



Earthquake Protection Policy for People with Disabilities in Greece

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**Earthquake Planning and
Protection Organization
(E.P.P.O.)**



“Human rights in Disasters: Search and Rescue Operations in disasters especially for vulnerable people” – 5 - 6 November 2009, Athens (Greece)

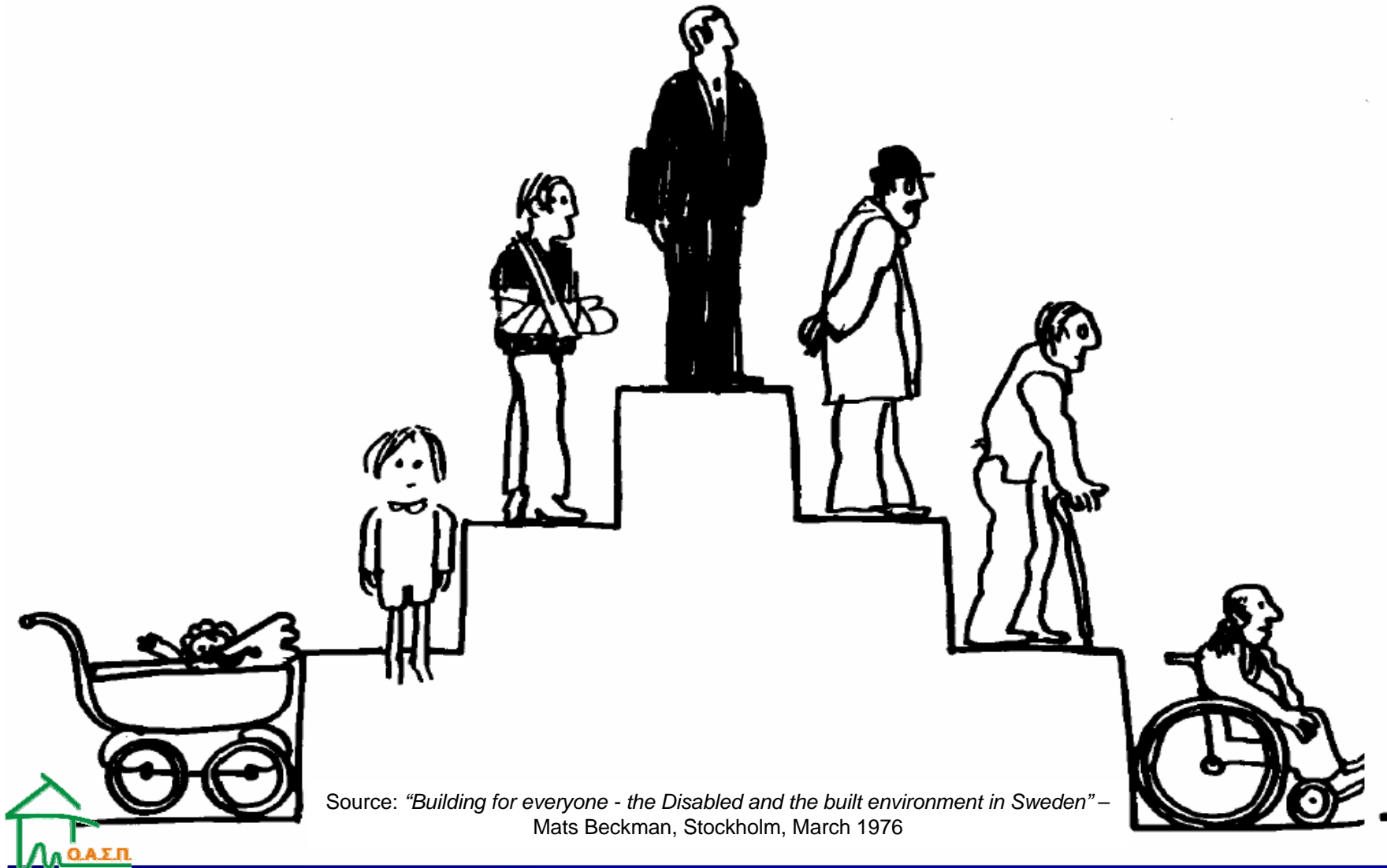
People with Disabilities



People with Disabilities today represent:

- ▶▶ **over 10% in the world (about 650 million of people)**
- ▶▶ **15% of the EU population**
- ▶▶ **around 10% in Greece**

Earthquake Protection Policy for everyone...



