



RESCUE, AID & CULTURE

ERNST MORITZ ARNDT
UNIVERSITÄT GREIFSWALD



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Civil protection in European multicultural societies – starting points for practise and development

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Keynote speech delivered at the EUR-OPA workshop

Civil protection in diverse societies

June, 12th, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France

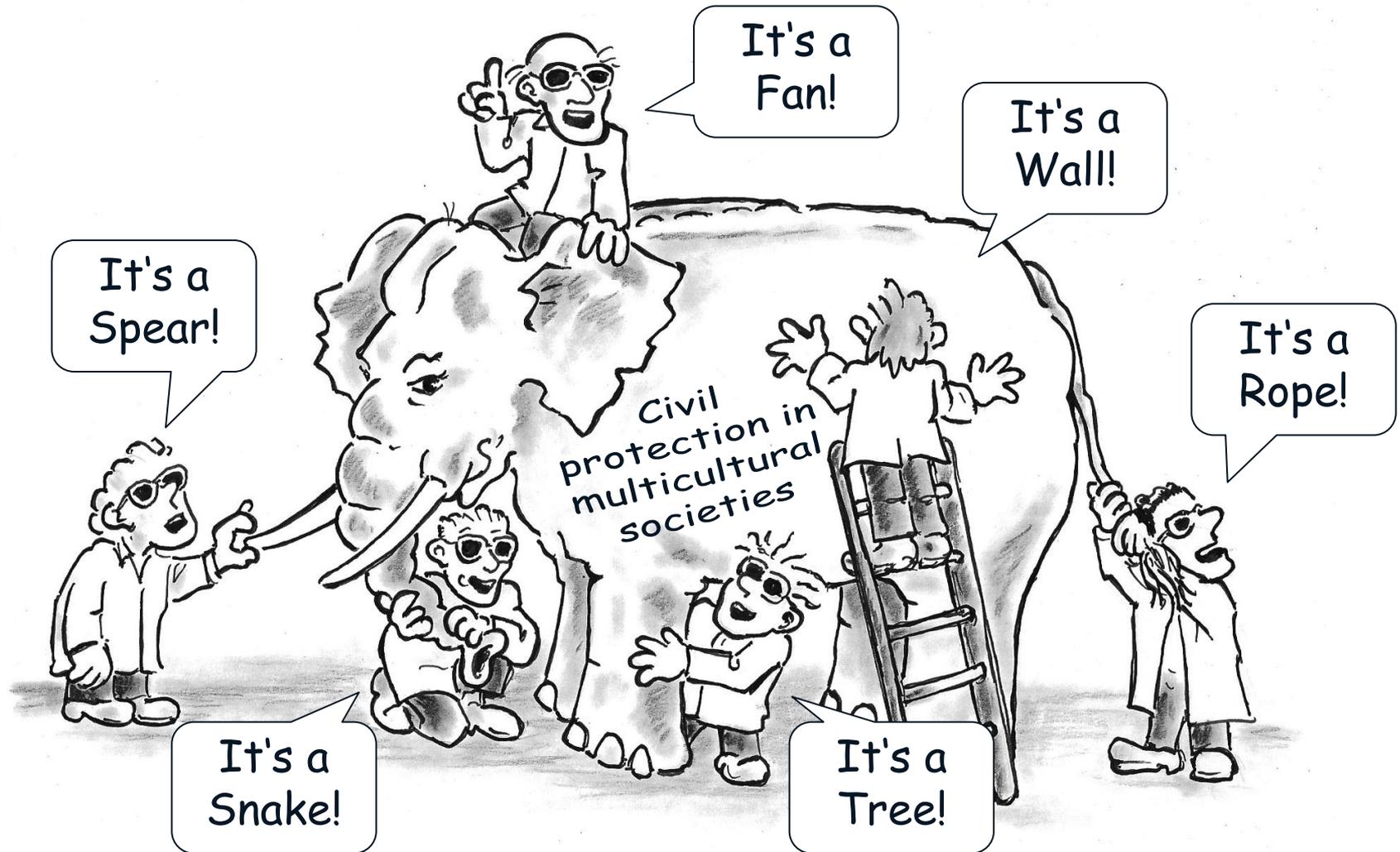
Objectives

- ❑ Civil protection (CP) in multicultural societies – on the way to a ‘shared mental model’
- ❑ European societies – Are they (all) multicultural?
- ❑ Possible implications of sociocultural and ethnic diversity for CP – examples
- ❑ Theoretical foundation – Community resilience
- ❑ Cornerstones of Community resilience in multicultural societies
- ❑ Example: Intercultural aspects in different phases of disaster management
- ❑ The EUR-OPA questionnaires – some preliminary results
- ❑ Some conclusions and suggestions for further steps

