergency Responders

## • Civil Protection – Cyprus Civil Defence:



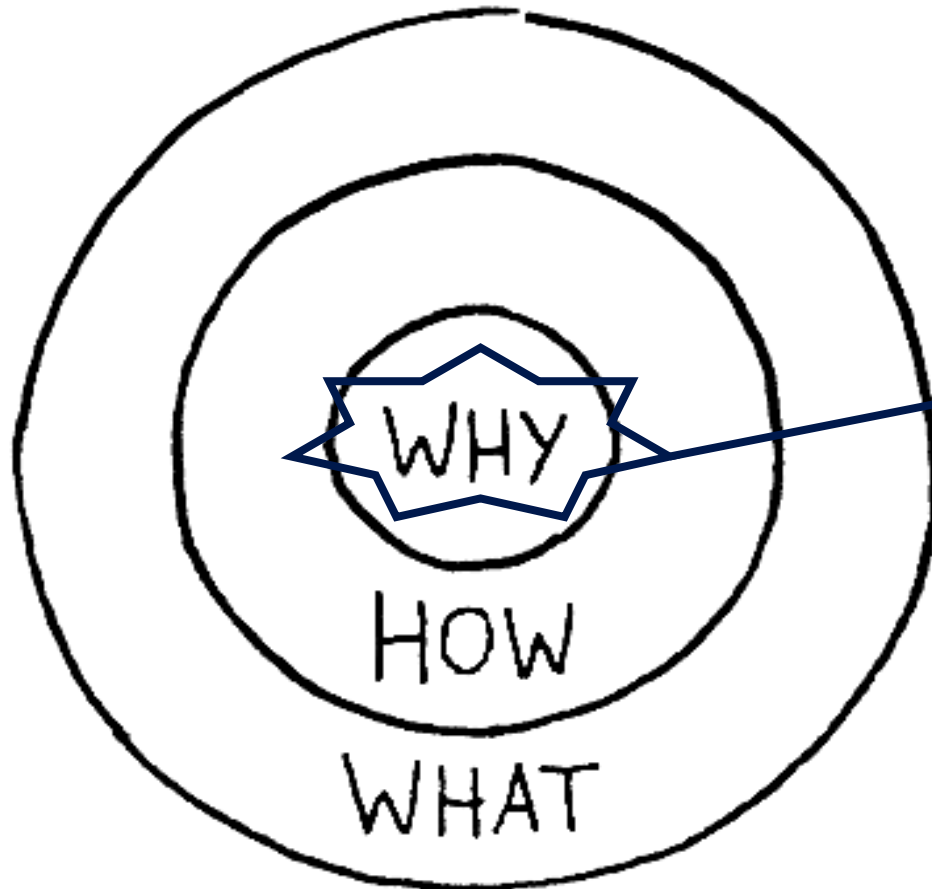
- Volunteer (2007-present). Safety Officer & Liaison Officer, Nicosia-Keryneia Search-&-Rescue Department.
- Trainer in the Advanced Course for the Management of Disaster Victims (coop. with University of Athens MSc “International Medicine – Health Crisis Management”).
- International Association of Emergency Managers  Institute of Civil Protection & Emergency Management  NEBOSH 
- USAR | Wildfires | Floods | Missing Persons Search | Pandemic Response
- Highlight Operations: Greece 2007, 2009, 2018, 2023 (Evros); 2011 Mari-Zygi; Cyprus Forest-Fires of Solea (2016), Ora (2021), Giolou (2024).
- ΛΕΦΕΔ - Association of Hellenic Armed Forces Reservists (2021-present) 



...But... What about YOU...? YOUR... “Why” for ‘Safety Culture’

# The Golden Circle

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Think about “Why”  
are  
Safety Culture,  
Safety in Operations,  
Tactical Safety,  
important to You...



# Think about... What/How/Where we are called to Wildfires as Civil Protection Responders (Pro or Volunteer)<sup>9</sup> and Brainstorm in Pairs for a Risk Assessment!!!

