

Strasbourg, 11 July 2008

AP/CAT (2008) 28

Or. E.

**EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT  
(EUR-OPA)**

**Meeting of the Thematic Group on Disaster Education and Awareness  
(BE-SAFE-NET)**

**15-16 May 2007**

**European University Centre for Cultural Heritage, (CUEBC)  
Ravello, Italy**

**CONCLUSIONS**

In the framework of the FORM-OSE programme (*European Training Programme on Risk Sciences for Western Europe, the Southern Mediterranean and Eastern Europe*) of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, a working meeting of the Thematic Group on Disaster Education and Awareness (BE-SAFE-NET), took place in Ravello (Italy) on 15-16 May 2008 hosted by the European University Centre for Cultural Heritage (CUEBC), Ravello. The participants (*see appended*) adopted the following conclusions:

## **I. BE SAFE NET INITIATIVE**

### **A. Evaluation of the pilot project on Landslides**

All participants congratulated the CERG team, who prepared the revised landslides section and improved the proposed material, i.e. the quantity and quality of the information is now more in line with the target public, moving the more detailed explanations to specific pages for interested persons. Precisely, the CERG representative pointed out that the initial material has been revised following consultations with different teachers at school level. It was suggested that such procedure should be applied for future material to avoid unnecessary technicalities but also to benefit from teachers' own pedagogical experience in classrooms.

### **B. Discussion on a common canvas for each risk**

Based on the experience gained in preparing the landslides material, the participants agreed that clear guidelines for future authors of material related to other risks will be helpful for the ultimate goal of the website : provide information and material for secondary school teachers in order to prepare associated curricula (and consequently avoiding university level material).

The proposed canvas for a specific risk (let's say xxx)

1. What is a xxx?
2. What types of xxx are there?
3. Why do xxx occur?
4. Where do xxx occur?
  - What were the largest xxx in the world?
  - What were the largest xxx in Europe?
5. What could be the consequences of xxx?
  - Human loss
  - Socio-economic
  - Environmental
  - Cultural heritage
  - Others
6. Can the causes of xxx be influenced by human behaviour?
7. Can the consequences of xxx be influenced by human behaviour?
8. Can xxx be predicted?
9. Is there any way to prevent xxx?
10. Is there any way to mitigate xxx consequences?
11. What to do in case of xxx ?
  - (good reactions, personal protective measures, school drills, ...)
12. What type of maps on xxx exist?
  - What are they used for?
  - Can I get these maps and from where?

For each question, the authors should propose a maximum of 20 lines on the main page and a link to a specific page with additional information related to that specific question.

Contributors are also required to provide for every question additional available material (such as case studies, lessons learnt, learning exercises, images, videos, weblinks, ...), taking care that the rights on presented material are granted : own material or "public" material should always be favoured.

### C. Identification of partners for other risks

Potential partners within the network of Specialized Centres for preparing similar material for other risks were identified during the meeting.

Some of them are already represented in the Working Group:

- Landslides: CERG (for a revision of existing material)
- Coastal risks : Anton Micallef (with the possible cooperation of Michel Vigneaux)
- Volcanoes : Armando Mauro
- Earthquakes : Armando Mauro
- Floods : Kolio Kolev

While other possible partners are not:

- Radiological risk: Ukrainian Centre
- Droughts : Algerian Centre
- Forest fires : Greek Centre

The Secretariat will contact the last three Centres to propose them to collaborate to the project.

The deadline for submitting draft versions is set to October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 (only the English version is required for this date) in order to discuss their content in an exceptional meeting planned in autumn.

Other important partners in the subsequent step are secondary school teachers and students who should evaluate the prepared material. The participants emphasized the utility of testing the material in the classrooms and proposed to search such local partners in the following countries:

- Italy
- Malta
- Cyprus
- Bulgaria

### D. Administration and design of the website

Based on the experience gained in preparing the landslides material, a need to adjust the structure of the website to better fit the users' requirements was decided. The new proposed structure is the following:

- About the initiative
- Common concepts
  - Hazard
  - Vulnerability
  - Risk
  - Disaster
- Hazards
  - Natural
  - Man made
- Material
  - Case studies
  - Photos
  - Learning exercises
  - ...
- Protect yourself
  - ... (*subsections to be defined later*)
- Discussion forum

## II. OTHER SCHOOL EDUCATION INITIATIVES

According to the newly adopted Terms of Reference of the Working Group who enlarges its mandate, the participants also discussed of other school education related aspects of the Agreement's activities.

### A. Conclusions of the Paphos' workshop

The Secretariat briefly recalled the conclusions of the European and Mediterranean Workshop on "*Disaster Reduction at School*", held in Paphos (Cyprus) from 29 to 30 October 2007. During this workshop, three main domains were discussed:

- the safety in schools : apart from usual building requirements and accurate evacuation procedures, the way such infrastructures are used can be a source of either increased or reduced vulnerability;
- the integration of DRR education in curricula : in most of the countries, the most likely approach is to promote inclusion within already existing curricula, with a clear support by educational partners;
- alternative tools for DRR education: the use of Internet by NGOs can cope with the present lack of formal training in DRR but cannot promote the suggested global "risk culture".