Civil protection in multicultural societies – on the way to a ‚shared mental model‘ (1/2)



Civil protection in multicultural societies – on the way to a ,shared mental model‘ (2/2)

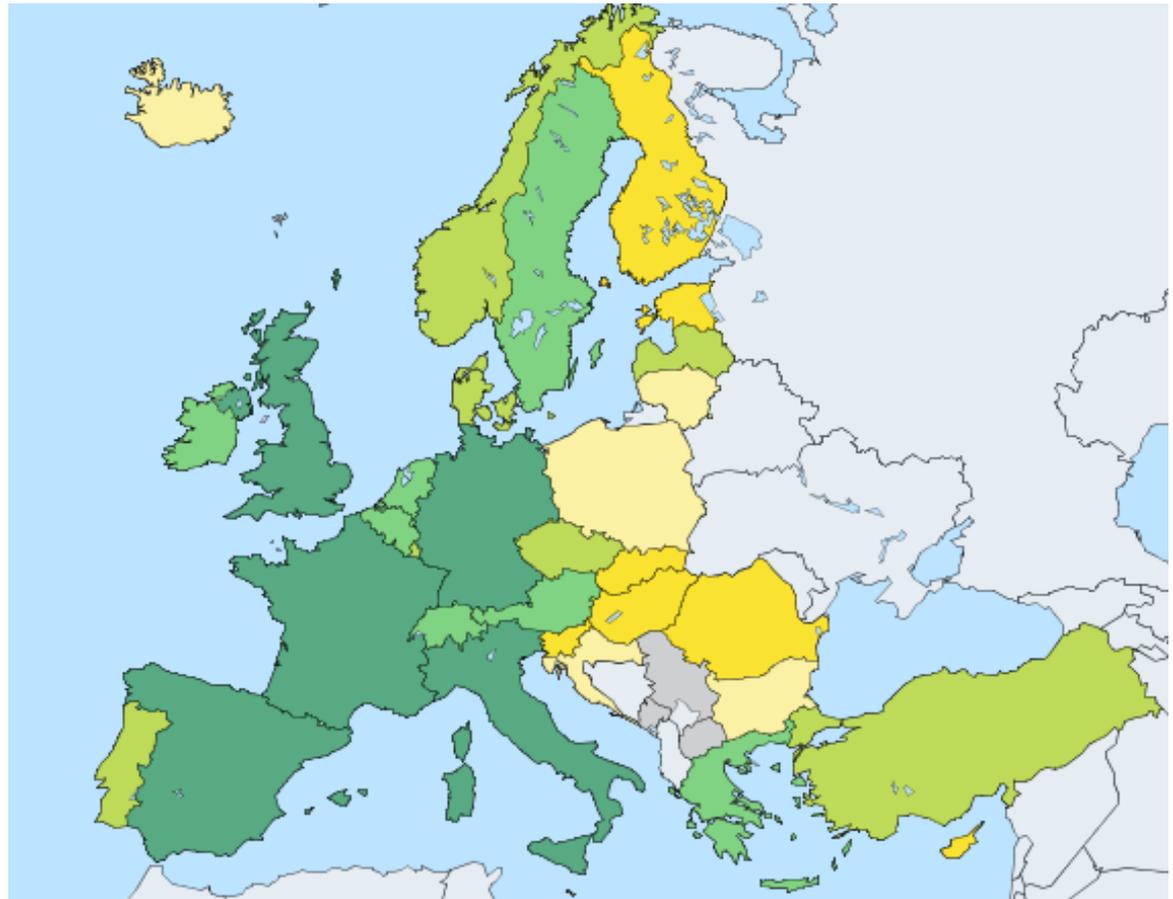


Multicultural populations across Europe (?)

