



ISCRAM2009
**The 6th International Conference on Information Systems for
Crisis Response and Management**

Gothenburg, Sweden
May 10-13, 2009
<http://www.iscram.org>

TRACK: STANDARDIZATION AND ONTOLOGIES

CALL FOR PAPERS

Introduction of the track

Due to the complex nature of crisis response and management, information systems in this field are more often than not a "system of systems". Information interoperability among such systems is essential to make key data flow among the many stakeholders during a crisis. In addition, information systems are integrated in decision processes controlled by legislation and regulation, and set in an fast-changing environment of people with different levels of expertise, multi-disciplinary backgrounds, and multi-cultural and multi-lingual work environments. The key challenge of information systems is to ensure that information is encoded in a way that the receiver understands the semantics of the information in an interoperable environment.

The key way to create effective and efficient information systems for crisis response and management is by using existing and developing new standards and ontologies for information exchange. These include IT standards for software interoperability (such as web service standards and geospatial standards), but also process standards for interoperability of (multi-national) emergency teams. It includes ontologies ranging from description of relief teams, resources and locations, over hazard preparedness (seismic building codes) to techniques to uniquely identify a disaster.

Suggested topics (non-exhaustive list):

Information standards for system-to-system interoperability

- Standards for information system interoperability (e.g. W3C standards, OGC standards, OASIS standards)
- Standard Languages for emergency phases (e.g. resource response needs, early warnings)

Frameworks and Architectures used to enable interoperable implementations

- Information Models for large-scale information infrastructures
- Consistent national and international platforms for information sharing

Governance, regulations, legislation, requirements (etc) used to manage processes

- Standards for evaluation of response performance (e.g. financial, organizational)

- Standards for humanitarian response (e.g. visa regulations, humanitarian logistics, international search and rescue)
- Standards for disaster preparedness (e.g. seismic codes, civil protection)

Ontologies, vocabularies, taxonomies, (etc) used to describe resources and activities

- Emerging Ontologies (e.g, Who-What-Where; disaster types; missing people)
- Global unique incident identification (e.g. GLIDE)
- Methods and tools for defining, mapping, reasoning, and maintaining semantics of crisis ontologies

Special Sessions

In addition to the general track, this track also includes the following special session:

- Architectures to support interoperability between partners of crisis reduction

For detailed information regarding special sessions, please consult each Special Sessions ' Call for Papers.

Track co-chairs

- Renato Iannella, NICTA
- Tom De Groeve, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

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Important Notice:

- All submissions must be formatted according to the ISCRAM 2009 formatting guidelines. Templates and instructions are published on www.iscram.org.
- All submissions must be submitted through the ISCRAM 2009 conference paper submission web page at www.conftool.com/iscram2009. Instructions for the ConfTool system can be found on www.iscram.org.

- All papers and presentations will go through a double-blind review process, leading to a decision of (conditional) acceptance or rejection.
- Accepted papers will be included in the ISCRAM 2009 program and published in the official proceedings if and only if
 - (1) the paper is formatted according to the instructions,
 - (2) the authors sign the copyright transfer form and
 - (3) one of the authors registers for the conference and pays the registration fee before the cut-off date for early registration.
- Authors who have multiple papers accepted can only register for and present one paper at the conference; co-authors need to register separately.

Important ISCRAM 2009 Dates:

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| • Submission deadline: | January 11, 2009 |
| • Notification of conditional accept: | February 16, 2009 |
| • Final submission revised paper: | March 1, 2009 |
| • Final author notification: | March 9, 2009 |
| • Early registration deadline: | March 22, 2009 |
| • Conference: | May 10-13 2009 |

About ISCRAM:

The ISCRAM Community is a worldwide community of researchers, scholars, teachers, students, practitioners and policy makers interested or actively involved in the subject of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management. At its annual international conference alternating between the US and Europe, the ISCRAM Community gathers to present and discuss the latest research and developments in this growing area during an interactive and stimulating 3 day program. The ISCRAM Community also organizes an International Summer School for PhD students and ISCRAM-CHINA, an annual conference for ISCRAM research in China. All information on ISCRAM can be found at <http://www.iscram.org>

This year the conference will be held from 10-13 May at the Göteborg University located in Gothenburg, Sweden. The conference will be hosted by the Viktoria Institute and the IT-university of Gothenburg. All details on this conference will be made available via the ISCRAM website mentioned above.