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NITREX srl

Explosives Engineering

17-19 March, Karlskoga
1st EUExNet project meeting

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

THE EXPLOSIVE MARKET

In comparison to the European figures, in Italy, the **consumption of explosives is much lower** (about 15.000 ton per year)

In fact, often, typically "explosives works" are made by hydraulic hammer with larger costs for the residents in the neighbourhoods.

As happens in rigid economical setting (such as the civil explosive sector in Italy), **the lack of generational replacement brings a consequent lack of technical capacities** and the increase and a growing incidence of the fixed costs.

The managers' professional growth was more focused on the logistics competences than on the marketing, juridical and technical ones.

Little attention was given to the activities of promotion of the use of explosives and training of the employees.

No or very little resources are dedicated to the customers, the development of their technical knowledge, the sensitization on safety and security.

Moreover, the technical assistance is offered for free to the customers and it is often superficial and not helpful.

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EXPLOSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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INSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION

Universities

- (Mining engineering is not long existing, having been replaced by) Environmental engineering
 - Geology engineering
- (WITH SOME SPECIALIZED COURSE ON EXPLOSIVES)

Military schools

- academies

NON INSTITUTIONAL

"Spontaneous" Civil training courses (MAINLY IN-HOUSE COURSES)

Subjects

- Transport of dangerous goods
- Pyrotechnics
- Blasting



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EXPLOSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In Italy, for the last two centuries, education and **TRAINING IN ACTIVITIES WITH EXPLOSIVES HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT IN THE FORM OF APPRENTICESHIP.**

Related legislation where the responsibility for education, training and evaluation of levels of qualification of personnel is given only to a company's management and no audit no qualification program no exam nor control is foreseen by any Authority.

ONLY IN THE MINING AND PYROTECHNIC FIELDS, A "LICENSE" IS REQUIRED BY LAW, at national level, which testify a person's technical ability and capacity to handle explosive. However, the requirement concerns only a basic and general knowledge of the explosives, nothing to do with the controlled use of explosives. License to use explosives is just a non structured theoretical examination which does not check the practical application.

This certificate is issued by the Prefettura (Provincial offices of the Government), but its validity as examination itself can vary from province to province, given that no educational program has ever been defined in order to explain what a person should learn in order to have a "proper knowledge of the job".

EXAMINATORS HAVE NO SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS THEMSELVES nor EXPERIENCE at all.

Notwithstanding our affords and resources involved, unfortunately, **THE STATE OF EXPLOSIVE EDUCATION HAS NOT IMPROVE DURING THE LATEST YEARS,** especially because public authorities did not change their approach towards this important problem of the decline of personnel's competencies and qualifications, and **COSTS OF EDUCATION IS MORE AND MORE AN ISSUE** (especially now due to the world wide crisis).

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EUEXCERT EDUCATION IN ITALY

Nitrex, within the EUExcert project, disseminating the culture of safety in the explosive sector, at the beginning using the internal competence of Nitrex (blast vibration monitoring, use of explosives, etc.) than involving old and experienced people willing to share their knowledge and experience to improve the qualifications and culture in the explosive sector, in different field such as legislation, transport, security, etc..

List of courses/seminar and handbooks realized as EUExcert educational material:

- LEGISLATION ON CIVIL EXPLOSIVES IN THE EUROPEAN SETTING OF "FREE CIRCULATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS"
- BLAST VIBRATION MONITORING
This being also translated into English
- ADR AND ITALIAN DRIVING CODE FOR THE TRANSPORT OF CLASS 1 DANGEROUS GOODS
- IGNITION SYSTEMS
- "MINING PRACTICE" – legislative requirements for the mining sectors
- DVD on controlled demolition with explosives
- (with work in progress: BASIC ON PYROTECNICS)

All courses/books are presented ad Nitrex activity as PARTNER of EUExcert project.

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EUEXNet

Nitrex participate to EUEXcert since 2003.

Because we firmly believe in the importance to maintain and develop a common explosive culture.

Our **EXPECTATION FROM THE PROJECT IS THE CREATION OF A SELF-FOUNDING "EUROPEAN EXPLOSIVE FOUNDATION"** issuing certificate recognised all over Europe.

We realized the **NEED OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION**, because it allows:

- to exchange information,
- to learn from other experience,
- To shorten and ease processes
- to strengthen the Euexcert position

(this is not just an Italian idea but it is a European or, even better, a world wide concept, it is much easier that people / institution are willing to cooperate if they know that this is a European project).

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Up to the moment, Nitrex has developed this education sector thanks to this EuExc@rt project, to the lack of education methods/instrument/programs in Italy and to the active presence in the field, in this way Nitrex had the possibility to come across to **EXPERT PEOPLE IN THE SECTOR WILLING TO COOPERATE**.

What we are realizing now is that **NITREX HAS NOT ENOUGH RECOURSES TO BECOME AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION**, recognised at national/European level, and maybe it has no sense.

It will be much more effective if **A DEDICATED INSTITUTE WILL TAKE CARE OF IT**. Strongly recommended will be, for this purpose, the **COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION IN ONE SINGLE PROJECT, OF ALL THE ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTION WORKING FOR THIS GOAL** (ISEE, EFEE, IME, FEEM, SAFEX, etc.)

EUEXNET COULD BE FOR THE ITALIAN INSTITUTIONS THE KEY USED TO RENEW AND HARMONIZE THE EXPLOSIVE SECTOR AND LEGISLATION. In order to guarantee a common and good level of knowledge, overlapping the generational gap and the lack of experience knowledge.

Nitrex main goal at this stage will be **TO FIND AN ITALIAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVIDER THAT BELIEVES IN EUEXC@RT AND WANT TO COOPERATE AND TAKE CARE OF THE DISSEMINATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXPLOSIVE CULTURE**.