People with Disabilities



“Persons with disabilities have the right to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life on an equal basis with others in information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.”

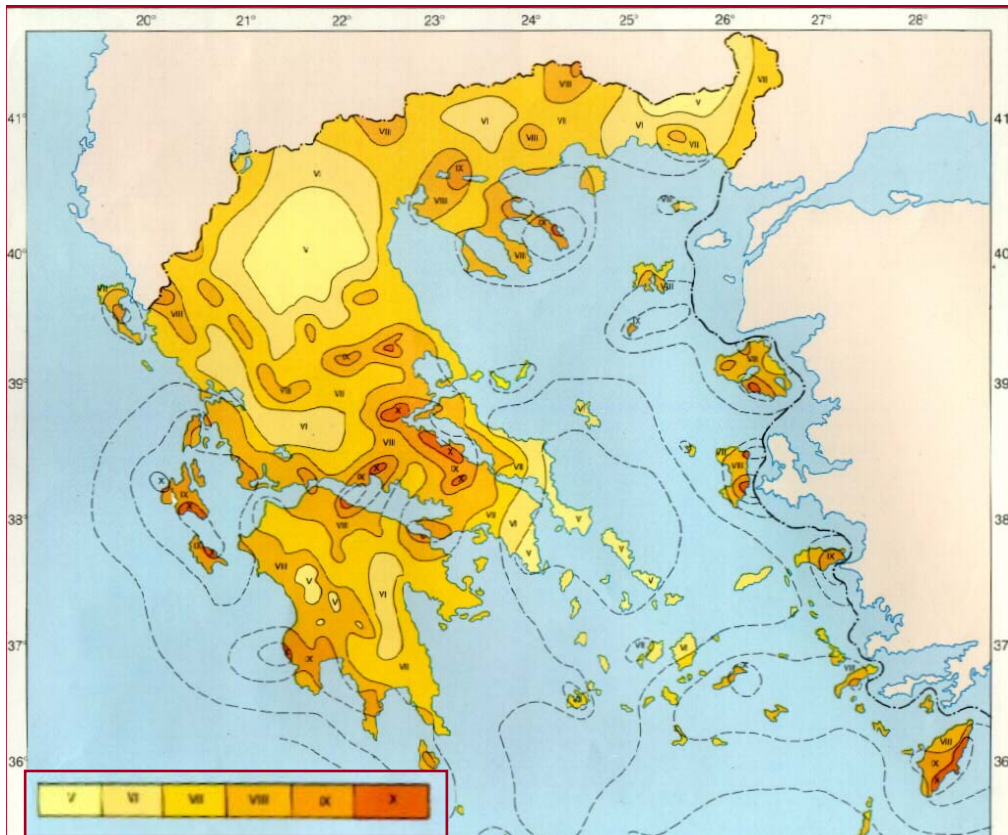
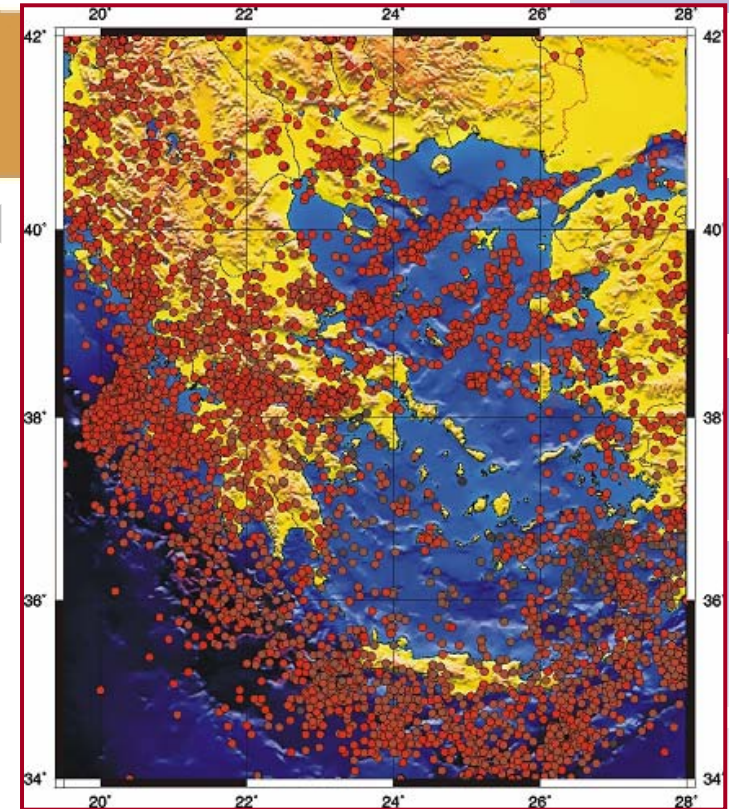
(Source: Article 9.1, UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities)