(1/2)

Foreigners in European countries

*Please note –
these are absolute
figures,
not percentages of the
total population*



Legend

12337.0 - 58859.0

58859.0 - 197141.0

197141.0 - 457396.0

457396.0 - 1869070.0

1869070.0 - 7696413.0

Not available

Minimum value:12337.0 Maximum value:7696413.0

Source: Eurostat, 2014

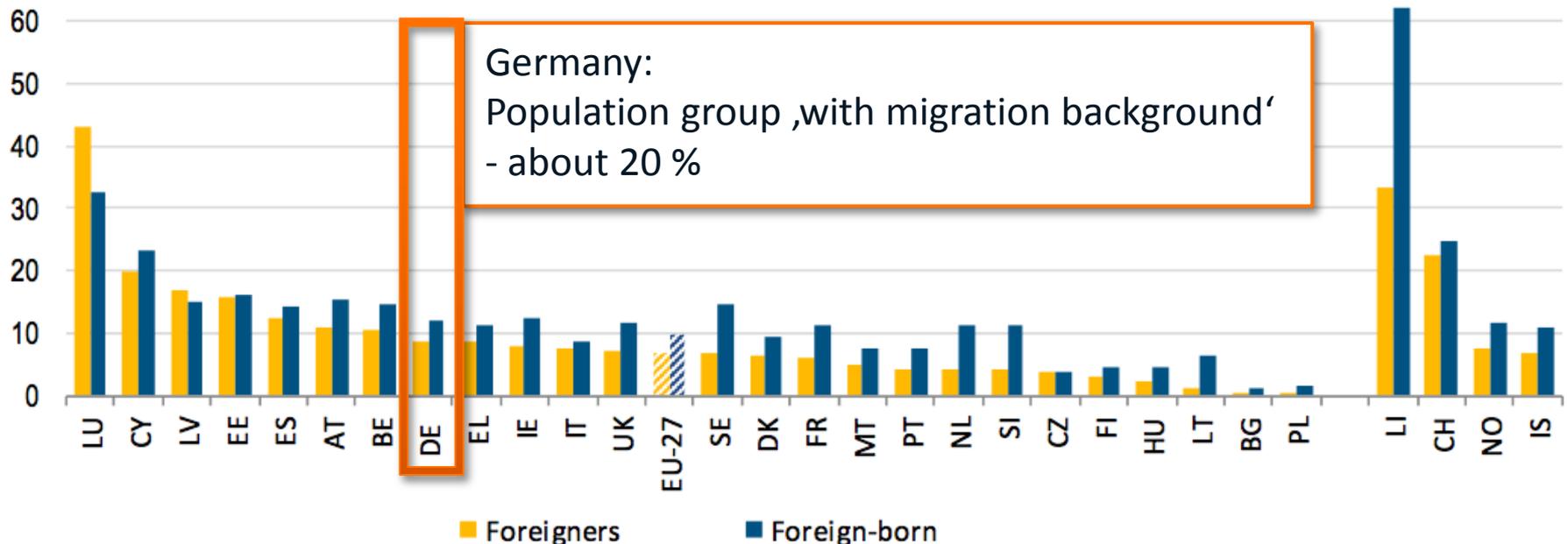
Multicultural populations across Europe (?)

(2/2)

Foreigners and foreign-born members of populations in Europe:

A large variety in numbers and backgrounds

Figure 1: Proportion of foreigners and foreign-born in the total population, 2011 (%)



No data by country of birth for RO, SK, ME, HR, MK and TR

Source: Eurostat, 2012

Possible implications of sociocultural and ethnic diversity for CP (1/2)

Example: USA

- Hurricane Katrina, 2005
- Development of the *National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Health and Healthcare*
- Aim: Increase of security of supply and service, and resilience of the *whole* population (including their participation in CP)