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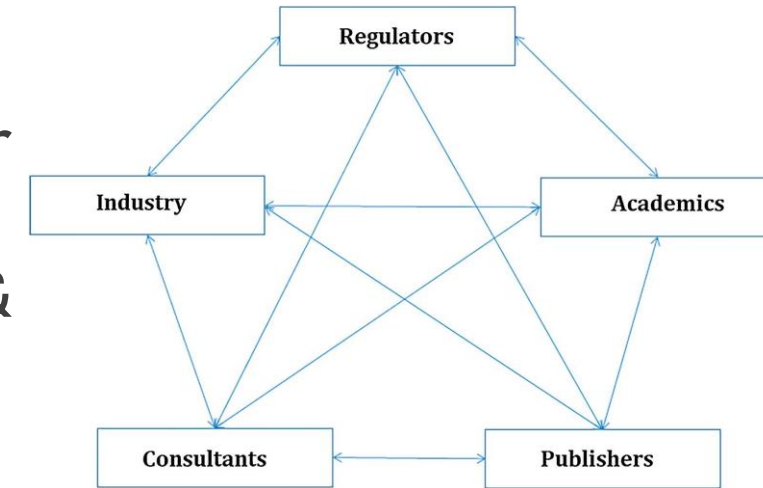
Χιλιάδες Εθελοντές στο πλευρό των Επαγγελματιών...  
Για να σωθεί η Ελλάδα.



# CER!DES – Concepts of OSH and DRR in Wildfire-Response

## → Safety Culture:

- Initially emerged as an explanatory framework for failures leading to major accidents (*exogenous safety*).
- Evolved into a tool influencing occupational safety & health (*organizational safety*).
- The “players” in the evolution of Safety Culture were →



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is  
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**responsibility**

- Academic/Research “Pioneers” were back in ‘80s-’90: Turner, B.A., Pidgeon, N., Blockley, D., Toft, B., 1989. “Safety culture: its importance in future risk management”, and Pidgeon (N.F. Pidgeon, Safety culture and risk management in organizations, J. Cross Cult. Psychol., 22 (1) (1991), pp. 129-140) s:

- 2011 Mari-Zygi Explosion (largest NaTech in EU)... the beginning of a paradigm shift for Cypriot Safety Culture approach and practice.



# CER!DES – Concepts of OSH and DRR in Wildfire-Response

→ Wildfire Incidents that were 'paradigm shifts' for Greece & Cyprus:

- 2016 Solea (Cyprus)
- 2018 Mati (Greece)
- 2021 Arakapas (Cyprus)
- 2023 Evros (Greece)



Source: signalive.com



Source: firefightinggreece.gr and Firefighter Paramedic

199/100/166/112



Own Photo taken on-the-field: Soufli – Evros, Greece, September 2023, ΛΕΦΕΔ Operation



# We... sense there isn't a proper "Culture of Safety" when we see/hear:

Avoidance of Responsibility and Blaming-Attitude/Finger-pointing ♦

Stubbornness, Opinionatedness, Overestimating Skills/Knowledge, "Macho"-Attitude ♦

Wrong Example Setting/Taking ♦

❖ *I know better... I've done this countless times... it's MY job/specialty... "Yeah... I'm not gonna wear those (for PPE)... how will I work if I do? They slow me down/ make me feel heat/ bla bla"*

❖ *But come on... it's also the 'Old Guys' doing it (for Rookies)... it's also the Professionals (for Volunteers)*

❖ *Hey, not my Post... that's XYZ's fault... etc*



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❖ *Hey, not my Post... that's XYZ's fault... etc*



# (after paradigm-shifts) Redefinition of Basic Concepts & Principles

For All our Operations... our basic «*Principles*» are:



- Proactive Safety Culture...
- Safety should become a 'Positive Automation'...
- Personnel, both professionals and volunteers, act with 'Safety Professionalism'...

