



EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)

Recommendation 2009 - 2 of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents, adopted at its 57th meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia (15-16 October 2009), on the promotion and strengthening of national platforms for disaster risk reduction

The Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA),

Taking into account the Hyogo Framework for Action which sets among its 2005-2015 priorities for action support for the creation and strengthening of national platforms for disaster risk reduction and recalling that the priorities for action adopted in 2006 at the Marrakech Ministerial Session of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement also include the promotion of national platforms for disaster risk reduction;

Aware that national platforms on disaster risk reduction as multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral for a are effective mechanisms to facilitate and support coordination across sectors and disciplines, to promote exchange of information and dialogue at national, regional and local level and to inter-link science and the operational sector in order to raise awareness for risk reduction;

Aware also that only a few of the 26 member States of the EUR-OPA Agreement have so far set up national platforms and wishing to promote and support new platforms, including those already planned;

Noting with interest the ISDR document "Guidelines for National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction" which provides guidance to establish or strengthen national platforms for disaster risk reduction and describes the objectives, advantages, principles and major functions of national platforms for disaster risk reduction;

Recommend member States of the EUR-OPA Agreement to:

1. consider the creation of a national platform on disaster risk reduction and, where appropriate, the strengthening of existing national platforms;
2. give formal recognition to the national platforms for disaster risk reduction, ensuring their role in promoting dialogue among the different institutional and private actors involved in disaster risk reduction;
3. involve local and regional authorities in national platforms as well as the relevant administrations, technical and scientific institutions, rescuers and appropriate non governmental organisations, civil society bodies and the private sector;
4. ensure, as appropriate, that the national platform for disaster risk reduction is supported by a body or an institution able to liaise all relevant national partners, promote improvement of disaster risk reduction policies, planning and practice;
5. use the potential of national platforms for disaster risk reduction to promote a better information of the public and decision makers on risk, promoting the improvement in society of a culture of risk;
6. provide as appropriate sufficient means for national platforms on disaster risk reduction, at the same time making more judicious use of existing resources to permit them to efficiently carry out their coordination and networking activities;
7. use national platforms as fora to promote new ideas on disaster risk reduction and to analyse the challenges, shortcomings or values of existing disaster risk reduction policies, including the lessons learnt from recent disasters or emergency situations;
8. associate national platforms in the implementation of risk prevention and adaptation policies in the field of spatial planning, city planning and building;
9. communicate to the Secretariat of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement and to the UN/ISDR Secretariat, plans to establish national platforms for disaster risk reduction so that both Secretariats may provide guidance, support, training and expertise as required;
10. communicate the creation of national platforms to both the Secretariat of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement and to the UN/ISDR Secretariat;
11. promote the participation of national platforms for disaster risk reduction into regional coordination initiatives so experiences from national platforms for disaster risk reduction may be shared with other European and Mediterranean States.