...tells what states shall do, indicates what all should do



Greece - Earthquakes

Greece is one of the most seismically active countries of the world

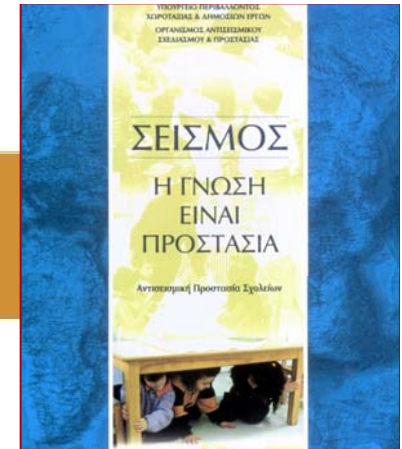


► Every part of our country has been effected by a strong earthquake in the historical times

Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (E.P.P.O.)

E.P.P.O. is the competent authority for processing and planning the **earthquake protection policy** – in accordance to governmental directions – as well as coordinating the public and private resources for the implementation of this policy

►► One of the main actions: is the **information and the education** of the greek people on seismic protection issues



Education – Disaster Reduction

Disasters can be substantially reduced if people are well informed and motivated towards a culture of disaster prevention and resilience, which in turn requires the collection, compilation and dissemination of relevant knowledge and information on hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities



World Conference on Disaster Reduction
18-22 January 2005, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan

E.P.P.O. – People with Disabilities

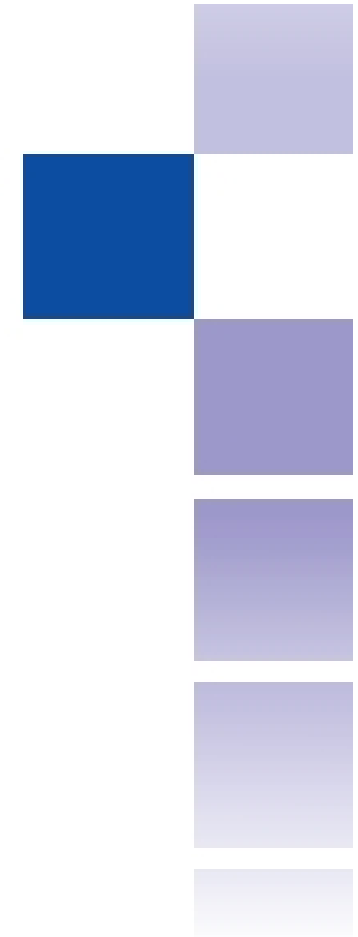
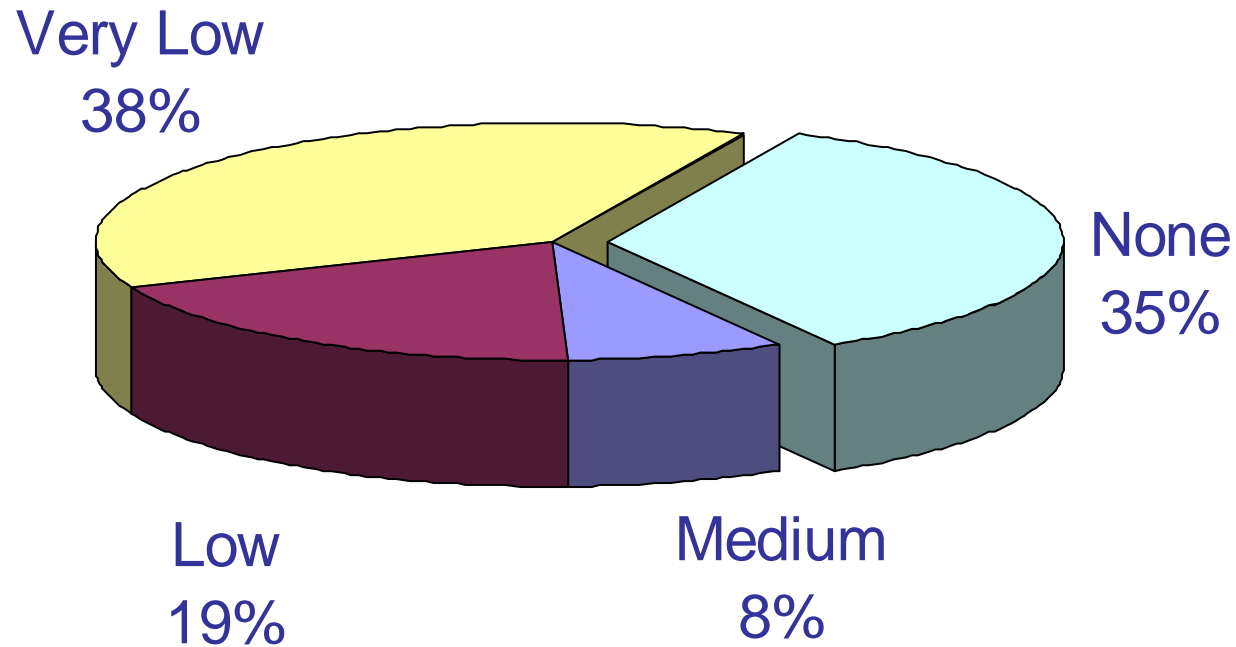
Working towards disability equality - actions

