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**Cluster 3 (Knowledge, Innovation and Education)/ Session 3.1 /
Education for Sustainable Development: towards effective disaster reduction and
enhancing human security
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Kobe, Japan**

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Towards Effective Disaster Reduction and Enhancing Human Security

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INTRODUCTION

The Council of Europe intends to play a role in the United Nations Decade for Sustainable Development beginning on 1st January 2005 for at least two reasons.

Firstly, for a long time it has been working towards building a European education space promoting quality education for all and fostering mobility, plurilinguism and intercultural understanding through a wide range of multilateral programmes for school and out-of-school education. Simultaneously the Council of Europe has widely contributed to the implementation of the sustainable development agenda, in particular with the adoption of a Committee of Minister's message in view of the Johannesburg Summit in September 2002.

Responding to the aspirations of citizens for a higher quality of life, the Council of Europe is committed to developing integrated policies for inter-generational equity in access to economic, social, cultural and natural resources under the principle of sustainable development. Policies for the sensitive management of these resources will enhance their contribution to wider economic opportunity, to personal and community development and to the expression of cultural identity and diversity. The Council of Europe, will therefore, develop programmes of activities which demonstrate and emphasise:

- The need for an integrated policies approach and strategy;
- the links between conservation and sustainability of the natural and cultural aspects of landscapes and the environment;
- **the role of risk prevention and management of natural or technological disasters in sustainable development policies;**
- **the essential role of formal and non-formal education for sustainable development.**

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT : A RANGE OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE INITIATIVES

In a way, the Council of Europe acted as a pioneer when it launched at the end of the seventies European training schemes and definitions of professional profiles and qualifications for skills and crafts relating to the sustainable conservation of the built heritage. More recently the 13th Session of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) underlined the role of training in the implementation of the policies for spatial development. A seminar will be held in Strasbourg in March 2005 dealing with various aspects of the activities to be organised in this perspective. In 2005 the European Year of Citizenship through Education will be a key issue of the Council of Europe's programme. This "Year" is not intended to be a single campaign but will constitute an action framework, as the beginning of a sustainable process expected to continue over the years to come. It aims to promote citizens' awareness of their rights and responsibilities in a democratic society. Such rights and responsibilities certainly include those related to risk prevention and to environment protection. We welcome the recent UNECE Strategy on Sustainable Development elaborated in the European context. It sets an example for the world. Its promotion and implementation is very necessary and can usefully contribute to the goals

of the European Year of Citizenship through education and to the United Nations Decade.

With regard to the themes dealt with in this Conference, the major input from our Organisation has been provided over recent years by the Council of Europe's EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement.

This Agreement, created in 1987 by the Council of Europe, has 25 member States to date.¹

The main objective of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement is to reinforce and promote co-operation between member States in a multi-disciplinary context to ensure better risk management : knowledge, prevention, forecasting, warning, crisis management, post-crisis analysis and rehabilitation. The Agreement also serves as a suitable platform for co-operation between Central and Eastern Europe, the South of the Mediterranean and Western Europe in the field of major natural and technological disasters.

The Agreement has two levels of action. One is intergovernmental with meetings at ministerial and Permanent Correspondent levels. The other is scientific and technical, including 26 Euro-Mediterranean specialised Centres with research, training and expertise missions. For instance, the European Early Warning System and the European Advisory Evaluation Committee for Earthquake Prediction.

At the eighth ministerial meeting, held in Athens-Vouliagmeni (Greece) on 21 and 22 February 2000, the ministers adopted a Declaration asserting the right of populations to be informed and trained in the field of risk management and how to react in the face of an emergency, and undertaking to give priority to promoting children's awareness of risk prevention, particularly through educational programmes at school.

The ministers adopted the Declaration on "Risk Culture" and considered that: the condition "sine qua non" for setting up an efficient policy for risk prevention and risk management in general is formed by information and education processes.

In 2002 in Bandol (France) the ministers stressed the importance of the risk prevention policy set out in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). Risk management should be based on an integrated decision-making process linking scientific knowledge, vulnerability assessment and authority structures at all levels. Civil society, the private sector, including insurance companies, experts and academia must be fully involved.

¹ Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, France, Georgia, Greece, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, San Marino, Romania, Russia, Spain, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine. Japan has observer status, while Austria, Germany and Switzerland are regularly invited to attend the meetings of the Agreement.

The European Commission, UNESCO, The World Health Organisation (WHO), the Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations (OCHA), the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) participate in the Agreement. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies also participates in its work.

At the tenth ministerial meeting held in the Republic of San Marino in December 2003, the ministers welcomed the content of the Declaration of Madrid, adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Disaster Reduction, organised jointly by the Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and the Executive Secretariat of the Agreement.

They called for:

- *reinforcement in member States of the interdepartmental approach to implementing risk reduction policies;*
- *widespread implementation of programmes for alerting children to risk reduction by introducing compulsory civic education classes in schools incorporating the principles of education in citizenship, human rights, solidarity, sustainable development, risk reduction;*
- *the development of programmes to ensure safety in schools;*
- *encouragement for the setting up of school and university safety observatories in member States;*
- *reinforcement of the network of universities participating in the masters programmes on “risk sciences”, leading to the Euro-Mediterranean doctorate in risk sciences;*
- *promotion of the implementation of research and development programmes on decision-making assistance mechanisms in the field of risk management.*

The Declaration of Madrid stressed that *“disaster reduction is one central element of sustainable development and the associated integrated disaster risk management is a primary responsibility of governments.”* Such risk management should be based on a holistic approach to risk prevention and reduction combining scientific knowledge, vulnerability assessment and the competencies of disaster managers.

POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE’S EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT TOWARDS DISASTER REDUCTION AND ENHANCING HUMAN SECURITY

The EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement has given priority to initiatives for the development of education, training and information programmes, which represent the “cornerstone” of the risk culture. Initiatives are under way at four different levels : schools, universities, vocational training and awareness raising.

At school level, two types of activity have been launched. One concerns educating school children on risk prevention and the other concerns the ways and means to ensure the safety of school buildings. In short, children are the best vehicles for establishing a risk culture.

During the International Seminar on Schools and Risk Prevention held in Ravello, Italy in June 2001, a Euro-Mediterranean Schools Network was set up with a view to analysing the different types of risks intrinsic to schools, linked to their structures, vulnerability and environment, lying at the heart of the local risk culture. Of course, risk analysis should be validated in accordance with the relevant national regulations. Thus the aim was to

prepare, on this basis, specific initiatives for each school, including plans to convert the school's structures in order to address the risks and an educational project for pupils, families, administrative and technical staff. Such a plan has been adopted, for example, by the French Lycée in Istanbul.

At university level, as part of the FORM-OSE programme (West European, Southern Mediterranean, East European training) , the Agreement launched a survey in the nineties to analyse employment needs in our societies for risk managers in the private and public sectors. The survey highlighted the need for university-level training of professionals able to evaluate the technical, economic, social, psychological, cultural and legal impact of a crisis, and analyse and quantify the effects of emergency situations on people, goods and the environment. Under the auspices of the Agreement, a number of "Euro-mediterranean Masters" were tested which could subsequently lead to a European Doctorate. I shall mention two examples:

- **the "Disaster Medicine" Master**, set up in 1998 by the European Centre for Disaster Medicine (CEMEC) in San Marino. At the end of the course, participants are expected to be able to evaluate risks, to participate in the planning for disaster preparedness, to direct the medical response team in case of disasters, to organise and manage evaluation and debriefing sessions, to provide introduction and awareness to disaster management for medical response teams. The course is of interest to all those involved in the medical planning and response in disaster situations at local, national and international levels. The number of participants is limited to 30 and the duration of the master is one academic year
- **Risk science**, as part of a multidisciplinary approach involving three Montpellier universities : Law, Economics, Medicine and Pharmacy, Natural Sciences, Human and Social Sciences and a network of engineering schools. The master was launched in October 2001. The objective of such a master, in response to a request from high level national authorities, is to promote "risk culture". The idea was to set up a new European transnational and interdisciplinary cursus in risk management.

When it comes to **vocational training**, two interesting courses have been tested in Morocco. One concerned the first training course for "environmental inspectors" organised at the request of the Moroccan Minister for Regional Development, Water and the Environment, was held in July 2004. This initiative was co-ordinated in co-operation with the support and co-operation of the INESC (National Institute for Civil Security Training) in France and the REMIFOR European Centre, which organised the whole interactive e-learning programme via satellite. The role of "environmental safety inspectors" was defined on the basis of the description set out in documents of the European Union providing for minimum criteria for environmental inspections.

Another course which is being evaluated concerned the training of psychologists in emergency situations. On 12 January last, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe put forward proposals for medium term initiatives to be launched following the tsunami in South Asia. In co-operation with other organisations, the Agreement could facilitate a training of trainers programme for psychologists who are needed to provide assistance to victims.

With regard to **information** initiatives, a number of initiatives are promoted by the Agreement: : the use of films to the benefit of risk prevention; radio stations for broadcasting information to the public on risk prevention; a website "BE SAFE NET", aiming to provide information and knowledge on risk management to young people. These initiatives could be considered as a preliminary contribution to the 2005 Council of Europe "European Year of Citizenship through Education".

In conclusion, the Council of Europe, through its EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, is willing to develop a closer co-operation with UNESCO and OECD to further good practices for the integration of education for disaster reduction and human security thus laying the foundations for a global coalition on education for disaster reduction. We are ready to help with the support of our network of Centres. The Agreement's specific role vis-à-vis other Organisations will be clarified at its next ministerial session. Education for the prevention of hazards and the management of their social consequences will most likely be the main issues of the Agreement's future action.

APPENDIX**NETWORK OF SPECIALISED EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CENTRES OF THE EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT**

Country	Centre	Director	e-mail telephone
Algeria	Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Scientific and Technical Research on Arid Zones, CRSTRA, (Alger)	Farida KHAMMAR	crstra_biskra@yahoo.fr t/fax: 213 33 73 42 14
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	Euro-Mediterranean Observatory on Risk Management (Montpellier)	André PAVIA	europarisk@agropolis.fr 00 33 4 67 04 75 40
	Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Information and Communication Technologies (Draguignan)	Bernard JANNIN	contact@remifor.org 00 33 4 94 50 12 75
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	European Centre on Forest Fires	Milt STATHEROPOULOS	

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