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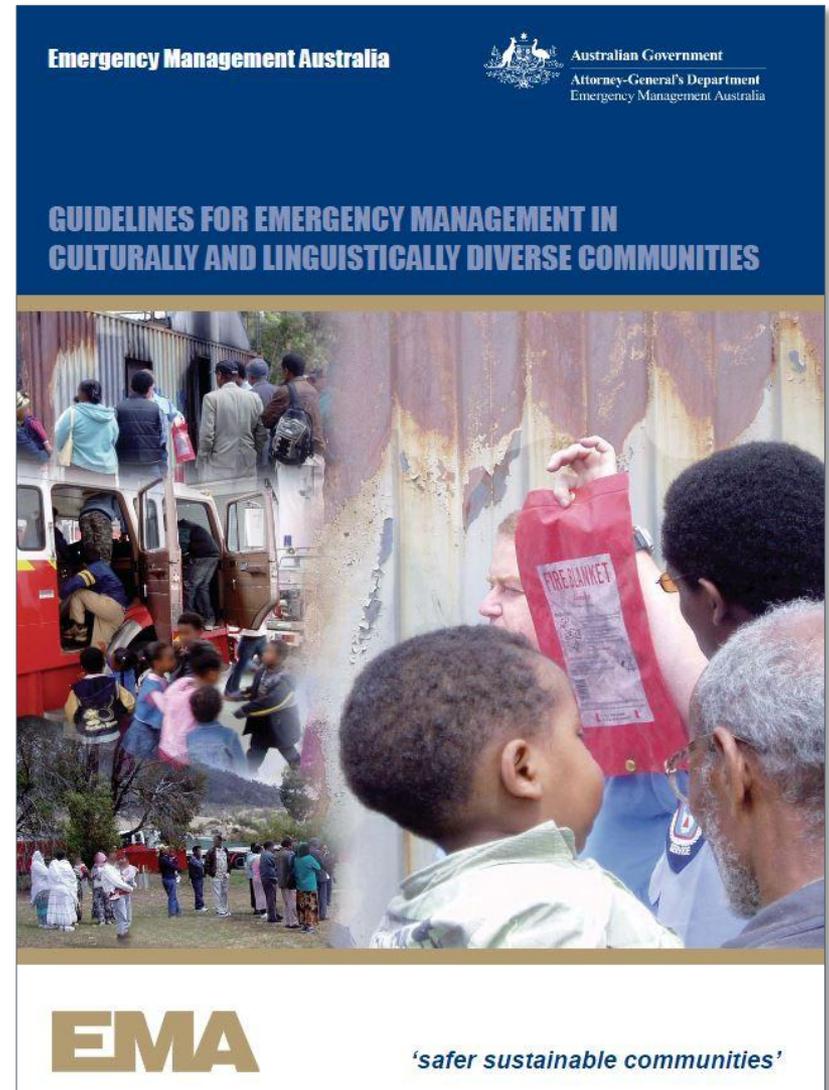
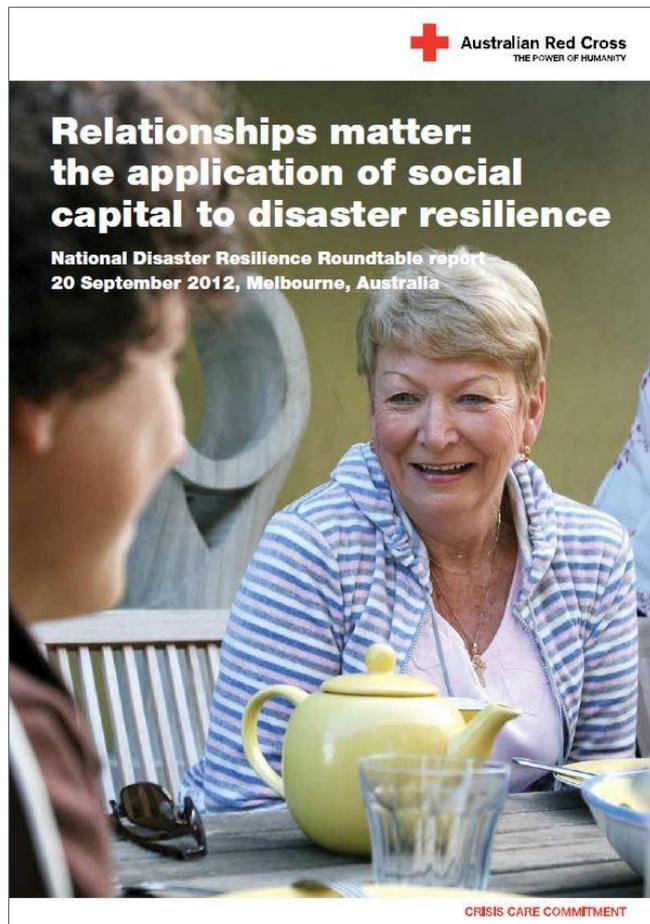
Browse by Resource Type