### B. Safety in school buildings

One of the main proposals emerged at the Paphos' workshop, namely the possibility of organizing a seminar on school building safety in 2009, was discussed by the participants. They supported the idea but recalled that many works had already been done on this domain and several agencies had been active in this field. As a consequence, this topic should be addressed in an innovative way to really result in a real contribution on how to improve safety (in the larger sense) in schools. The proposed approach is to focus mainly on the usage of the school building (by their usual users but also by the whole community) instead of discussing only on purely technical issues.

### C. Possibilities of pilot projects in schools

Even if the material proposed by the BeSafeNet website is useful, promoting DRR education activities among schools in the European and Mediterranean space remains a major challenge. As a large scale implementation seems unfeasible for the moment, the more realistic approach is to promote pilot projects on DRR education in some schools in different countries, taking advantage of the previously identified schools who should evaluate the BeSafeNet material.

### D. Cooperation in ISDR Knowledge and Education Thematic Cluster initiatives

The Secretariat recalled that the Agreement is one of the key partners of this Cluster who collaborated to the organization of the 2006-2007 World Disaster Reduction Campaign "*Disaster risk reduction begins at school*". After the end of the Campaign, the Cluster Group had pursued its work and its forthcoming activities will be oriented towards promoting the introduction of DRR in formal education and the diffusion of best existing materials in several languages. The work of the Agreement is clearly in line with the strategy and can consequently benefit from this wider international cooperation.

## NEXT MEETING

The Secretariat proposed that a specific meeting takes place on **13-14 November 2008 in Lisbon** to present and discuss the draft versions of material related to other risks for the BeSafeNet project.

The participants wished to thank Ms. Apicella and all the staff of the CUEBC for their excellent organisation and warm welcome.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Mr. Dorian CASTALDINI, Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Largo S. Eufemia, 19, I – 41100 MODENA / ITALY

Tel. +39.059.2055856 Fax. +39.059.2055887 E-mail: [castaldini.doriano@unimore.it](mailto:castaldini.doriano@unimore.it)

Mr. Kolio P. KOLEV, Director, European Centre for Risk Prevention, 4, Blvd. Vitocha, Office 316, Post-box 862, 1000 SOFIA / BULGARIA

Tel/Fax. +359.2.988.35.54 Fax: +359.2.517075 E-mail: [kolio.kolev@cslt.org](mailto:kolio.kolev@cslt.org)

Mr. Armando MAURO, Director of the International Institute STOP DISASTERS, European University Centre for the Cultural Heritage (CUEBC), Ravello / ITALY

Tél. +39 089 85 76 69 Fax: +39 089 85 77 11 E-mail : [armauro3000@gmail.com](mailto:armauro3000@gmail.com) - [armauro2002@libero.it](mailto:armauro2002@libero.it)

Mr Marinos PAPAPOULOS, Senior Civil Defence Officer, Cyprus Civil Defence, Ministry of the Interior, Paphos Civil Defence HQ, 91 Eleftherios Venizelos, 8021 PAPHOS / CYPRUS

Tel: +357.26.818.470 Fax: +357.22.315.638 E-mail: [m.papadopoulos@cd.moi.gov.cy](mailto:m.papadopoulos@cd.moi.gov.cy)

Mr Anton MICALLEF, Director, Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics, Earth Systems Science Unit, Faculty of Science, University of Malta MSD 2080 / Malta

Tel.: +356 2340 2013 E-mail: [anton.micallef@um.edu.mt](mailto:anton.micallef@um.edu.mt)

Mr. Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO, Executive Secretary of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, Council of Europe, F- 67075 STRASBOURG Cedex

Tel. +33.3.88.41.26.16 Fax. +33.3.88.41.27.87 E-mail: [eladio.fernandez-galiano@coe.int](mailto:eladio.fernandez-galiano@coe.int)

Mr. Francisc PLA, Executive Secretary Deputy, EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, Council of Europe, F- 67075 STRASBOURG Cedex

Tel. +33.3.90.21.49.30 Fax. +33.3.88.41.27.87 E-mail: [francisc.pla@coe.int](mailto:francisc.pla@coe.int)

**Excused**

Mr. Olivier MAQUAIRE, Directeur, Centre européen pour les risques géomorphologiques, CERG, 3 rue de l'Argonne, F – 67083 STRASBOURG CEDEX / FRANCE

Tél. +33.(0)3. 90.24.09.36 / 24. 09. 11 Fax: : 33 (0) 3. 90.24.09.00

E-mail : [olivier.maquaire@est.u-strasbg.fr](mailto:olivier.maquaire@est.u-strasbg.fr); [maquaire@equinoxe.u-strasbg.fr](mailto:maquaire@equinoxe.u-strasbg.fr)