



Strasbourg, 15 December 2013

AP/CAT (2013) 14
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EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)

Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response

Paris 22-23 October 2013

Report

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1. Opening of the Workshop

The meeting was opened at 14.00 on 22 October 2013 by Ms Mechthilde FUHRER, Deputy to the Executive Secretary of the European Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), on behalf of the Secretariat, with Mr Michel FEIDER, Vice-Chair of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement in the chair.

2. Adoption of the Draft Agenda

The draft agenda was adopted (*cf. Appendix 1*).

3. Introduction to the workshop

Ms Fuhrer welcomed the 40 participants (*cf. Appendix 2*), a broad community of stakeholders, from the field of disability, civil protection, from specialised ministries, agencies, implicated in the work at policy-making and legislative levels, from international organisations or national agencies, active at regional or local levels, in the planning, training and provision of information on the topic Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response. Ms Fuhrer gave a particularly warm welcome to participants with disabilities because they are the best advocates in issues concerning their lives. She further welcomed the Council of Europe experts, representing the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the International non-governmental Organisations, the Social Cohesion and Integration Division and the members of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of EUR-OPA. She then wished to dedicate this Workshop to the memory of Mr Damir Cemerin, the former Permanent Correspondent from Croatia, who had been very enthusiastic about this project.

Background of the Workshop¹

The Ethical Principles on Disaster Risk Reduction and people's Resilience, adopted in 2011 by the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of EUR-OPA are the basis for the current work programme of EUR-OPA. In 2012 the Committee decided to focus part of its pluri-annual work on guidance for a more operative practice with vulnerable groups: persons with disabilities; children; migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

The Council of Europe strives to promote the perception of persons with disabilities as holders of rights in the same way as all other citizens, considering disability to be part of human diversity. Defending values and promoting human rights through Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response is at the heart of the Council of Europe's mission. The moral and ethical case for an inclusive approach guarantees the right of people with disabilities to adequate care in disasters. Little has been done to include people with disability into practical programmes of action in civil protection. Yet this topic is dealt with at prominent places and in key documents.

- The Council of Europe Disability Plan (2006-2015) and the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities are the guiding frameworks.
- At the UN General Assembly (September 2013) a consensus was reached on the inclusion of people with disabilities in the Post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- In 2013 the theme of the UNISDR International Day for Disaster Reduction was "living with disabilities and disasters". The Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe issued a statement (*cf. Appendix 3*) mentioning also this

¹ Document APCAT(2012) 16 and Document APCAT(2012) 20

Workshop. On 10.10.2013 a major colloquy brought together all German stakeholders acting in the field of disability and civil protection in Bonn, Germany: "Disaster Risk Reduction for all: current approaches to including people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction".

Aim of the Workshop

The Secretariat circulated a Questionnaire on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk reduction in March 2013. Based on the replies received from 20 countries and two organisations, a Report, European Guidelines and a Recommendation were drawn up. The aim of the Workshop is to exchange on good practices, discuss these documents and to come up with conclusions and a Plan of Action. On 24 October 2013 the Recommendation will be endorsed by the annual meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of EUR-OPA. The ultimate aim is to foster on better resilience, adaptation and resistance to disasters for people with disabilities and this within the entire disaster cycle.

Mr Thorsten AFFLERBACH, Head of Social Cohesion and Integration Division from the Council of Europe, presented the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015, as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). The Action Plan seeks to translate the aims of the Council of Europe with regard to human rights, non-discrimination, equal opportunities, full citizenship and the participation of people with disabilities into a European framework on disability for the next decade². This Action Plan aims to provide a comprehensive framework that is both flexible and adaptable in order to meet country-specific conditions. It is intended to serve as a roadmap for policy makers, to enable them to design, adjust, refocus and implement appropriate plans, programmes and innovative strategies. The Council of Europe will seek to implement the Action Plan by providing positive assistance to all member States in the form of recommendations, advice and expert information.

Mr Michel Feider, Vice-Chair of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and Director of the Rescue Services Administration in Luxembourg, voiced the operational side by speaking on "Dealing with disabled and vulnerable persons: from the perspective of the emergency management". Emergency management in case of catastrophes or major events has generally a limited focus on problems related to disability. Current practices in case of relief operations may result in a discrimination of vulnerable groups. This requires emergency managers to address the diverse needs of a range of people with a wide spectrum of disability and activity limitation issues. Including the specific needs of disabled or vulnerable persons and adopt strategies to provide them access to services in case of relief operation is a (new) challenge to emergency managers.

The following two afternoon sessions were dedicated to the presentation of case studies.

4. Case Studies: The Situation of People with Disabilities Related to Disaster Risk Reduction

The first part of the case studies and good examples tackled the issue from the perspective of people with disabilities.

Mr Josef NEUMANN, member of the Landtag in Düsseldorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen, representing the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, stated the change of paradigm from segregation to inclusion of people with disabilities, and gave examples. He illustrated that political decision makers are aware of the

² All presentations done at the Workshop are available on-line on the EUR-OPA web page: www.coe.int/europarisks

problems on how to set up political and organisational structures related to the issue of the Workshop.

