European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)

Accord européen et méditerranéen sur les risques majeurs (EUR-OPA)

www.coe.int/europarisk
Created in 1987 (Resolution CM(87)2), the EUR-OPA Open Partial Agreement is a platform for cooperation between European and Mediterranean states.

Its overall objective is to foster prevention and reduce the effects of disasters on people, livelihoods, heritage and environment.

Its field of action covers the knowledge of hazards, risk prevention, risk management, post-crisis analysis and rehabilitation.

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The EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement has 26 member States:

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria,

Croatia, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Greece,

Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco,

Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino,

Serbia, Spain, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”,

Turkey, Ukraine

and three Mediterranean countries which are not Council of Europe member states: Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco.

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Network of Specialised Euro-Mediterranean Centres

- Biskra, Algeria - Research on Arid Regions
- Yerevan, Armenia - Training of Rescuers
- Baku, Azerbaijan - Training on Natural and Technological Disasters
- Florival, Belgium - Emergency Planning
- Sofia, Bulgaria - Risk Prevention
- Sofia, Bulgaria - National Training Centre
- Nicosia, Cyprus - Disaster awareness
- Bruyères-le-Châtel, France - Seismological Risk
- Biarritz, France Coastal Risks
- Strasbourg, France - Seismic and Geomorphologic Hazards
- Tbilisi, Georgia - Geodynamical Risks of High Dams
- Athens, Greece - Forest Fires
- Athens, Greece - Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes
- Ravello, Italy - Cultural Heritage
- Freiburg, Germany - Global Fire Monitoring Centre
- Walferdange, Luxemburg - Geodynamics and Seismology
- Skopje, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - Vulnerability of Industrial and Lifeline Systems
- Valletta, Malta - Insular Coastal Dynamics
- Kishinev, Moldova - Mitigation of Natural Risks
- Rabat, Morocco - Evaluation and Prevention of Seismic Risk
- Lisbon, Portugal - Urban Risks
- Bucharest, Romania - Rehabilitation of Buildings
- Moscow, Russian Federation - Management of Natural and Technological Major Hazards
- San Marino - Disaster Medicine
- Madrid, Spain - Investigation of Emergency Situations
- Ankara, Turkey - Natural Disasters Training Centre
- Kiev, Ukraine - Technological Safety

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Political decisions are taken by:

★ the Ministerial Meetings which take place every four years;

★ the Committee of Permanent Correspondents who meet twice a year.

Scientific and technical decisions are taken by:

★ the Directors of the 26 Specialised Euro-Mediterranean Centres who debate once a year of the scientific orientations according with the political objectives.
Main Topics

**Institutional work:**
- Preparation of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Integration of Local Authorities into the DRR

**Cooperation in emergency situations:**
- European Warning System (EXTREMUM)
- Training on Psychological aid to victims

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Main Topics

Building a culture of Risk Reduction:
★ Education and awareness
★ Specialised trainings and workshops

Scientific and technical cooperation aiming at risk assessment and reducing vulnerability:
★ Costal risks
★ Forest fires
★ Radiological risks
★ Landslides
★ Drought
★ Heat waves

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Recent Activities

★ Network of local authorities for radiation of risk

★ Preparation of a European and Mediterranean Ethical Charter on Resilience to Major Disasters

★ Specialised Trainings on cultural heritage and risk

★ Support to the creation of national platforms for DRR

★ Development of modules for awareness and master courses

★ Assessment of increased risk of climate change

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