- ▶▶ 1. Research
- ▶▶ 2. Textbook: “Learning about earthquakes and Earthquake Protection Measures – Guidelines for People with Disabilities”
- ▶▶ 3. Dissemination of the information and knowledge (lectures, seminars, e.t.c.)
- ▶▶ 4. Education - Earthquake Drills



1. Research

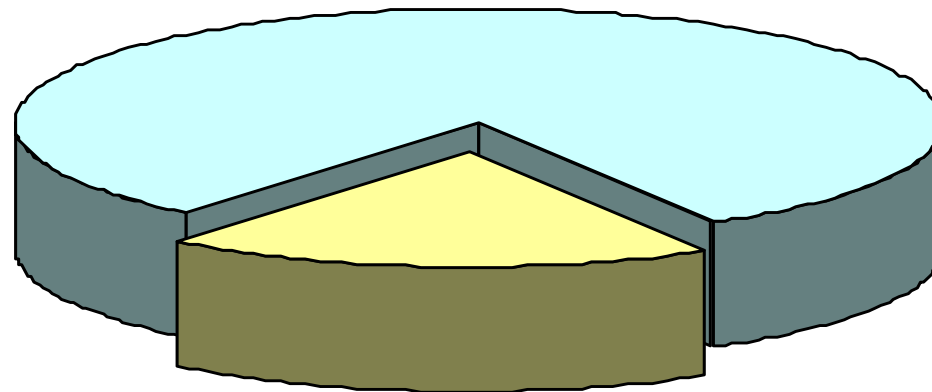
Level of Knowledge of People with Disabilities for Earthquakes and Protection Measures



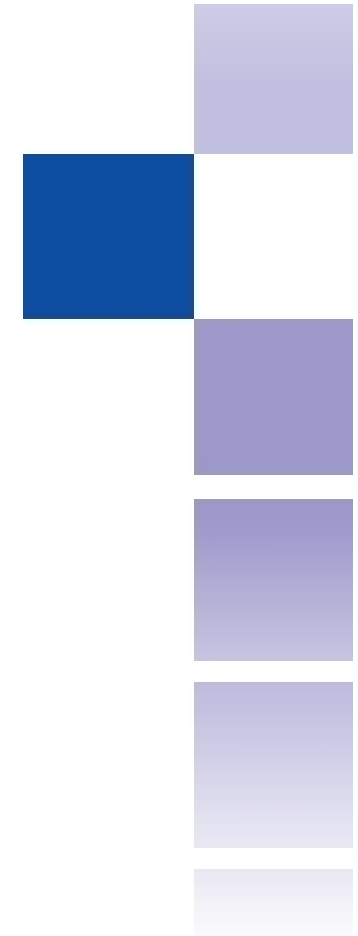
1. Research

People with Disabilities who have been informed about Earthquake Protection Measures