Mr Claudio DETOGNI, Independent Expert, Federsanità ANCI, Italy, then presented "The Verona Charter on the rescue of persons with disabilities in case of disasters: its role in the past and its perspectives for the future". Persons with disabilities run a much higher risk in the event of natural and manmade disasters than persons without disabilities. There is a need for ensuring better understanding of the needs of persons with disabilities and all the various forms of disabilities in situations of risk. In addition, there is a need for enhanced preparedness for intervention ensuring full consideration of the specific needs of persons with disabilities. This implies the need for securing funding to ensure that those aspects are fully integrated in the planning and implementation of any intervention.

The need to protect persons with disabilities implies a new vision of the cultural framework of emergency management where the respect of human rights is the basis of any intervention strategy. In the future, relevant local, national and international institutions will increasingly modify their approach according to this principle. New strategies, policies and interventions that take into account the involved European and International normative frame have to be elaborated. He illustrated his talk with some video extracts.

Ms Magda ROOZE and Mag. Eva MUENKER-KRAMER, represented the Standing Committee on Crisis and Disaster Psychologists, European Federation of Psychologists Associations (EFPA) and spoke about "Guidelines for Psychosocial intervention including people with disabilities". The psychological impact showed that in the case of a disaster all concerned persons have to be followed; disaster studies indicate that disasters affect the lives of people for years and even decades. Understanding the effects of these disaster-producing events upon victims' minds, bodies, relationships, and behaviour, is crucial to the planning and organisation of the psychosocial care and for the professional field staff involved in disaster relief. The needs of the affected people should be the starting point for a tailor-made approach to psychosocial care. For a high quality, evidence based psychosocial care, it is essential that guidelines and standards are developed on the basis of scientific evidence, best practices and expert consensus. The psychosocial guidelines that will be presented take as guiding principles the need to emphasise prevention and preparedness, the importance of resilience and a personal supporting network, and the inclusion of practical, emotional and social support as the essentials of psychosocial support.

To include the integration and specific needs of people with disabilities in mainstream and general guidelines, standards and procedures are the most fruitful. We need to create an inventory of the specific needs for awareness raising, prevention and better preparation. Resilience and supporting individual needs by social networks and community based interventions are the key. Regarding implementation it is recommended to connect with the existing European networks in the field of psychosocial support after disasters.

Dr. Regina ERNST and Dr.-Ing. Dirk BOENKE, Rehabilitation International (RI) / STUVA e. V., presented a "German approach promoting accessibility of various environments". They introduced "The ten commandments of freedom from barriers", a memorable snapshot approach on the requirements for an accessible environment. They outlined a quick view of the German situation in connection with disaster risk reduction for people with reduced mobility and focused on some good practice examples for promoting accessibility in the future.

Mr David SINGH, Senior Communication Officer, UNISDR, presented the "Outcomes of the survey developed by UNISDR in the context of the International Day for Disaster Reduction" (<http://www.unisdr.org/archive/34174>). The general lack of data on the

reality of persons living with disabilities and disasters prompted UNISDR to initiate a survey to ascertain their needs. The preliminary results of this global survey have begun to clarify just why persons with disabilities die or are injured, in disproportionate numbers in disasters. As of 25 September, 5,450 people from 126 countries completed this survey which provides new insights into building a world more resilient to disasters for both disabled and able-bodied people. UNISDR will ensure that this knowledge, these experiences and recommendations are taken fully into consideration at the 2015 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction when UN member States meeting in Japan will adopt a new global framework for disaster risk reduction to replace the current Hyogo Framework for Action.

5. Case Studies: The Civil Protection perspective on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response

The second part of the case studies and good examples tackled the issue from the civil protection perspective.

Mr Stepan BADALYAN, Vice-Chair of the Permanent Correspondents and Director of the European Interregional Scientific and Educational Centre on Major Risk Management in Armenia opened the second part of the case studies. He spoke about "Awareness raising of the people with disabilities (preparedness and rules of behaviour) as an integral part of disaster preparedness and response". Ensuring the provision of equal opportunities in disaster preparedness and response to the people with disabilities requires resolving legislative and other issues and also the development of relevant information materials assigned to them. Their training through regular national and municipal campaigns on informing and warning the population about emergencies is also required.

His practical examples were followed by those from Prof. Stephanos E. DRITSOS, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Patras and Chairman of the Scientific Committee and Board Member of the Greek European Centre on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes (ECPFE) and Board Member of the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (EPPO). He introduced the "Earthquake Protection Policy for People with Disabilities" and, like his Armenian colleague, presented teaching materials that have been developed in his country. He wished to see textbooks prepared on earthquakes and guidelines and a Curriculum set up.

Ms Olga SHASHKINA, member of the Permanent Correspondents, National HFA Focal Point at the Natural and Technological Hazards Management Service in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection in Georgia, presented an overview of the current situation regarding Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in Georgia and two relevant case studies: "Inclusive DRR for vulnerable children in kindergartens and special care institutions". The first case study elaborated on the programme aiming to increase local capacity and regional cooperation for the identification and mitigation of risks likely to be exacerbated by climate change, from the point of view of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and biodiversity conservation. The pilot project within the framework of the programme provides the building of the asylum for people with disabilities with the alternative source of energy, as they often face power cuts and electric supply interruptions due to frequent strong winds and hard rains taking place in recent years caused by climate change. The second case study described an initiative for inclusive DRR in kindergartens and special care institutions. The main aim of the latter project is to improve disaster preparedness for very young and special needs children, as well as for their teachers and caretakers.

At the end of the session an exchange took place on key issues that should be further explored on the second day of the Workshop and included in follow up activities.

