



Strasbourg, 11 October 2013

AP/CAT (2013) OJ 4
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EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)

Workshop
Including People with Disabilities
in Disaster Preparedness and Response

22 October (14.00–18.00) - 23 October 2013 (09.00–18.00)

Council of Europe Office, Paris (Room 1)
55, avenue Kléber, Paris 16e (Tel. +33.1.44.05.33.60)

PROGRAMME

Background and Purpose of the Workshop

Aim of the Workshop

A Report, Guidelines and Recommendations on “Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response” for the attention of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) will be presented on 24 October. The aim of the Workshop, where the participants will exchange on good practices, discuss the report and come up with suggestions for the implementation of the Recommendations, is to foster on better resilience, adaptation and resistance to disasters for persons with disabilities. The overall aim is to concentrate on reducing the risks within the disaster cycle.

Background and explanation

In 2011 the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) adopted *Ethical Principles on Disaster Risk Reduction and People’s Resilience*. In 2012 the Committee decided to focus part of its work on guidance for a more operative practice with vulnerable groups and in particular on people with disabilities. A Questionnaire on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction has been developed and circulated in March 2013 in order to collect examples of good practice and already existing regulations and laws in the field. A Report is drawn up taking into account the replies to the questionnaire. The report portrays the situation related to People with Disabilities in Disaster preparedness and Response, focusing on different practices, return of experiences, good examples and mentioning the legal issues and drawing attention to what can be done in the case of a disaster. It is accompanied by resulting Guidelines and Recommendations on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster preparedness and Response.

The Report together with the Guidelines and Recommendations on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster preparedness and Response will be circulated to networks and experts operating in the field and participating in the Workshop, before being officially presented at the Workshop.

Objectives and purpose of the Workshop

1. People with disabilities are associated throughout the process and in particular during the Workshop, voicing their experiences and needs regarding disaster preparedness and response.
2. The Workshop will allow participants to exchange on the documents and the topic in general: policy makers and government representatives, including local governments, agencies, associations, mainly in the field of civil protection and all stakeholders working with people with disabilities and disaster risk reduction are invited to contribute to the debate.
3. The Report, Guidelines and Recommendations will be discussed and endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) at its meeting on 24 October 2013, before being published.

Selected issues to be discussed

- ❖ Policy framework: in the different member States the practices are varying: focused rather on response and preparedness or on prevention and mitigation, but rarely considering the disaster cycle as a whole. Where procedures exist, they do not necessarily comprise inclusive action in disaster response.
- ❖ Governance: Different ministries deal with DRR; they do not necessarily communicate. Therefore coordination is crucial at all levels (national, regional and local). One key issue at the local level is how best to bring the relevant authorities together for planning purposes. It is one thing to do this nationally, but in reality, people with disabilities have to be cared for by local agencies and the best way this can be done is to ensure that they are working productively together. It would be helpful to examine different models, protocols and practices for this purpose.
- ❖ The heterogeneous nature of deficiencies and their handicapping consequences have to be taken into account. Each type of requirement needs to be dealt with specifically.
- ❖ People with disabilities have to be treated as individuals with different needs, in order to exclude formal discrimination.
- ❖ The recovery of people with disabilities and the general emergency planning should be carried out in a holistic approach. It is important to include persons with disabilities in the emergency management, in the setting up of protective measures. Budgets, DRR education and preparedness activities are also needed.
- ❖ How and to what extent a distinction should be made between assistance to persons with disabilities in disasters and emergencies from assistance to other vulnerable groups?

Content

The first half day of the Workshop (22 October 2013) will set the framework: the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan (2006-2015) will be introduced, as well as other relevant documents dealing with people with disabilities. Case studies will introduce the topic of the Workshop. The aim is to present an overview on the situation of people with disabilities related to disaster risk reduction in the EUR-OPA member States and beyond.

The second day (23 October 2013) will focus on concrete contributions. The Council of Europe strives to promote the perception of persons with disabilities as holders of rights in the same way as all other citizens, considering disability to be part of human diversity. Defending values and promoting human rights through Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response is at the heart of the Council of Europe's mission.

Prior to the presentation of the Report, Guidelines and Recommendations on Including people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response, experts will give an overview and explanations on the understanding of "disaster" and "accessibility or Design for All". Two Key Note presentations and presentations by experts will set the framework for the Round Table.

Two parallel Working Groups will allow the opportunity for the stakeholders and participants to exchange experiences on including people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response and come up with Conclusions and an Action Plan. The results of the Working Groups will be reported back to the Plenary before the Conclusion.

The Workshop will be held in English.

Additional information initiatives

During the morning coffee break on 23 October 2013, a Press Briefing session is organised: journalists have the opportunity for interviews.

Involved organisations and stakeholders are invited to exhibit information materials and to present them at the market place in the entrance hall of the venue.

TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2013 (14.00 – 18.00)

14.00 – 15.00 Welcome and Introduction to the Workshop

- ❖ Ms Mechthilde FUHRER, Council of Europe, Deputy to the Executive Secretary, EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement
Aims and objectives of the Workshop in the framework of the EUR-OPA Programme of Activities 2013-2014
- ❖ Mr Thorsten AFFLERBACH, Council of Europe, Head of Social Cohesion and Integration Division
Introduction to the Work on Disability: Presentation of the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015, as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)
- ❖ Ms Nadezhda HARIZANOVA, Council of Europe Committee of experts on the rights of people with disabilities (CS-RPD)
Contribution from the Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CS-RPD)
- ❖ Mr Michel FEIDER, Vice-Chair, Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement
Contribution from the Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) on Dealing with disabled and vulnerable persons: from the perspective of the emergency management

15.00 – 16.00 Case studies: the situation of people with disabilities related to disaster risk reduction in the EUR-OPA member States, good examples from the Questionnaire on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and the UNISDR Survey on Disaster Reduction

- ❖ Mr Claudio DETOGNI, Federsanita' ANCI National Office - Independent Expert, Italy
The Verona Charter on the rescue of persons with disabilities in case of disasters: its role in the past and its perspectives for the future
- ❖ Ms Madga ROOZE and Ms Eva MUENKER-KRAMER, European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA)
Contribution from the EFPA Disaster and Crisis Psychology Standing Committee
- ❖ Ms Regina ERNST and Mr Dirk BOENKE, Rehabilitation International
German approach promoting accessibility of various environments (Rehabilitation International, RI)

- ❖ Mr David SINGH, UNISDR
Outcomes of the survey developed by UNISDR in the context of the International Day for Disaster Reduction

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 17.30 *Case studies: the perspective from civil protection to Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response and good examples from the Questionnaire on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction*

- ❖ Mr Stepan BADALYAN, Vice-Chair, Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement and Ms Yelena BADALYAN
Awareness raising of the people with disabilities to disasters as an integral part of disaster preparedness and response at national and municipal levels
- ❖ Professor Stefanos DRITSOS, Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (EPPO)
Earthquake Protection Policy for People with Disabilities
- ❖ Ms Olga SHASHKINA, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
Overview of the current situation regarding Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in Georgia and Case Study: “Inclusive DRR for vulnerable children in kindergartens and special care institutions” (prepared in collaboration with Save the Children International - SCI Georgia)

17.30 – 18.00 *Wrapping up of the first day of the Workshop*

WEDNESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2013 (09.00 – 18.00)

09.00 *Official Opening and Introduction*

- ❖ Mr Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO, Council of Europe, Head of the Democratic Initiatives Department; Acting Executive Secretary, European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)
EUR-OPA and vulnerable groups: Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response at the heart of the Council of Europe’s mission
- ❖ Mr Silvio SAGRAMOLA, Director, National Disability Information and Meeting Centre, Luxembourg
Good will is not enough
- ❖ Professor David ALEXANDER, Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction, University College London, United Kingdom
Disaster and people with disabilities: some key issues

Key Note Presentations

- ❖ Professor Duncan SHAW: Operational research and critical systems, Warwick Business School, United Kingdom
The paradox of social resilience: How cognitive strategies and coping mechanisms attenuate resilience
- ❖ Mr Panagiotis KOUROUMPLIS, Member of the Parliament, Greece
People with disabilities coping with disasters: The particular challenges for Greece

Presentation of the Report, Guidelines and Recommendations on including people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response

- ❖ Mr Silvio SAGRAMOLA and Professor David ALEXANDER

10.30-11.00 Coffee break and Press Briefing

11.00 – 13.00 Roundtable and general discussion: exchange on good experiences

preceded by

Brief entry statements and presentations

- ❖ Mr Alexandros MAKARIGAKIS, Chief of Unit on Disaster Risk Reduction, UNESCO
- ❖ EC - ECHO (tbc)
- ❖ Ms Paola ALBRITO, Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Regional Office for Europe:
The International Day for Disaster Reduction - Living with Disability and Disasters
- ❖ Mr Eric WEERTS, Emergency and Rehabilitation for Handicap International
Current approaches to including people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction
- ❖ Ms Charlotte AXELSON and Luisa FENU, CBM
Good practices and Voices from the field
- ❖ Mr Luk ZELDERLOO, European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)
- ❖ Mr Badaoui ROUHBAN, Global Risk Forum GRF Davos
Disaster resilience of people with disabilities: challenges

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch Break

14.30 – 16.30 *Parallel Working Groups: translating the Report, Guidelines and Recommendations on including people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response into practical applications*

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break

17.00 – 18.00 *Plenary Session: Conclusions, Recommendations and Next Steps*

Rapporteurs report back from the Working Groups

Closing Statements and Conclusion of the Workshop

18.00 **Close of the Workshop**