There is no such thing as... “too much Safety”....



Adopt the... “no regrets” approach

Αποστολή πρώτα... Ασφάλεια ΠΑΝΤΑ





# Redefinition of Basic Concepts & Principles

## ● Preventive – Proactive Culture:

### Precautionary Principle (adapted from European Union)

#### → Key Components

- Caution in Advance (Proactive Risk Awareness)
- Caution practised in the context of Uncertainty (Risk Mitigation under Uncertainty)
- Informed and Deliberate Prudence (Evidence-based Precaution)



# Redefinition of Basic Concepts & Principles

## ● Safety ([operational / tactical](#)) in Wildfire-Response:

- 1.the protection of Response-personnel's **physical, mental, and psychological well-being** from injury, illness, disease, and/or fatality, as these may arise due to materials, processes, or procedures during training and/or operations.
- 2.the protection of **assets, equipment and means** within the Response-unit.

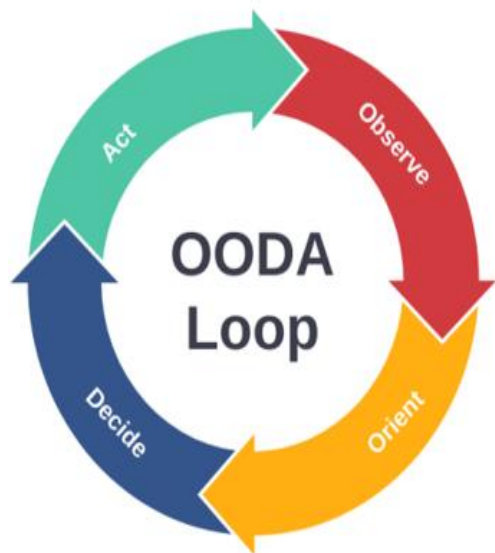


# Redefinition of Basic Concepts & Principles

## Safety ([operational / tactical](#))

## Decision-Making and Needs-Assessment:

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responsibility

### Observe

What is the current situation? What is the reason you want to change? how bad do you want to change?

### Orient

Where are you currently at relative to where you want to go? How far is it to your destination?

### Decide

What is the exact path you are going to take? How are you going to handle challenges and set backs?

### Act

What's the approach and method you will take to implement the decisions? What is your action plan?