Good practices were exposed from different sectors and its limits were also echoed. Easy to read editions are to be welcomed, yet what needs to be done if a person has visual impairments? Warning systems, such as loudspeakers, are an excellent tool, yet what needs to be done if a person has hearing impairments? We have to take into account that when all communications are down and there is no more electricity, text messages and internet cannot be used. How can a person in a wheelchair be evacuated if there is no more electricity to use a lift? Examples of good practices at local level need to be collected and disseminated.

Evacuation training has to take place, since prevention is crucial. Security forces, civil protection, fire brigades, peer groups at community level, they all need training. Structures have to be put into place in order to allow all people to be rescued. In the case of a disaster, the use of alert systems through new technologies is crucial, e.g., automatic SMSs are sent to all people with disabilities and their neighbours; everyone should know where to go.

Disasters and mainly earthquakes could be avoided by good design of buildings. If a building is safe, it will not collapse, thus reducing special evacuation procedures.

There is a change of paradigm in disaster and disabilities (prevention). The underlying approach is the inclusion of people with disabilities in the capacity building of disaster risk reduction. We have to include the people with disabilities in the process, find them, often hidden away, discriminated on the grounds of culture and religion. Mapping is important: where do people with disabilities live, how can they be evacuated, how can the information be spread? People with disabilities need to be empowered, be helped to develop their capacities, not stress their deficiencies, to serve as an example for others. They are the best advocates: disability is part of their life. Resilience and capacities are to be taken into account, problems they can face.

Case studies/research need to be carried out. In terms of preparedness: are there any studies to foresee the worst cases, e.g. where an earthquake should not occur in Europe?

6. Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response

On the morning of 23 October 2013, Mr Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO, Head of Democratic Initiatives Department, Acting Executive Secretary of EUR-OPA, welcomed the participants. He recalled the origin of this activity and placed it in the framework of the current Programme of Activities of EUR-OPA in the field of vulnerable groups and pointed out how issues of preparedness and protection, from the civil protection side, can be carried out in close cooperation with other organisations concerned.

The two authors of the draft documents, Prof. David ALEXANDER and Mr Silvio SAGRAMOLA then took the floor to present the underlying philosophy of these documents, before presenting the Report on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response, the Guidelines for the Treatment of People with Disabilities during Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Situations and the Recommendation of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on the inclusion of people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response as such.

Mr Silvio Sagramola, Director of the National Disability Information and Meeting Centre from Luxembourg entitled his talk "Good will is not enough". The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been ratified by more than 130 States. Looking at the challenging contents of the Convention, the important number of ratifications seems to be a positive signal towards successful inclusion of people with disabilities. On the other hand, organisations of and for people with disabilities complain

about low progress in the recognition of their rights. There seems to be a gap between theory and practice, between wishful thinking and reality, a gap that needs further exploration.

Prof. David ALEXANDER from the Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction, University College London, followed up on "Disaster and people with disabilities: some key issues". His presentation gave an overview of the problems and challenges involved in serving the needs of people with disabilities in emergencies, crises and disasters in Europe. Observations were given on the state of preparedness in European/Mediterranean countries with respect to the requirements and processes of planning to manage the needs of the disabled. Guidelines for improving the level of preparedness were presented and discussed.

Two Key Note lectures followed to set the frame for the issues debated at this Workshop. Prof. Duncan SHAW from the Operational Research & Critical Systems at Warwick Business School spoke on "The paradox of social resilience: How cognitive strategies and coping mechanisms attenuate and accentuate resilience". He examined two concepts, social vulnerability and social resilience, often used to describe people and their relationship to a disaster. He explored the degree to which an elderly group (who have disabilities) exposed to coastal flood risk exhibit social resilience through both cognitive strategies (such as risk perception and self-perception) as well as through coping mechanisms (such as accepting change and self-organisation). He then drew attention to three areas: the degree to which social vulnerability can disguise its social resilience, the role played by cognitive strategies and coping mechanisms on an individual's social resilience, and the high risk aspects of social resilience.

The Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Mr Panagiotis KOUROUMLIS, who lost his eye sight at the age of ten, intervened on "People with disabilities coping with disasters: the particular challenges for Greece". Despite Greece being traditionally vulnerable to disasters such as earthquakes and forest fires, there is a general lack of preparedness regarding people with disabilities. Further challenges are posed by the uneven geographical distribution of the population and issues of funding.

7. Presentation of the Report, the Guidelines and the Recommendation on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response

Mr Silvio SAGRAMOLA and Prof. David ALEXANDER then introduced the documents, recalling that their first aim had been to draw attention to the issue (not to say: problem), the challenge of Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The Questionnaire on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction allowed for stocktaking. However there was little substance. Indeed much should be done in terms of human and ethical considerations, health care and evacuation. The Report describes the topic that UNISDR qualifies as a *worldwide problem*. In general emergency planning there is little preparedness; much has to be done in order to integrate people with disabilities in mainstreaming. Plans are national, yet the operations are taking place at local level: local planning is paramount for disaster response. The Guidelines include practical questions of planning and training with the focus upon catering for needs of people with disabilities, emergency and post-emergency but with minimum specification thus encouraging evolution. Each member State should put measures into place, applicable when catastrophes occur. They should adopt an Action Plan with objectives, indicators and activities emerging from the articles of the Guidelines and the Council of Europe should act as a facilitator at intergovernmental level.