Cultural Competency in Disaster Recovery: Lessons Learned from the Hurricane Katrina Experience for Better Serving Marginalized Communities

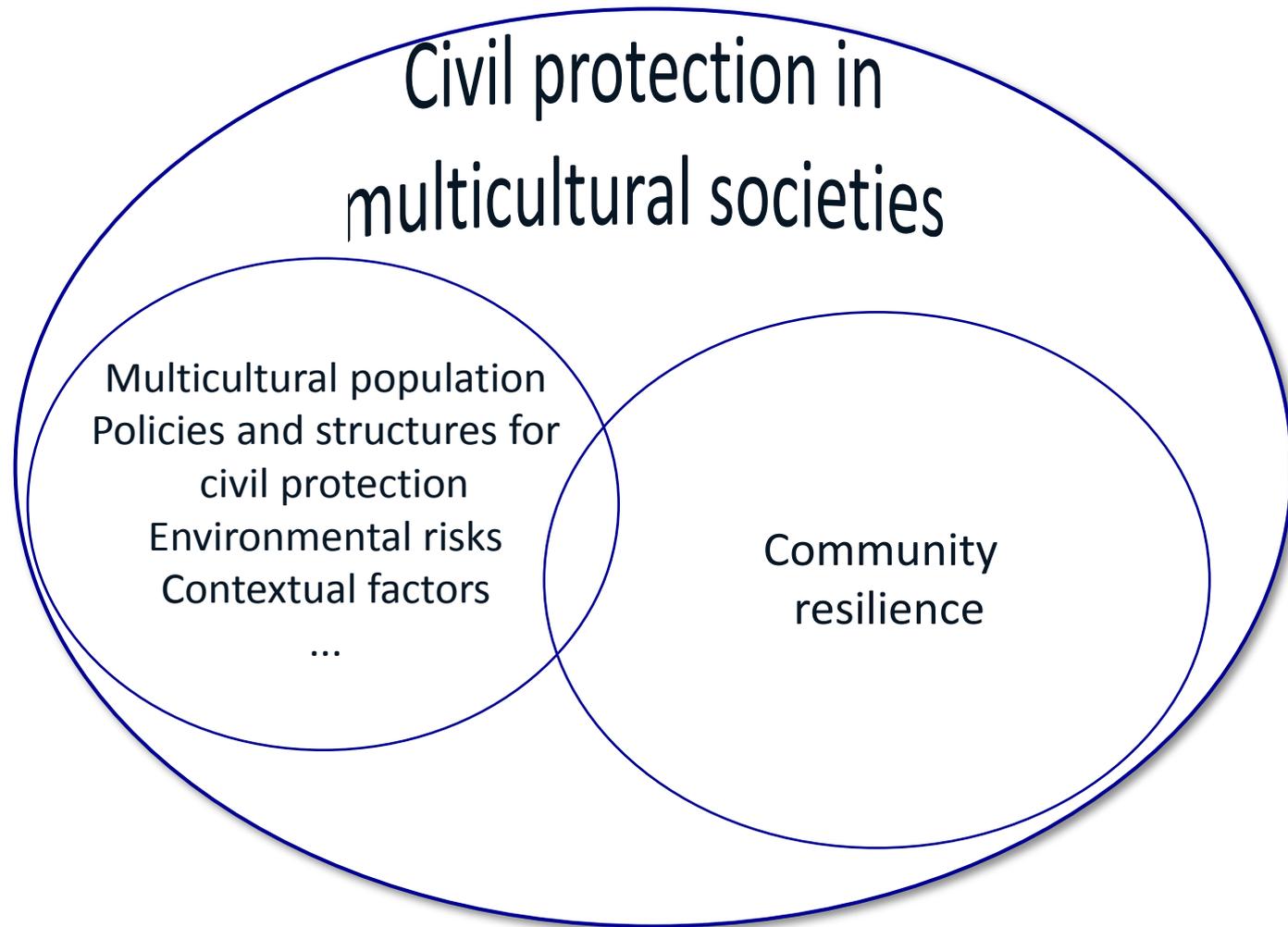


Possible implications of sociocultural and ethnic diversity for CP (2/2)