# H. A. L. T.

hungry angry lonely tired

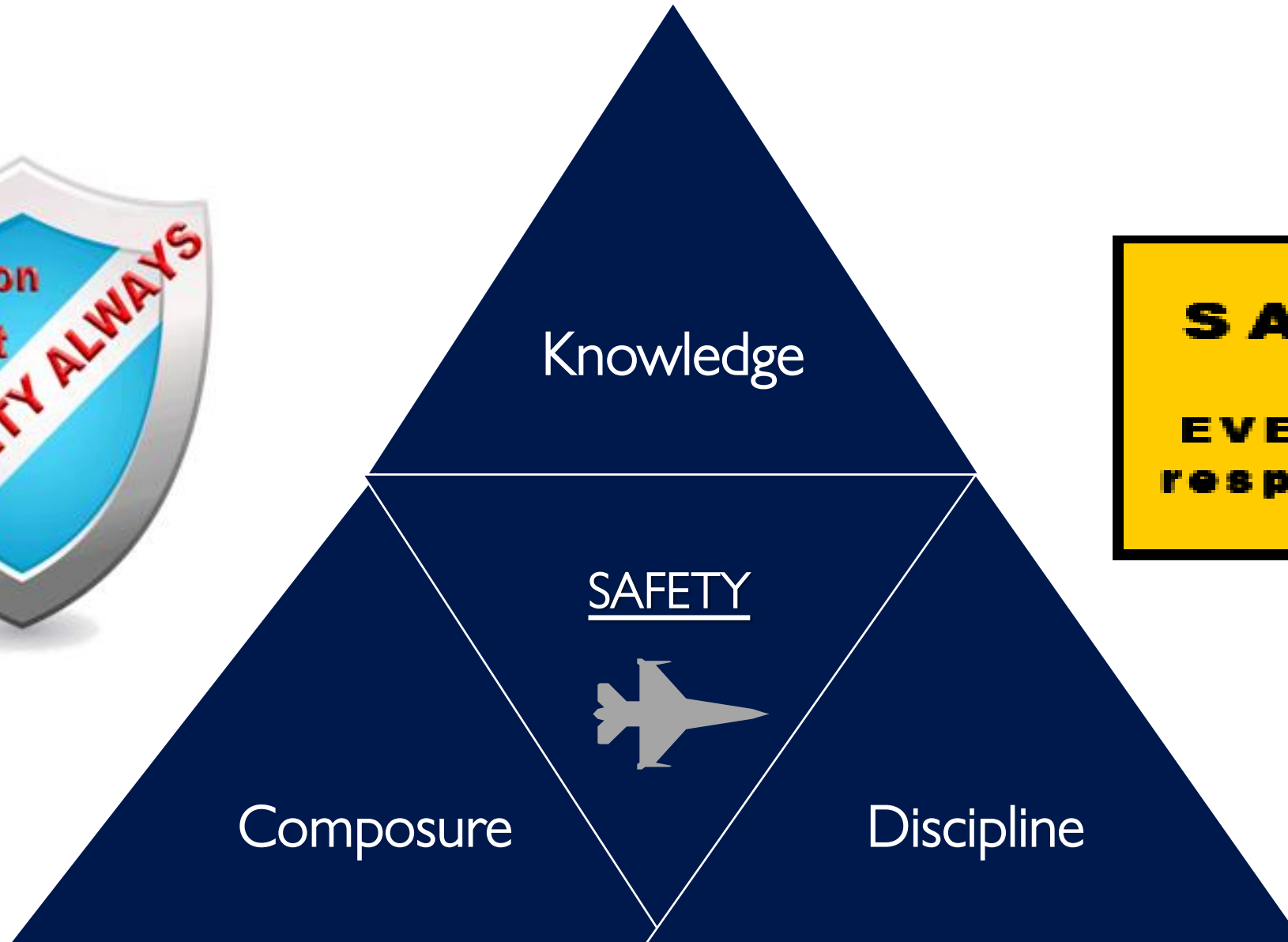
Use the H.A.L.T. method to be mindfully checking your basic needs when you're feeling anxious or impulsive

[getbravely.com](https://getbravely.com)



# Redefinition of Basic Concepts & Principles

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responsibility



# Operational/ Tactical Behavior and Culture of Safety

## Interactive Brainstorming: «Details... Matter!!!»







# Operational/ Tactical Behavior and Culture of Safety

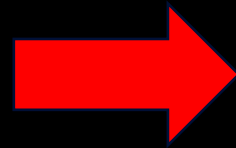
## Interactive Brainstorming: «Details... Matter!!!»