The Recommendation is the political instrument with its political, strategic, tactical and operational level.

8. Round table and General Discussion

In the following Round Table session, each speaker presented a statement related to the topic of the Workshop.

Dr Alexandros MAKARIGAKIS, Chief of Unit on Disaster Risk Reduction (SC/DRR), Natural Science Sector, UNESCO, was the first speaker. He suggested that a special initiative could be launched under the auspices of the international community, for conducting studies, defining and testing best practices to ensure equal access of those with disabilities and other vulnerable groups to knowledge and measures for disaster preparedness and resilience, spanning the phases of mitigation, preparedness, emergency response and rehabilitation.

Ms Paola ALBRITO, Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Office for Europe, UNISDR, then presented the initiative "The International Day for Disaster Reduction - Living with Disability and Disasters". Her intervention reflected disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters at local, regional, national and global levels through a multi stakeholder, inclusive, participatory process. Some one billion people around the world live with some form of disability. Representing one-fifth of the world's population, persons living with disabilities have unique contributions, often overlooked, to help reduce the risk of disasters and build resilient societies and communities. She pointed out the importance to include a chapter on people with disabilities in the Post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Mr Eric WEERTS, Technical Referent Emergency and Rehabilitation, Handicap International, gave an overview on "Current approaches to including people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction", outlining that people with disabilities are always particularly vulnerable in the event of a disaster and the immediate consequences of a crisis are amplified for persons with disabilities and their families.

Ms Luisa FENU and Charlotte AXELSSON, CBM, gave a few examples of Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management: "Good practices and Voices from the field". CBM promotes Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Management practices, implemented with partners in a number of countries vulnerable to disasters. While it is crucial to understand and reduce the human effect in creating disasters, natural causes will continue. The key in diminishing their impact is to reduce people's vulnerability. Through Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction programmes, incorporated in human development plans and poverty reduction programmes, risks can be reduced and communities' resilience to disasters can be strengthened. Persons with disabilities are often overlooked throughout the disaster management cycle and especially during relief operations, and are seldom considered as important actors in conflict prevention even though they are often more exposed during conflicts and displacement.

Mr Luk ZELDERLOO, Secretary General of the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), expanded on this subject by talking on "Persons with Disabilities: Preparedness and Response". Recent disasters such as the tsunami that hit SE Asia, the earthquake that destroyed even the most basic infrastructure in Haiti, the catastrophe with the nuclear installation in Japan, showed that persons with a disability (PwD) are amongst those that suffer the most. During and right after the disaster, the intervention systems and approaches seem to be unable to respond adequately to the specific needs and requirements PwD and their families have. As the problem is multi-layered so should be the response to it. Next to debating pre-disaster basic design for all and accessibility requirements, availability of accurate intervention methods and techniques based on reliable data have to be verified; in this context we will also have to reaffirm the equal right to be saved. This workshop is not only about

technical solutions or coordination of interventions. It is also about very fundamental human rights, starting with the right to life.

Ms Dagmar GRESKAMP, Interessengemeinschaft Selbstbestimmt Leben, Germany presented the "Twin-Track Approach", which does not focus on deficits, but values disability as a chance of diversity in order to build an inclusive society.

Mr Dingeman DE JONG, Stichting 2Bsafe, European Forum for Local and Regional Disaster Management from the Netherlands, contributed with "The local voice". Research states that 20-25% of society consists of people with frailty or some kind of disability. To increase awareness of the precarious situation during incidents or disasters and to increase self-reliance among these groups, the Dutch Approach has been developed. For identification and assessment of these individuals, the tool RAIview can be used in the area of safety and security.

Mr Badaoui ROUHBAN, representing the Global Risk Forum (GRF), Davos, delivered the last statement on "Disaster resilience and people with disabilities: challenges". Resilience of people with disabilities is vital for building healthy families and stronger societies. While scientific understanding and technological know-how must be used to achieve a better protection of people with disabilities, measures must be taken to help them play an active role in disaster resilience.

In the ensuing discussion, Mr Jean-Luc SIMON, Disabled Peoples' International Europe (DPI), voiced his appreciation to what the discussion is taking on. Mr ROUHBAN underlined the importance of the work carried out by EUR-OPA with more than two decades of experience. He congratulated the Secretariat for the valuable papers presented at the Workshop and wished that when the governments will adopt the Post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015, DRR will take a high rank. Indeed, until two years ago, the issue of disability and disaster risk reduction received little attention. There is now a new momentum with many initiatives, e.g. UNISDR has adopted disabilities and disasters as the topic of the 2013 International Day for Disaster Reduction. UNESCO also works on the issue. We need to make sure that the two communities, people with disabilities and civil protection, continue to intersect. He reassured the Secretariat of the support of the GRF Davos and stated that GRF Davos wanted to be part of the Plan of Action, to be set up after the Workshop.

Mr FERNANDEZ-GALIANO then confirmed that the Secretariat will make an input to the Post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in order to carry further the issues discussed at the Workshop.

While the draft resolution includes the issue on inclusion of people with disabilities, Mr ROUHBAN drew attention to the question of how to build support for better integrating people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and to consider them as actors in the whole DRR process. We need to adopt a culture where people with disabilities are stakeholders in DRR. Dr MAKARIGAKIS underlined that the issue is new, even the way we are dealing with DRR, moving from the response to the prevention side. He also stressed the necessity for a change of culture in the way of thinking. The role of education needs to be stressed within the documents. Measures have to be taken to make the process sustainable and to mainstream into the curricula.

