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FP7 ICT Call 5:
Intelligent Information Management

Acronym:
TRIDEC

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GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences

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In Earth management, making the right decisions during crises situations like natural disasters can prevent the loss of many lives and avoid financial losses. This demanding task requires innovative technologies for intelligent information management. This challenge is addressed by the Integrated Project TRIDEC (Collaborative, Complex and Critical Decision-Support in Evolving Crises), which is funded by the European Commission under the 7th Frame Programme.

The project’s goal is the development of an innovative software architecture including both a service platform and the next-generation of work environments supporting human experts to manage and mitigate emergency situations triggered by the earth system.

When dealing with crises, a recurring pattern is the need to establish support confirming the current situation assessment. This is to ensure that pending mitigation-related decisions will be appropriate. For this, TRIDEC provides efficient and effective access to preserved human expertise dating from past crises stored in a knowledge base.

The central challenge for software development in TRIDEC is the conceptual design and development of a platform for interoperable software services. This is to enable smart management of sensor-data and derived information during crisis situations. Based on this work, a software environment will be provided to support decision makers in collaborating in complex and time-critical decision processes.

TRIDECs research and development activities also include the setup of a robust and scalable service-platform, allowing for simple integration and flexible usage of existing resources, while providing a dynamic focus on the most relevant information streams. Resources to be included consist of sensor systems, geodata servers, repositories for context-information and also components for prognostic simulation and data stream fusion in a collaborative environment.

Intelligent information management requires data enhanced with context information. For this, special software tools are being developed in TRIDEC, which enable optimised usage of system resources based on a knowledge base. New functions to support both complex workflows and decision-processes can be dynamically adapted by orchestration.

The potential of TRIDEC’s technological approach is demonstrated in two separate fields of application, both requiring the handling of very large data volumes.

The first application scenario deals with the management of natural disasters causing potential crises for human society. This is demonstrated by the virtual simulation of a Tsunami-scenario. In this scenario experts will work together in crises control centres and governmental agencies to protect human lives and preserve critical infrastructures and industrial installations.

The second scenario focuses on drilling-related crisis situations. Drilling, a highly cost-intensive exploration method, is crucial for the mining industries. Engineers and analysts collaborate in a common task. During ongoing drilling operations any deviation from nominal operations has to be detected and compensated immediately. For this, the drilling operations are continuously monitored by sensor networks. This is imperative to ensure the safety of the drilling teams, to avoid time delays with resulting financial losses and to protect the natural environment.

The diagram illustrates the software architecture and the services provided by TRIDEC.