



# ***Persons with Disabilities in Disaster: Preparedness and Response***

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‘EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES’ is a nonprofit NGO in the disability sector. It represents over *10,000 social service provider organisations* across Europe.

EASPD plays a key role on a European level as a representative of disability service providers, working for an inclusive Europe

- Based in Brussels
- Established in 1996
- Objective: Equal opportunities for people with disabilities through effective and high quality service systems in Europe, which are affordable, available and adaptable.



## 3 PILLARS:

### INFORMATION

Service provision to members: networking, offer exchange possibilities to members at European, national, regional and local level

### INNOVATION

Research and Development: as basis for innovation and improvement of service provision.

### IMPACT

Policy-influencing: offering service providers a voice in Europe through

- Cooperation
- Conferences
- Political Representation,
- Close cooperation with EU Institutions and the Council of Europe



- I. Pre-disaster aspects
- II. Disaster response and interventions
- III. Post- disaster challenges
- IV. Ethical and human rights dimension

# I. Pre-disaster aspects



- General accessibility of the build environment
- Disability perspective in intervention plans
- Accessibility of information
- Quality of the available data
- Training of the rescue team

## II. Response and Interventions

- Access to rescue vehicles / intervenants (design for all)
- Reliable data system
- Medical interventions
- Temporary shelters

## III. What after a disaster?



### Post- Disaster Challenges:

- Special focus on chronically ill (diets, radiation, diabetes...)
- Therapeutic (post-trauma) support: mental health
- Special needs education in temporary education schemes
- Employment? Anti-poverty strategies?
- Disability perspective in reconstruction plans and strategies
- Access to cash (loans)

## IV. Human Rights and Ethical Dimensions



- The right to live
- The responsibility to choose

What is our value set?



# Conclusion



- Values and mindset= crucial
- Accessibility and design for all
- Do not forget the aftermath



**Thank you !**

**Luk Zelderloo**