Mutual training and exchange of local knowledge have to be further elaborated: what training and evacuation exercises have already been carried out? Do they take into account people with disabilities, are they taking place in other languages, thus including foreigners? The absence of research was remarked upon: we have to look at disasters and inclusion of people with disabilities from the angle of civil protection and compile case studies. Mr Alfonso Lozano BASANTA, Fire fighter specialist and Consultant in DRR,

stressed that the momentum in civil protection has now to be used. International organisations need to become more practical and should help in acquiring content by being more insistent in this context. With society in mind, the Council of Europe with its immense political prestige poses questions and suggests answers.

9. Conclusions, Recommendations and Next Steps

The participants congratulated the Secretariat for its work on people with disabilities linked to civil protection in the field of DRR, a subject that has never been worked on. They also welcomed the inclusive approach taken. The issues addressed and the high profile the Council of Europe gives to human rights were indeed received as a very innovative and worthwhile exercise.

Positive reception was also given to the quality of the Report, the Guidelines and the Recommendation on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response. Further changes were suggested to be introduced in the draft Recommendation and the Draft Report. The authors will review these documents in the light of the discussions of this Workshop.

The concrete proposals translating Council of Europe values for civil protection professionals have now to be carried forwards, thus pursuing the exchanges of the Workshop. A Working Group will be set up, integrating the Social Cohesion and Integration Division of the Council of Europe. The task of the Working Group will be to follow the implementation of the Guidelines and the Recommendation adopted³ and to come up with a Plan of Action and to develop concrete tools for the use of civil protection professionals. These tools will be presented at a seminar organised at the end of 2014.

In terms of concrete next steps the following should be mentioned:

- Presentation of the results of this Workshop at the Second Global Risk Forum One Health Summit 2013, One Health – One Planet – One Future, the next Global Health Forum, Davos, 17-20 November 2013,
- A Working Group will be set up.
- Contribution to the policy framework and the political momentum 2015: an input will be made to the Post 2015 Hyogo Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and people with disabilities.
- Work will be carried out at the national platforms of the European Forum by UNISDR and the Council of Europe.
- Cooperation with UNESCO on the level of DRR Education.
- The 5th International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC, 24-28 August 2014, Davos, will include a session on DRR and people with disabilities.
- A seminar in 2014 will present the practical outcomes of the Working Group for the use of civil protection professionals.

10. Closure of the Meeting

Ms Fuhrer thanked the authors for the drafting of the documents and the participants for their active involvement in the Workshop. She expressed her wish to be able to welcome the participants of this Workshop again at the seminar that will take place in 2014 to

³ The Recommendation of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on the inclusion of people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response was adopted on 24 October 2014. The Committee also confirmed the setting up of a Working Group in order to translate the Report, the Guidelines and the Recommendation on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response into practical applications for the use of civil protection.

exchange on the implementation of the Guidelines and the Recommendation on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The meeting was closed at 18.00 on 23 October 2013.

Appendix 1

Strasbourg, 21 October 2013

AP/CAT (2013) OJ 4
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EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)

Workshop Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response

22 October (14.00–18.00) - 23 October 2013 (09.00–18.00)

Council of Europe Office, Paris (Room 1)
55, avenue Kléber, Paris 16e (Tel. +33.1.44.05.33.60)

PROGRAMME

Background and Purpose of the Workshop

Aim of the Workshop

A Report, Guidelines and Recommendations on “Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response” for the attention of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) will be presented. The aim of the Workshop, where the participants will exchange on good practices, discuss the report and come up with suggestions for the implementation of the Recommendations, is to foster on better resilience, adaptation and resistance to disasters for persons with disabilities. The overall aim is to concentrate on reducing the risks within the disaster cycle.

Background and explanation

In 2011 the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) adopted *Ethical Principles on Disaster Risk Reduction and People’s Resilience*. In 2012 the Committee decided to focus part of its work on guidance for a more operative practice with vulnerable groups and in particular on people with disabilities. A Questionnaire on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction has been developed and circulated in March 2013 in order to collect examples of good practice and already existing regulations and laws in the field. A Report will be drawn up taking into account the replies to the questionnaire. The report will portray the situation related to People with Disabilities in Disaster preparedness and Response, focusing on different practices, return of experiences, good examples and will mention the legal issues and draw attention to what can be done in the case of a disaster. It will be accompanied by resulting Guidelines and Recommendations on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster preparedness and Response.

The Report together with the Guidelines and Recommendations on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster preparedness and Response will be circulated to networks and experts operating in the field and participating in the Workshop, before being officially presented at the Workshop.

Objectives and purpose of the Workshop

1. People with disabilities will be associated throughout the process and in particular during the Workshop, voicing their experiences and needs regarding disaster preparedness and response.
2. The Workshop will allow participants to exchange on the documents and the topic in general: policy makers and government representatives, including local governments, agencies, associations, mainly in the field of civil protection and all stakeholders working with people with disabilities and disaster risk reduction are invited to contribute to the debate.
3. The Report, Guidelines and Recommendations will be discussed and endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) at its meeting on 24 October 2013, before being published.

Selected issues to be discussed

- ❖ Policy framework: in the different member States the practices are varying: focused rather on response and preparedness or on prevention and mitigation, but rarely considering the disaster cycle as a whole. Where procedures exist, they do not necessarily comprise inclusive action in disaster response.

