

## Contact Us

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COMRADES project

## Consortium

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Knowledge Media  
institute, The Open  
University, UK



Ushahidi, Kenya



University of Sheffield,  
UK



TU Delft,  
The Netherlands



Government to You,  
Belgium

**Project Coordinator:** Knowledge Media  
institute, Open University (UK)

**Project Start:** 1 January 2016

**Duration:** 36 months

**Call:** H2020-ICT-2015

**Topic:** ICT-10-2015: Collective Awareness  
Platforms for Sustainability and Social  
Innovation

**Type of action:** Research & Innovation  
Actions (RIA)

# COMRADES

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Collective Platform for  
**Community Resilience &  
Social Innovation During Crises**

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Collective Awareness Platforms  
for Sustainability &  
Social Innovation



This project is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and  
Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 687847

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responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

## General Objective

The **COMRADES** project works with local partners to create an **open-source**, community resilience platform.



## Specific Objectives

- ✓ To automatically **identify, process, assess,** and **monitor** emergency events;
- ✓ To measure the **informativeness** and **validity** of crisis information;
- ✓ To **develop** the intelligent **COMRADES platform** for community resilience;
- ✓ To deploy COMRADES to **support local communities** and **digital responders** in the response to and recovery from crises;
- ✓ To **support** and **foster** community resilience as a **continuous process**.

## What's in it for me?

Support to set up and use a platform which uses **cutting edge technology** for helping citizens to get a consistent, coherent understanding of the events around them **in real time** and to **exchange intelligence** when their community is severely hit by natural disasters such as **floods, earthquakes,** and **hurricanes**.

Information will be gathered via multiple channels such as **social media, text messaging,** and **various other channels** by the **COMRADES platform**. A **crisis map** will be created where citizens can view and share information about the crisis, to increase their **resilience** and **situational awareness**.

COMRADES goes beyond the mere gathering of information, by assisting communities in getting **self-organized** for more efficient response to, and recover from crisis. The platform keeps the **citizens well connected during emergencies**, and matches those in need of help with fellow citizens who can provide the requested assistance.

## How will it work?

The functions that COMRADES platform plans to include are:

- ✓ Quickly filtering citizens' reports as they arrive from **social media** and **mobile texts**;
- ✓ **Removing uninformative** and **irrelevant ones**;
- ✓ **Identifying unreliable sources**;
- ✓ **Picks up,** and **alerts** to several lone messages requesting urgent help during a crisis;
- ✓ **Extracts, groups,** and **monitors** unfolding emergency micro-events.

## Who is involved?

**COMRADES** will engage with **three types** of specific communities that are core to effective resilience efforts:

- ✓ **Activists** (platform deployers): individuals and groups of people who set up instances of the **Ushahidi platform**;
- ✓ **Responders**: communities that organise and coordinate resources and provide expertise when the Ushahidi platform is deployed;
- ✓ **Reporters**: communities who report on crisis.



## How to be involved?

The **COMRADES project** will actively approach different communities and citizens from around the globe by involving them at **two levels**:

**Co-Creation:** Engage **multiple communities** in the **requirements, design,** and **evaluation tasks**;

**Use:** Promote and support the deployment and use of the platform to **empower citizens** and **communities** to improve their resilience.

*The platform will be based on **Ushahidi** solution: a common platform for crisis mapping, developed in collaboration with **iHub**.*