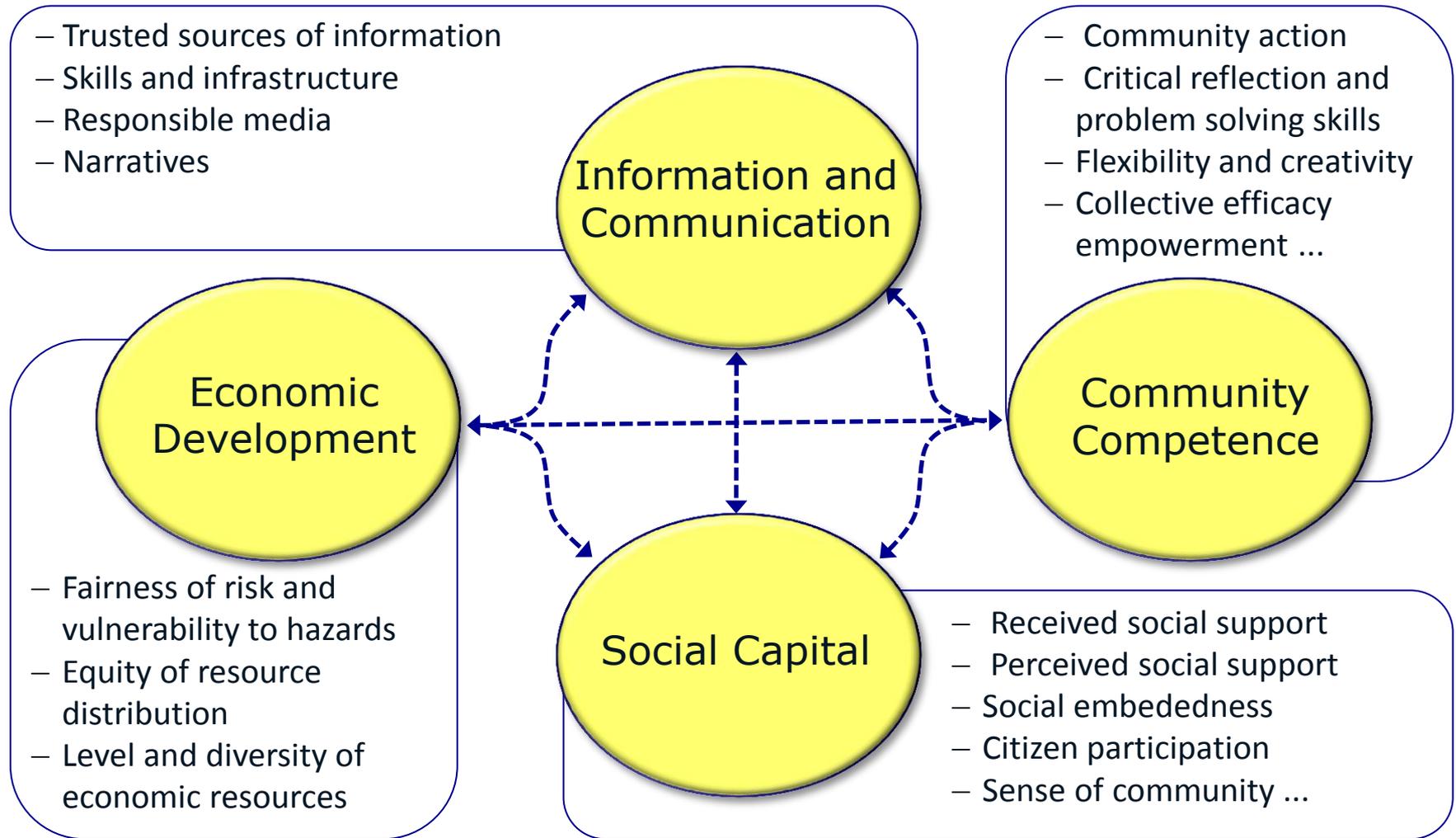
Example: Australia



Theoretical foundation – ‚Community resilience‘



Community resilience as *a set of networked adaptive capacities* (Norris et al., 2008)