- ❖ Governance: Different ministries deal with DRR; they do not necessarily communicate. Therefore coordination is crucial at all levels (national, regional and local). One key issue at the local level is how best to bring the relevant authorities together for planning purposes. It is one thing to do this nationally, but in reality, people with disabilities have to be cared for by local agencies and the best way this can be done is to ensure that they are working productively together. It would be helpful to examine different models, protocols and practices for this purpose.
- ❖ The heterogeneous nature of deficiencies and their handicapping consequences have to be taken into account. Each type of requirement needs to be dealt with specifically.
- ❖ People with disabilities have to be treated as individuals with different needs, in order to exclude formal discrimination.
- ❖ The recovery of people with disabilities and the general emergency planning should be carried out in a holistic approach. It is important to include persons with disabilities in the emergency management, in the setting up of protective measures. Budgets, DRR education and preparedness activities are also needed.
- ❖ How and to what extent a distinction should be made between assistance to persons with disabilities in disasters and emergencies from assistance to other vulnerable groups?

Content

The first half day of the Workshop (22 October 2013) will set the framework: the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan (2006-2015) will be introduced, as well as other relevant documents dealing with people with disabilities. Case studies will introduce the topic of the Workshop. The aim is to present an overview on the situation of people with disabilities related to disaster risk reduction in the EUR-OPA member States and beyond.

The second day (23 October 2013) will focus on concrete contributions. The Council of Europe strives to promote the perception of persons with disabilities as holders of rights in the same way as all other citizens, considering disability to be part of human diversity. Defending values and promoting human rights through Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response is at the heart of the Council of Europe's mission.

Prior to the presentation of the Report, Guidelines and Recommendations on Including people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response, experts will give an overview and explanations on the understanding of "disaster" and "accessibility or Design for All". Two Key Note presentations and presentations by experts will set the framework for the Round Table.

Two parallel Working Groups will allow the opportunity for the stakeholders and participants to exchange experiences on including people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response and come up with Conclusions and an Action Plan. The results of the Working Groups will be reported back to the Plenary before the Conclusion.

The Workshop will be held in English.

Additional information initiatives

During the morning coffee break on 23 October 2013, a Press Briefing session is organised: journalists have the opportunity for interviews.

Involved organisations and stakeholders are invited to exhibit information materials and to present them at the market place in the entrance hall of the venue.

TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2013 (14.00 – 18.00)

14.00 – 15.00 Welcome and Introduction to the Workshop

- ❖ Ms Mechthilde FUHRER, Council of Europe, Deputy to the Executive Secretary, EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement
Aims and objectives of the Workshop in the framework of the EUR-OPA Programme of Activities 2013-2014
- ❖ Mr Thorsten AFFLERBACH, Council of Europe, Head of Social Cohesion and Integration Division
Introduction to the Work on Disability: Presentation of the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015, as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)
- ❖ Mr Michel FEIDER, Vice-Chair, Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement
Contribution from the Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) on Dealing with disabled and vulnerable persons: from the perspective of the emergency management

15.00 – 16.00 Case studies: the situation of people with disabilities related to disaster risk reduction in the EUR-OPA member States, good examples from the Questionnaire on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and the UNISDR Survey on Disaster Reduction

- ❖ Mr Josef NEUMANN, Landtag NRW, Germany
Inclusion of People with Disabilities
- ❖ Mr Claudio DETOGNI, Independent Expert, Federsanità ANCI, National Office, Italy
The Verona Charter on the rescue of persons with disabilities in case of disasters: its role in the past and its perspectives for the future
- ❖ Ms Magda ROOZE and Ms Eva MUENKER-KRAMER, European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA)
Contribution from the EFPA Disaster and Crisis Psychology Standing Committee
- ❖ Ms Regina ERNST and Mr Dirk BOENKE, Rehabilitation International
German approach promoting accessibility of various environments (Rehabilitation International, RI)
- ❖ Mr David SINGH, UNISDR
Outcomes of the survey developed by UNISDR in the context of the International Day for Disaster Reduction
- ❖ Mr Javier GÜEMES, European Disability Forum

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 17.30 Case studies: the perspective from civil protection to Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response and good examples from the Questionnaire on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

- ❖ Mr Stepan BADALYAN, Vice-Chair, Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement and Ms Yelena BADALYAN
Awareness raising of the people with disabilities to disasters as an integral part of disaster preparedness and response at national and municipal levels
- ❖ Professor Stefanos DRITSOS, Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (EPPO)
Earthquake Protection Policy for People with Disabilities
- ❖ Ms Olga SHASHKINA, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
Overview of the current situation regarding Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in Georgia and Case Study: “Inclusive DRR for vulnerable children in kindergartens and special care institutions” (prepared in collaboration with Save the Children International - SCI Georgia)

17.30 – 18.00 Wrapping up of the first day of the Workshop

WEDNESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2013 (09.00 – 18.00)

09.00 Official Opening and Introduction

- ❖ Mr Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO, Council of Europe, Head of the Democratic Initiatives Department; Acting Executive Secretary, European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)
EUR-OPA and vulnerable groups: Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response at the heart of the Council of Europe’s mission
- ❖ Mr Silvio SAGRAMOLA, Director, National Disability Information and Meeting Centre, Luxembourg
Good will is not enough
- ❖ Professor David ALEXANDER, Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction, University College London, United Kingdom
Disaster and people with disabilities: some key issues