WAGENINGEN  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



# Pyrotown

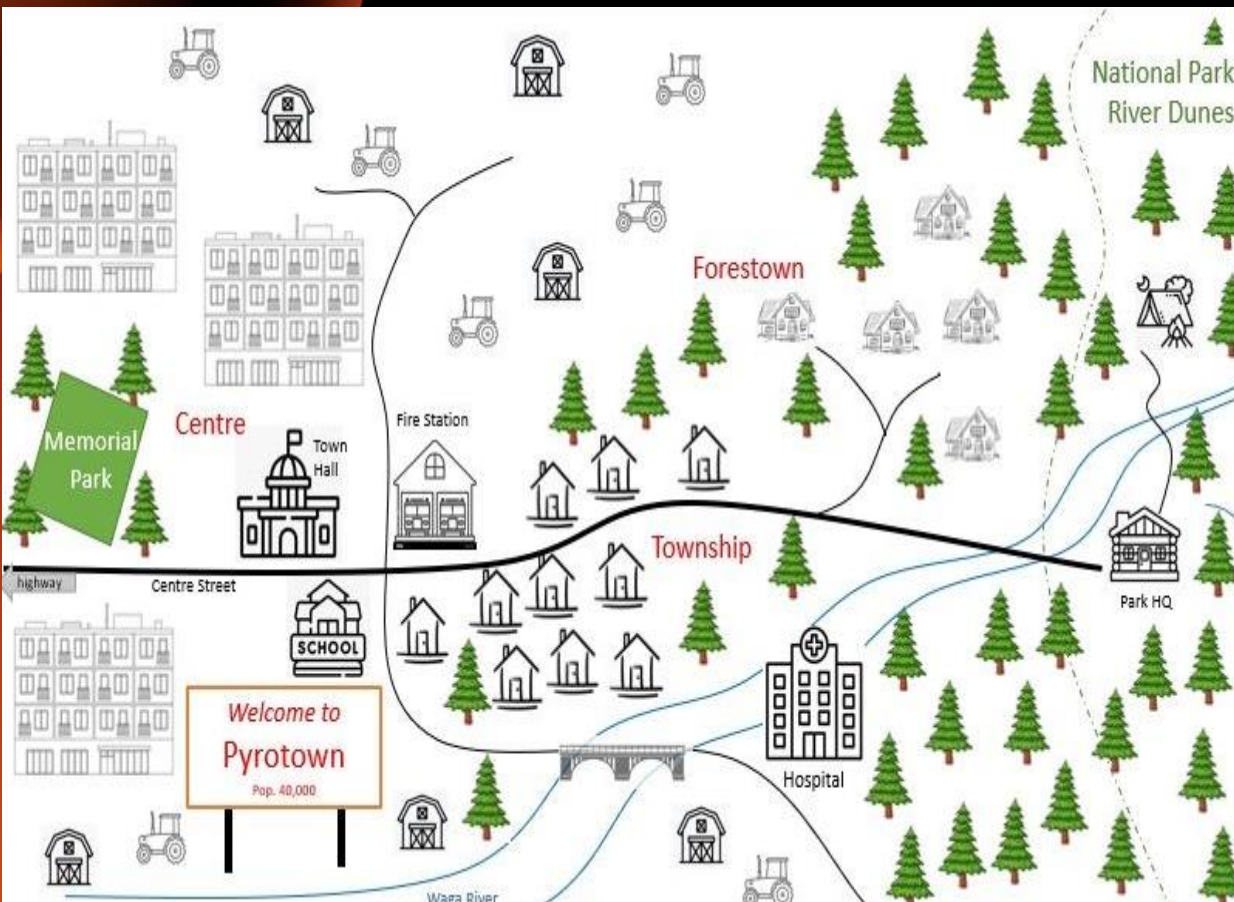
a serious game

**Pyrotown** is available at:

<https://zenodo.org/records/15090000>

as per citation: Stoof, C., Cacciapaglia, M., de Vries, J., & Flores, D. (2025).

Pyrotown: a serious educational game for students of Integrated Fire Management. Zenodo. and as per license type: Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0)