Not
informed
81%

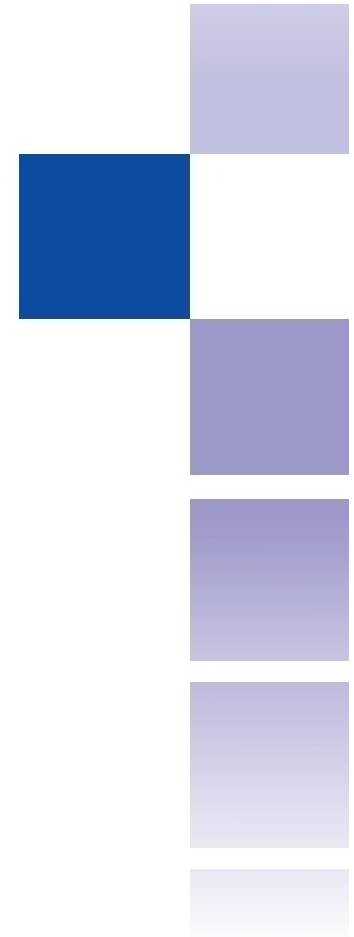
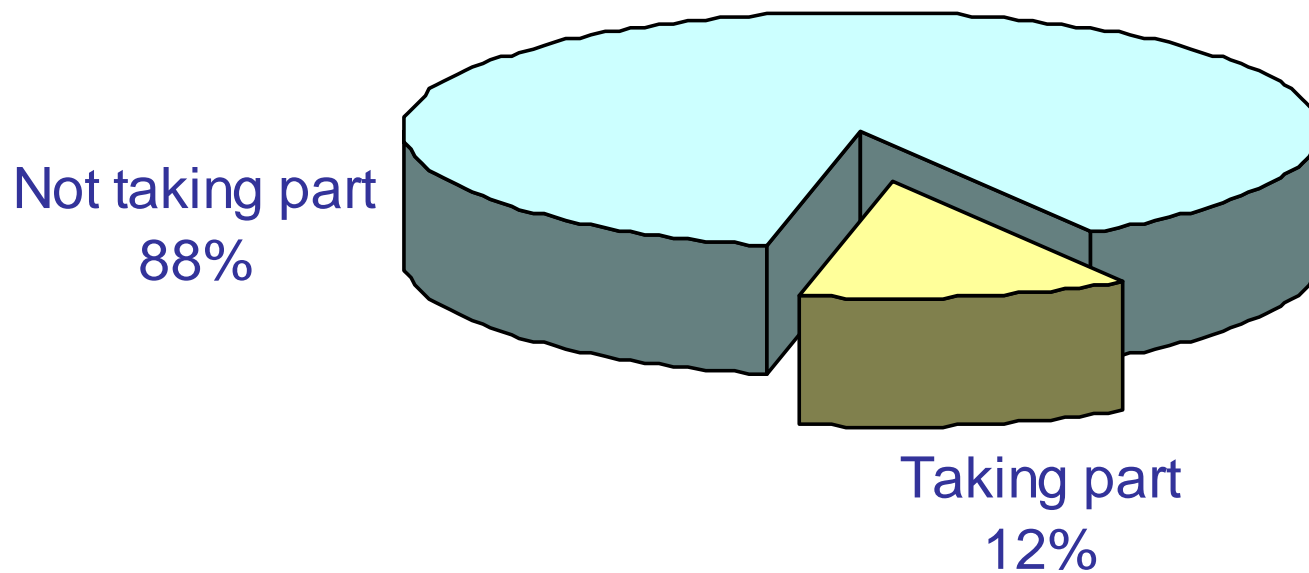


Informed
19%



2. Research

People with Disabilities who have been taking part to Earthquake Drills



2.The Textbook...



- ▶▶ addresses the People with Disabilities
- ▶▶ is divided into two parts:
 - ▶▶ information about earthquake
 - ▶▶ earthquake protection measures
- ▶▶ specific guidelines for each type of disability are marked differently



2. The Textbook...

Types of Disabilities

- ▶▶ **Mobility impairments**
- ▶▶ **Cognitive impairments – Speech Communication impairments**
- ▶▶ **Visual impairments/Blindness**
- ▶▶ **Hearing impairments/Deafness**



3. Information - knowledge



E.P.P.O.