Key Note Presentations

- ❖ Professor Duncan SHAW, Operational research and critical systems, Warwick Business School, United Kingdom
The paradox of social resilience: How cognitive strategies and coping mechanisms attenuate resilience
- ❖ Mr Panagiotis KOUROUMPLIS, Member of the Parliament, Greece
People with disabilities coping with disasters: The particular challenges for Greece

Presentation of the Report, Guidelines and Recommendations on including people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response

- ❖ Mr Silvio SAGRAMOLA and Professor David ALEXANDER

10.30-11.00 ***Coffee break and Press Briefing***

11.00 – 13.00 ***Roundtable and general discussion: exchange on good experiences***

preceded by

Brief entry statements and presentations

- ❖ Mr Alexandros MAKARIGAKIS, Chief of Unit on Disaster Risk Reduction, UNESCO
- ❖ Ms Paola ALBRITO, Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Regional Office for Europe:
The International Day for Disaster Reduction - Living with Disability and Disasters
- ❖ Mr Eric WEERTS, Emergency and Rehabilitation for Handicap International
Current approaches to including people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction
- ❖ Ms Charlotte AXELSON and Luisa FENU, CBM
Good practices and Voices from the field
- ❖ Mr Luk ZELDERLOO, European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)
- ❖ Ms Dagmar GRESKAMP, Interessengemeinschaft Selbstbestimmt Leben
Twin-Track Approach
- ❖ Mr Dingeman DE JONG, 2bsafe
The local voice
- ❖ Mr Badaoui ROUHBAN, Global Risk Forum GRF Davos
Disaster resilience of people with disabilities: challenges

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch Break

14.30 – 16.30 ***Parallel Working Groups: translating the Report, Guidelines and Recommendations on including people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response into practical applications***

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break

17.00 – 18.00 ***Plenary Session: Conclusions, Recommendations and Next Steps***

Rapporteurs report back from the Working Groups

Closing Statements and Conclusion of the Workshop

18.00 ***Close of the Workshop***

Appendix 2

Paris, 23 October 2013

EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)

WORKSHOP

INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

22 October 2013 (14.00 – 18.00)

23 October 2013 (09.00 – 18.00)

Venue: Council of Europe Office, Paris (Room 1)
55, avenue Kléber, Paris 16e (Tel. +33.1.44.05.33.60)

List of Participants

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS

Prof. David ALEXANDER

Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction

Mr Silvio SAGRAMOLA

Director, National Disability Information and Meeting Centre

Prof. Duncan SHAW

Professor of Operational Research & Critical Systems
Warwick Business School

Mr Panagiotis KOUROUMPLIS MP

Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Parliamentary Spokesman for SYRIZA

PARTICIPANTS

Parliament of Greece

Mr Panos STENOS

Scientific advisor to Mr Kouroumplis

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Parliament (Landtag) of Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

Mr Josef NEUMANN

Landtag Nordrhein-Westfalen
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Ms Nicole ESSER

Assistant to Mr Neumann, Landtag Nordrhein-Westfalen

Ministère du développement durable, France

M Jacques FAYE

Chef du bureau de l'information préventive, de la coordination et de la prospective
Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement Durable, des Transports et du Logement
(DGPR/SRNH/BIPCP)

M. Sébastien MICHEL

Chargé de mission Education et Systèmes d'Information, Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement Durable, des Transports et du Logement, Direction Générale de la Prévention des Risques, Grand

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

Ms Paola ALBRITO

Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
Regional Office for Europe
The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

David A. SINGH

Communications Unit, Advocacy and Outreach Section
United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

UNESCO

Mr Alexandros MAKARIGAKIS

Chief of Unit on Disaster Risk Reduction (SC/DRR), Natural Science Sector, UNESCO

Mr Jair TORRES

PEDRR Vice-Chair

Unit on Disaster Risk Reduction (SC/DRR), Natural Science Sector, UNESCO

Global Risk Forum GRF Davos

Mr Badaoui ROUHBAN

GRF Davos

CBM

Ms Charlotte AXELSSON

Consultant, Emergency Response Unit

Ms Luisa FENU

Policy Officer (EU)

Handicap International

Mr Eric WEERTS

Technical Referent Emergency and Rehabilitation

Handicap International

Ms Lucie DECHIFRE

Regional Project Coordinator, Disaster Risk Management

Handicap International

European Federation of Psychologists' Associations EFPA Disaster and Crisis Psychology Standing Committee

Ms Magda ROOZE

Impact, National knowledge & advice centre for psychological care concerning critical accidents

Ms Mag. Eva MUENKER-KRAMER

Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)

Rehabilitation International (RI) / BAR e.V.

