



EUROPEAN CENTER for FOREST FIRES

Under
the aegis of the



GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR
CIVIL PROTECTION, GREECE



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

"Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response"

Paris, 22.-23.10.2013.

Workshop on:

“Human rights in Disasters: Search and Rescue Operations in disasters especially for vulnerable people”

(5th & 6th of November 2009 , Athens, Greece)

Organized by:

- The Open Partial Agreement (OPA) of the Council of Europe (CoE)
- General Secretariat for Civil Protection, Greece (GSCP)
- National Technical University of Athens, Greece (NTUA)
- Second Generation Locator for Urban Search and Rescue operations – “SGL for USaR” (EU FP7 project) <http://www.sgl-eu.org/>





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Participation of more than 150 experts, operational people and representatives from the UNISDR, WADEM, EC Civil Protection Unit and the Council of Europe





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The workshop aimed at:

Developing a network of people and organizations which will encourage and reinforce research and development of procedures capable of supporting vulnerable groups in case of a natural disaster (earthquake, forest fire)

Expected outputs included the **identification of policies and strategies** in order to increase the capabilities for coping with disasters, **focusing on people with disabilities.**





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MAIN TOPICS OF THE AGENDA

- Human rights and disasters : An overview
- Adapting search and rescue operations:
 - *How to search and rescue the elderly and people with disabilities (e.g. mobility problems, sight or hearing impairment)*
 - *What are the existing approaches; Identify the gaps*
 - *Define new requirements*
- Enhancing emergency plans
- Preparedness and preventive measures
- Building a common understanding-
Recommendations

Program:

Thursday, 5 November 2009

8:30-9:00

Coffee

9:00-10:30

Welcome and Opening address

"Welcoming address" Prof. Konstantinos Moutzouris,
Rector of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), GR

"Council of Europe and Human rights"

Mr Francesc Pla, Deputy to the Executive Secretary, EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement of the Council of Europe

"Emergency response and vulnerable groups"

Dr Olga Kaka-liagou, General Secretariat for Civil Protection, GR

"Earthquakes and preventive measures"

Prof. Konstantinos Makropoulos, Director of the European Centre on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes (ECPFE), GR

"Disaster Risk Reduction and the protection of vulnerable people-Preparedness and preventive measures"

Mr Stepan Badalyan, Director of European Interregional Scientific and Educational Centre on Major Risk Management (ECRM), Permanent Correspondent of Armenia in EUR-OPA Major Hazards, AM

"Ethics and human factor in the FP7 project "Second Generation Locator for Urban Search and Rescue operations - SGL for USaR"

Prof. Milt Statheropoulos, Coordinator of the "SGL for USaR" project, Director of the European Center for Forest Fires (ECCFF), GR

Session I: Human rights in disasters-An overview

10:30-10:45

Coffee break

10:45-12:00

Presentations [Moderator: Mr Francesc Pla, Council of Europe]

"Human Rights and Disaster Risk Reduction"

Mr Demetrio Innocenti, United Nations, International Strategies for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)

"Human rights in emergency situations"

Mr Geert Seynaeve, President, Education Committee of World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM), Member of the Board, Assistant Editor of the journal "Prehospital and Disaster Medicine"

"Bioethics in Emergency and Crisis Intervention"

Mrs Beatrice Toussaint, Officer in Chief for Scientific Research, Belgian Ministry of Health

"The situation in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg: legal and practical aspects"

Mr Jean-Mathias Goerens, Technical Counsel to the Rescue and Emergency Administration, LU

12:00-13:00

Presentations [Moderator: Prof. Konstantinos Makropoulos, ECPFE]

"PROMYLIFE: a project dealing with the protection of vulnerable groups from natural disasters"

Mrs Eleni Syrrakou, Project Coordinator, Development Enterprise of Achaia Prefecture (N.E.A.), GR

"Earthquake Protection Policy for People with Disabilities in Greece"

Mrs Chrysa Gountroniouchou, Geologist Msc., Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (E.P.P.O.), GR

"Organization of search & rescue operations in Ukraine during large scale emergency situations"

Mr Volodymyr Demchuk¹ and Mr Sergiy Zibzev²,

¹Ministry of Ukraine of Emergencies and Affairs of Population Protection from the Consequences of Chernobyl Catastrophe, ²National University of Life and Environmental Sciences, UA



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RESULTS: A catalogue of ideas

- By using article No 121 of declaration of human rights about discrimination the Council of Europe legally support rights and concrete actions
- There is a need to clarify the various definitions of concept used and particularly the concept of vulnerable groups: not only disabled but also hard to reach people
- Build on existing laws and codes is needed-Extend them to include elements of human rights based approach, especially in the field of disaster prevention and reduction
- There is a need to develop and introduce in appropriate way relevant supplements to the texts of United Nations “The standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for people with disabilities”
- Implementation of the UN convention of 2006 about disabled (A/61/611 Distr.: General, 6 December 2006) may be taken into consideration



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- Expand current national guidelines, considering issues on human rights and disaster management
- Consider international guidelines on the subject such as the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
- Cannot stick to either conceptual approaches or to purely operative measures: both domain need each other to be efficient globally
- A list/inventory of existing USAR protocols and technologies used is need
- Location of people with disabilities (hearing or sight impairment), as well as unconscious victims is very difficult- It seems that human body smell is very critical as a location method (**“chemical signs of life”**)
- People with disabilities today are over 10% in the world (about 650 million of people) and consist 15% of the EU population.
- The existence of a social environment and social networking could be proven very significant for persons with disabilities



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FOREST FIRE NET (FFNet) Volume 6

a Special Issue on the proceedings of the workshop
can available at: http://fiactu.ntua.gr/images/files/ffnet_6.pdf

All presentations can be available at:

<http://www.sgl-eu.org/>

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