



FOSTERING RESOURCES in EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS

- the *FREE* project –

An international and interdisciplinary NetWork/Think-tank for managing individuals and organizations in emergency and extreme environments

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A major challenge faced by organizations is how to manage their resources in contexts that combine high uncertainty and unusual degree of adversity. To address this issue is nevertheless strongly conditioned by the performance of actors who are sufficiently involved and motivated to ensure, over time, achievement of their objectives. The cost of failure, going beyond the individual framework, can be significant for organizations, and even for an entire community.

Therefore, the *FREE* project focuses on preventive risk management for people and organizations that are caught in emergency situations and ICE (Isolated, Confined, Extreme) contexts.

Practically, the *FREE* project develops within a flexible "outside the walls" structure format. This design is considered less bureaucratic and more reactive than that of a physically located laboratory or institute. Another advantage is a greater control of operating costs.

MISSIONS

- Exchanges of knowledge and experiences (face-to-face and virtual modes). These can provide the opportunity for thematic days/meetings
- Development of scientific knowledge through access to the field and production of empirical studies
- Expertise based on specific requests for collaboration on specific situations affecting a particular organization.

PARTICIPANTS

A working group bringing together experts with recognized skills and strong interests in the field. Identity and skills of these referents reflect the complexity of practical realities. They come from civilian or military, public, private or associative organizations. They are specialists from an array of complementary fields, including organizational psychology, human resources management, epidemiology, sociology, organizational design & strategy, information systems management, communication, etc...

The scope of the project calls for collaborative stake-holders from an extended international skill network. As such, the NetWork/Think Tank brings together knowledge and expertise from people and institutions of various European and non-European countries.

ACTIVITIES (face-to-face and virtual):

Development of activities is at the initiative of the Network/Think-Tank, or at the request of a particular organization, external, or in connection with NetWork members. A first level of activity includes information, the development of knowledge and the sharing of experience. It translates into several possible ways:

- Thematic meetings / Webinars
- Seminars / Conferences
- Access to videos hosted on the NetWork site

Based on this first level, a second level of initiatives can be developed:

- Scientific research/investigation on a specific theme
- Intervention/Expertise with an organization/target population in demand

FIELDS OF APPLICATION

ICE and emergency themes cover a wide range of applications, in both civilian and military sectors, and at both individual and organizational levels. Here are some examples of studies that illustrate the gamut:

- Team-work in isolation (polar zone)
- Management of refugee camps
- Missions in natural disaster areas
- Rescue interventions
- Peace-keeping
- ...