Dr.-Ing. Dirk BOENKE

Gruppenleiter Verkehr & Umwelt/Team leader Traffic & Environment

Dr. Regina ERNST

Rehabilitation International (RI) National Secretary for Germany

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft fuer Rehabilitation e.V. (BAR)

European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)

Mr Luk ZELDERLOO

Secretary General, European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)

Aziende Sanitarie e Comuni per l'integrazione socio-sanitaria

Mr Claudio DETOGNI

Independent Expert

Federsanità ANCI

Arbeiter Samariter-Bund Deutschland e.V. (ASB)

Mr Alexander MAUZ

Project Coordinator Central America and Caribbean
Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland e.V.
Referat Auslandshilfe / Foreign Aid Department

Interessengemeinschaft Selbstbestimmt Leben

Ms Dagmar GRESKAMP

Interessengemeinschaft Selbstbestimmt Leben

INGO, Council of Europe

Mr Pierre GYSELINCK

Board Member, European Action for Disabled

European Forum for Local and Regional Disaster Management

Mr Dingeman de JONG

Stichting 2Bsafe

Disabled Peoples' International Europe: DPI-E

Mr. Jean-Luc <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/34174>

Chairperson, Disabled Peoples' International Europe: DPI-E

Madrid Regional Fire Brigade

Mr Alfonso LOZANO BASANTA

Fire fighter specialist
Consultant in DRR
Madrid Regional Fire Brigade
Disaster risk analyst in the roster of MSB (Sweden Civil Contingency Agency)
Liaison Officer Spanish USAR team (ERICAM)

Permanent Representation of Mexico to the Council of Europe

Mme Cecilia BARROS RUIZ

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Mme Laura ISLAS SANTOS

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COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS OF THE EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)

Mr Michel FEIDER (Vice-Chair)

Directeur, Administration des Services de Secours

Mr Stepan BADALYAN (Vice-Chair)

Director of the European Interregional Scientific and Educational Centre on Major Risk Management

Ms Lilyana TODOROVA

Expert
International Cooperation, NATO, EU & Humanitarian Operations Unit
DG Fire Safety and Civil Protection, MoI

Ms Olga SHASHKINA

National HFA Focal Point, Natural and Technological Hazards Management Service, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia

Prof. Stefanos DRITSOS

European Centre on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes (ECPFE)

Council of Europe Secretariat

EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement

Mr Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO

Acting Executive Secretary

Ms Mechthilde FUHRER

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Mr Francesc PLA

Deputy to the Executive Secretary, Democratic Governance Directorate, Council of Europe

Ms Linda ROLLIN

Financial and Administrative Assistant, Democratic Governance Directorate, Council of Europe

Directorate of Human Rights and Antidiscrimination, Directorate General of Democracy

Mr Thorsten AFFLERBACH

Head of Social Cohesion and Integration Division, Social Cohesion and Diversity Department
Directorate of Human Rights and Antidiscrimination, Directorate General of Democracy
Council of Europe, 67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France

Other

Ms Effy TSELIKAS
Freelance Journalist
Paris

APOLOGISED FOR ABSENCE

Committee of experts on the rights of people with disabilities (CS-RPD), Council of Europe

Ms Nadezhda HARIZANOVA

Vice-Chairperson of the Committee of experts on the rights of people with disabilities (CS-RPD)
State Expert, Social Benefits, Equal Opportunities and Disabled People Policies Directorate
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Ministry of Family and Social Policy of Turkey

Ms Handan ARSLANTAŞ

Family and Social Policy Expert
Ministry of Family and Social Policy-General Directorate for Disabled and Elderly People

European Interregional Scientific and Educational Centre on Major Risk Management

Ms Elena BADALYAN

Expert, European Interregional Scientific and Educational Centre on Major Risk Management

European Disability Forum

Mr. Philippe Miet

European Disability Forum | nothing about us without us

European Forum for Local and Regional Disaster Management

Ms Marijke Boorsma - Meerman
Stichting 2Bsafe, The Netherlands

Croix Rouge Française

Ms Anna-Christina BAZILE
Assistante Réduction des risques

Ms Hripsime TOROSSIAN
Chef de Projet

Appendix 3

13 October 2013: International Day for Disaster Reduction

Statement by

Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni
Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR), launched in 1989, encourages every citizen and government to take part in building more disaster-resilient societies and to promote a global culture of disaster reduction. It is premised on the principle that all groups in the community have the same rights and that their needs are fully respected. In 2013 the IDDR theme "Living with disability and disasters" focusses on the estimated one billion people around the world who live with some form of disability.

The Council of Europe advocates the needs of people with disabilities primarily through its Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 managed by the Council's Social Cohesion and Integration Division, and through the "European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement" (EUR-OPA)* in which guidance on a more operative practice with vulnerable groups — including people with disabilities — is developed.

A report on measures to include people with disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response will be presented during a workshop organised by EUR-OPA on 22 and 23 October 2013 in Paris.⁴ The report analyses legislation, policies and practices in Council of Europe member States. Policy makers and representatives of national governments and local authorities, international organisations and associations working for the protection of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction will discuss the document and develop proposals for the implementation of its recommendations.

Representing one-fifth of the world's population, people with disabilities have specific requirements when it comes to evacuation procedures. The International Day for Disaster Reduction is a day to celebrate the ways in which people and communities are reducing their risk to disasters and to raise awareness about the importance of Disaster Risk Reduction. The Council of Europe promotes the perception of persons with disabilities as holding the same rights as all other citizens (as provided for in fundamental texts such as the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Social Charter or the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015). Promoting human rights by including people with disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response is part of the Council of Europe's work.

* EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement is a platform for co-operation in the field of major natural and technological disasters between Europe and the South of the Mediterranean. Its field of competence covers the major natural and technological disasters - knowledge, prevention, risk management, post-crisis analysis and rehabilitation. The main objectives of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement are to reinforce and to promote co-operation between member States in a multi-disciplinary context to ensure better prevention, protection against risks and better preparation in the event of major natural or technological disasters.

⁴ <http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/>