# SEMEDFIRE

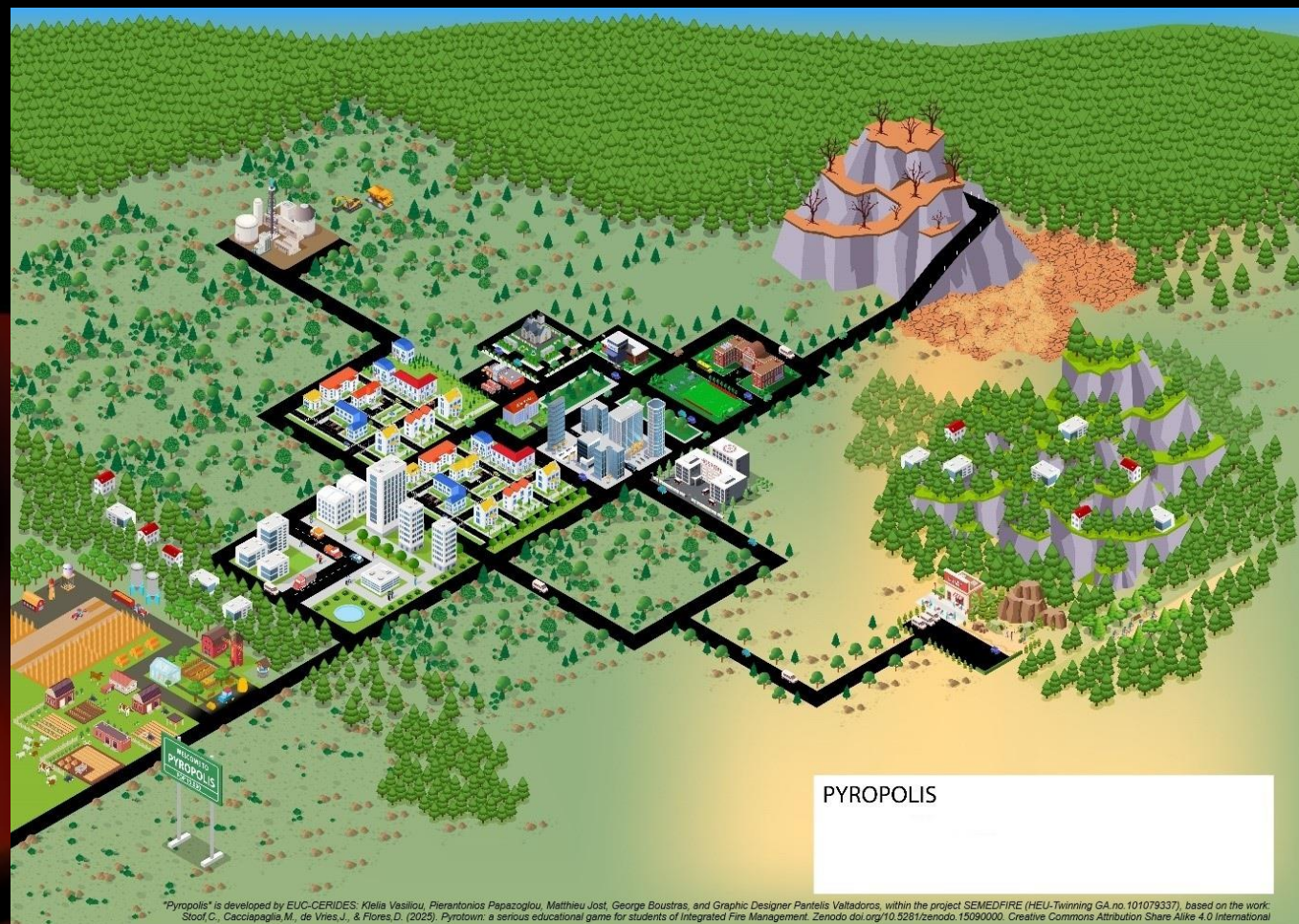
South Eastern Mediterranean  
Excellence Development in Fire Research



Based on the above work, SEMEDFIRE-Coordinator; CERIDES, and in particular Klelia Vasiliou, Pierantonios Papazoglou, Matthieu Jost, & George Boustras, with the graphics contribution of Designer Pantelis Valtadoros, adapted the work of Pyrotown for the context of Cyprus and SE-Med. and launched the **Pyropolis** Wildfire Management Simulative Serious Game..!  
<https://eufarmbook.eu/en/contributions/671b4843bbe71983a0215404>