- ▶▶ is programming seminars – workshops and training courses to students, teachers and educators in Special schools
- ▶▶ is planning to set up specific leaflets for each disability



3. Information - knowledge



The whole textbook

- ▶ has been translated to **Braille** language and to **audio message** for MP4 players,
- ▶ is under the translation procedure to **sign** language for people with auditory disabilities



3. Information - knowledge

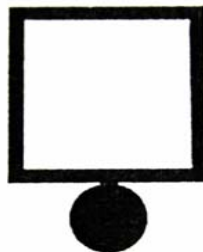


The whole textbook

- ▶ is scheduled to be translated in **Makaton** and **Easy-to-Read**, both are languages for people with cognitive disabilities
- ▶ has been already uploaded on the web in several sites



Πηγαίνω



Κάτω από



Γερό Τραπέζι

4. Education - Earthquake Drills



Many earthquake drills have to be taken place, for each type of disability, in order people with disabilities to:

- ▶▶ act correctly and instinctively in case of a real earthquake
- ▶▶ identify gaps and challenges



And for E.P.P.O., these drills help to

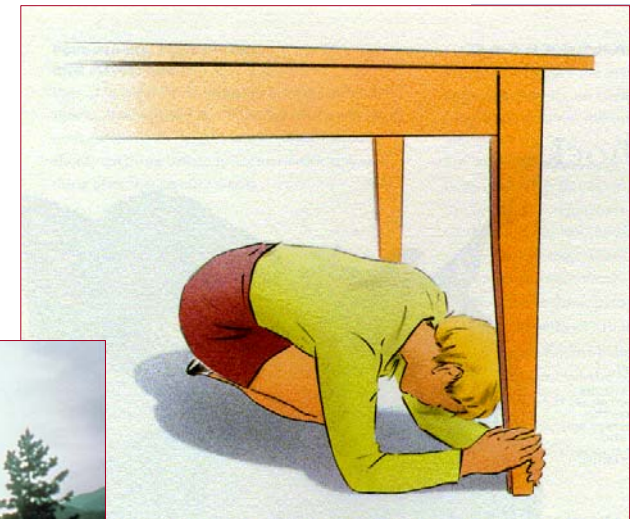
- ▶▶ form a seismic culture in Greece
- ▶▶ further the earthquake-disaster reduction

Earthquake Protection Measures for everyone...

▶▶ **BEFORE** the earthquake

▶▶ **DURING** the earthquake

▶▶ **AFTER** the earthquake



BEFORE the earthquake

Be prepared

To cope with a destructive earthquake
having the minimum effects to ourselves
and to our environment
and to recover easy after it

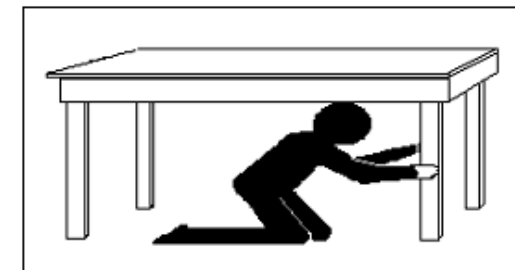
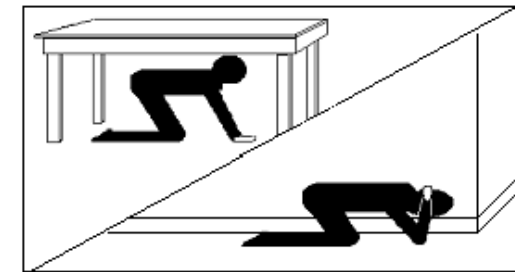
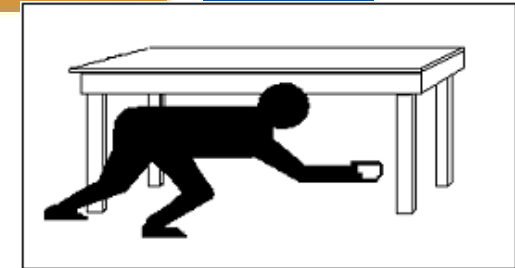


DURING the earthquake

Main guideline

- ▶▶ **DROP** to the ground
- ▶▶ **TAKE COVER** by getting under a sturdy table
- ▶▶ **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops

**If there isn't a table or desk near you,
cover your head with your hands**



AFTER the earthquake



► Evacuation to an open-predefined place



Education - Earthquake Drills



Education - Earthquake Drills



Education - Earthquake Drills



Evacuation



Education - Earthquake Drills



In small ages and in multi-disabilities cases



Education - Earthquake Drills



Future Planning & Considerations...



- ▶▶ **E.P.P.O. is proposing to become obligatory the implementation of earthquake drills at Special schools**
- ▶▶ **All the actions have to be oriented to strength earthquake preparedness for having effective response at all levels**
- ▶▶ **All people with disabilities get a culture of safety and earthquake resilience**

**Thank you very much
for your attention...**

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