(Three) Cornerstones of Community resilience in multicultural societies

Community resilience in multicultural societies

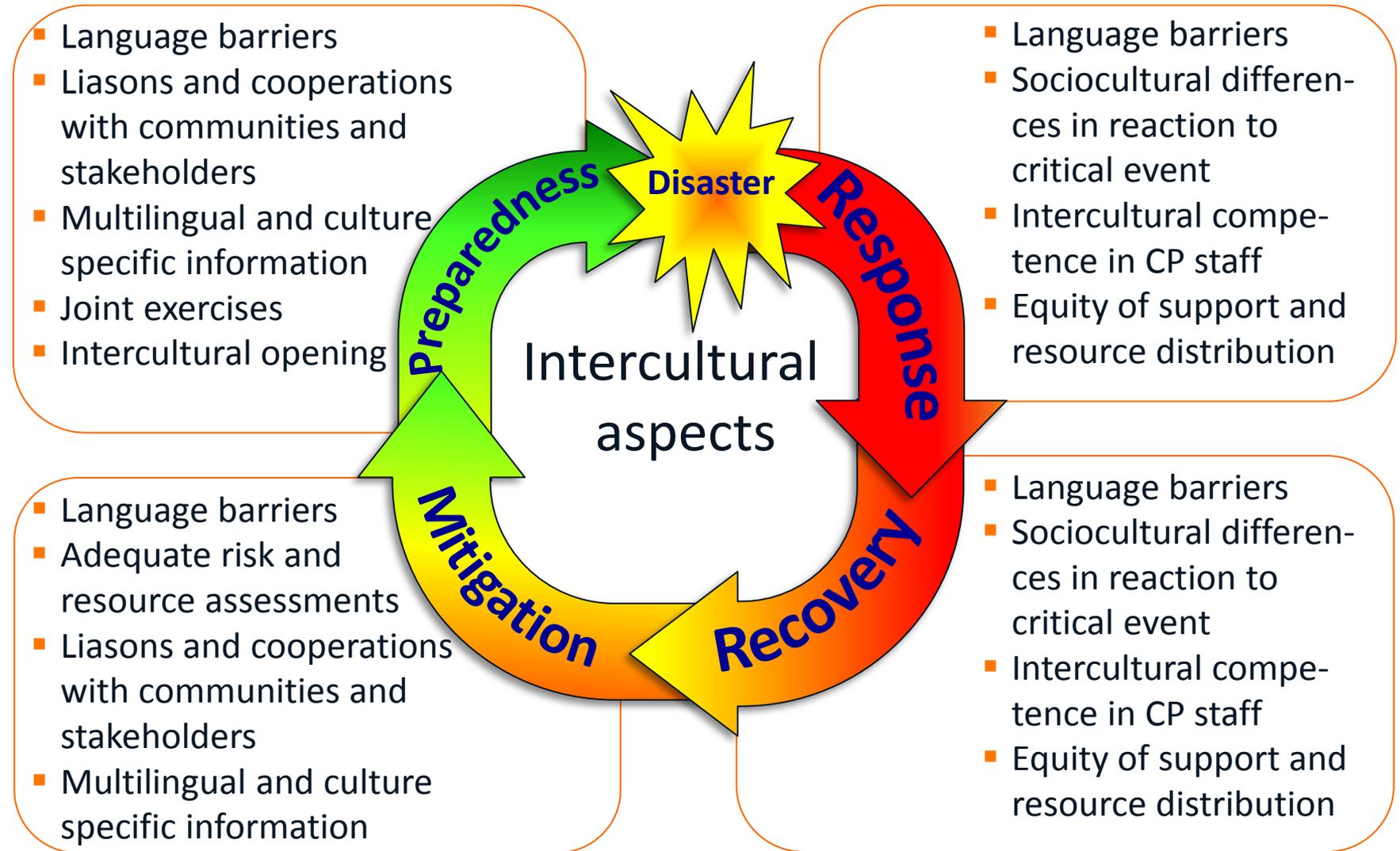
(Inter-) Cultural awareness / competence in CP authorities and organisations

Emergency and disaster preparedness of migrant and minority groups

Participation of migrants and minority group members in CP / Intercultural opening

see
aforementioned
model of
Norris et al.
/
Ethical principles
(e.g. EUR-OPA)
/
Strategies for
action (e.g.
UNISDR Hyogo-
Framework)

Crisis and Disaster Management Cycle



Questionnaires – some preliminary results

(1/3)

Questionnaires sent out: ??