# Pyropolis-style Short Interactive Exercise







# Pyropolis

❖ 15 mins  
Prevention  
Preparedness

❖ 15mins  
Response  
Recovery

❖ Discussion

PYROPOLIS  
Focus on Safety Culture  
& Safety of Responders

"Pyropolis" is developed by EUC-CERIDES: Klelia Vasiliou, Pierantonios Papazoglou, Matthieu Jost, George Boustras, and Graphic Designer Pantelis Valtadoros, within the project SEMEDFIRE (HEU-Twinning GA.no.101079337), based on the work: Stoof, C., Cacciapaglia, M., de Vries, J., & Flores, D. (2025). Pyrotown: a serious educational game for students of Integrated Fire Management. Zenodo doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15090000. Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike 4.0 International



# Operational/ Tactical Culture of Safety



→ Have a “Safety Department” in the team: responsible for knowing and updating all related to the “Risk Assessment / Risk Management” and “Occupational Safety-&-Health” of the Team for Wildfires

→ Decision Making Processes (OODA...), Standards and SOPs – Standard Operating Procedures....:

[Plans – Schedules – Organograms, Training, Patrol – Detection, Rapid Intervention, Communications, Establishment of Command Post, Orienteering, Tactics & Techniques for Forest Firefighting, Demobilization]

→ Situational Awareness – Risk Identification – Back-up Contingency Measures (Plans B, C,... X)

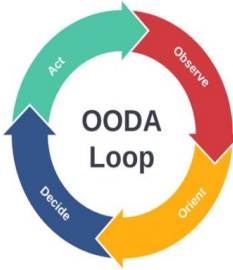
→ Areas/ Zones of Work – Assembly – Evac – Rest (HALT...manage stress & fatigue)

→ Continuous “Mindfulness of ” and “Checking on” Personnel. As much as feasible; Rotation on the fire-line

→ Continuous Checking – Controlling – Maintenance of PPE, as well as Team’s Equipment and Means (incl. tools and vehicles)

→ Define Assembly Points, Escape Paths, Evacuation Routes. And alternatives, as the Fire-Field is a very dynamic “theater of operations”. Define possible route & means for Total Withdrawal.

→ Demobilization, including proper Decontamination. Care for Mental Wellbeing: Post-Event Stress & Fatigue Management.



**Observe**  
What is the current situation? What is the reason you want to change? how bad do you want to change?

**Orient**  
Where are you currently at relative to where you want to go? How far is it to your destination?

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**Act**  
What's the approach and method you will take to implement the decisions? What is your action plan?

**H. A. L. T.**  
hungry angry lonely tired

Use the H.A.L.T. method to be mindfully checking your basic needs when you're feeling anxious or impulsive

getbravely.com

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# Basic “Mottos” of Responder Safety Culture

❖ Mission First, Safety Always

[Αποστολή Πρώτα, Ασφάλεια Πάντα]

❖ Knowledge – Composure – Discipline

[Γνώση – Ψυχραιμία – Πειθαρχία]

❖ Strength in Unity

[Ισχύς εν τη Ενώσει]

❖ All Civil Protection Agencies/Groups, regardless of contexts, are based on:

Team-Spirit – Collegiality – Trust – Honesty - Friendship







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and Emergency Planning Dept. entitled «*Global  
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**Thank you !**  
**Ευχαριστώ!**  
**תודה !**  
**Grazie!**  
**Merci!**  
**شكر**  
**Gracias !**  
**Danke schön !**  
**謝謝 !**

***Pierantonios Papazoglou***

**CERIDES Research & Strategy Manager**

**Res. Assoc. Civil Protection & Safety of Responders**

**EURAXESS, IAEM, CSTC, Cy-HRDA Voc.Trainer, former EARMMA P&RC**

**Former NCP & PCM for MSCA, Environment & Climate, Space, EURAXESS**

**[p.papazoglou@research.euc.ac.cy](mailto:p.papazoglou@research.euc.ac.cy)**



LinkedIN: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/pierantoniospapazoglou/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pierantonios.papazoglou/>

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2785-8360>



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