Replies with answers to questionnaire: 18 (?? % return rate)

Countries replying: 15

Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Luxembourg, Morocco, Monaco, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine

Answers:

- Question 1 – *Potential risks*

Various (e.g. natural hazards, technological accidents, man-made disasters)

- Question 2 – *Administrative bodies/organisations in charge of risk prevention and management*

Various (predominantly State institutions and Public authorities on national, regional and local levels)

Questionnaires – some preliminary results

(2/3)

- Question 3 – *Specific needs of migrants without language proficiency*

Considerable variety of answers (from “no specific needs, e.g. most migrants speak language of the host country” over “not identified” over “specific activities in place or planned” to “identified and considered”)

- Question 4 – *Migrants’ needs and cultural issues considered in emergency and evacuation plans*

Emergency and evacuation plans and risk maps exist in all (areas of the) countries replying.

Considerations of migrants with limited or no proficiency in the host countries language or other cultural issues range from “no need for specification, because plans work irrespective of cultural differences” over “activities like multilingual risk information are in place or planned” to “linguistic and other cultural issues are identified and considered in all plans”.

Questionnaires – some preliminary results

(3/3)

- Question 5 – *Information for migrants concerning existing risks*

Considerable variety of answers, ranging from “no specific information/ activities (e.g., because migrants are informed over same media like majority population)” over “risk information resources (like websites and written material) in different languages (partly, provided at the time of entry)” to “special presentations to organised migrant groups about CP”

- Question 6 – *Migrants/migrant organisations’ involvement in evacuation planning*

Majority of answers indicate now specific involvement to date, but several responses indicated plans for activities to change this.

- Question 7 – *Migrants/migrant organisations’ participation in evacuation exercises and provisions for encouragement*

Answers predominantly indicate neither specific participation of migrants nor actions for encouragement, but some respective planning. Migrants are involved as population parts in mandatory exercises (e.g. in schools).

(Some) Conclusions and suggestions

- Risks, resources, and respective needs in the context of CP are likely to show a large variety among the population groups *migrants*, *asylum seekers* and *refugees*.
- ‘Community resilience’ (CR) seems to be an appropriate theoretical foundation for CP in multicultural societies, yet the concept needs to be further investigated in this realm and operationalised into observable measures or indicators.
- Activities to increase CR should be guided by (inter-)national frameworks, but rely on respective data, predominantly derived from assessments at local levels.
- Intercultural aspects of CP are to date disproportionately less considered and addressed. Respective plans and actions should take into account the immanent challenges on all involved sides.

*Thank you very much
for your attention!*

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Literature

Geenen EM (2012). Gesellschaftliche Verfügung über Kapitalien und Vulnerabilität in konzeptioneller Perspektive [Societal Disposal of Capitals and Vulnerability in a conceptual Perspective; Transl. CH]. In Berlejung A (Ed.). Disaster and Relief Management, Katastrophen und ihre Bewältigung. pp. 41-65, Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.

Norris FH, Stevens SP, Pfefferbaum B, Wyche KF & Pfefferbaum RL (2008). Community Resilience as a Metaphor, Theory, Set of Capacities, and Strategy for Disaster Readiness. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 41/1-2, pp. 127-50.
DOI 10.1007/s10464-007-9156-6

CP research projects at EMAUG (1)

BeSeCu (Behaviour, Security and Culture, *completed*)

7th Framework Program

Human behavior in crisis situations: A cross-cultural investigation in order to tailor security-related communication

ReHiKu I (completed) & II (Rescue, Aid and Culture – Intercultural Competence in Civil Protection)

German Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance

Research on special needs of migrant and minority group members in emergency situations and on emergency knowledge and preparedness in the German population; development of an intercultural competence training for civil protection staff

CATO (CBRN crisis management: Architecture, Technologies and Operational Procedures)

7th Framework Program

Human behavior in case of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism. Implications for communication strategies

CP research projects at EMAUG (2)

INKA (Professional integration of volunteers in disaster prevention and crisis management)

Civil security program of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Research on new incentive systems for civic engagement in disaster prevention and crisis management

ISAR+ (Online and Mobile Communications for Crisis Response and search and Rescue)

7th Framework Program

Research on the usage of mobile applications in crisis situations to minimize the impact on society and citizens and enhance effectiveness of PPDRs

SNOWBALL (Cascading Effects in Crisis Situations)

7th Framework Program

Lower the impact of aggravating factors in crisis situations thanks to adaptative foresight and decision-support tools