



NEA



# PROMYLIFE project: “How to Better Protect My Life in Major Emergencies”

Human rights in disasters – Workshop  
Athens, 5-6 November 2009

**Development Enterprise of Achaia Prefecture**  
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# PROMYLIFE



## European Commission

Directorate – General for Environment  
Unit ENV. A. 3 – Civil Protection



Civil Protection Financial Instrument - 2007

**PROMYLIFE** project: “**How to Better Protect My Life in Major Emergencies**”

# ProMyLife –

## How to better protect my life in major emergencies

€272.265,00

3 EU countries

4 project areas

5 partners



1. Development Enterprise of Achaia Prefecture (NEA), Patras, GR

2. Epsilon Italia S.R.L., Mendicino, IT

3. Tutela Civium, Calabria, IT

4. Rodopi Development S.A., Komotini, GR

5. The Municipality of Kurdzhali, Kurdzhali, BU

EC DG Environment, BRUSSELS

# The Partners

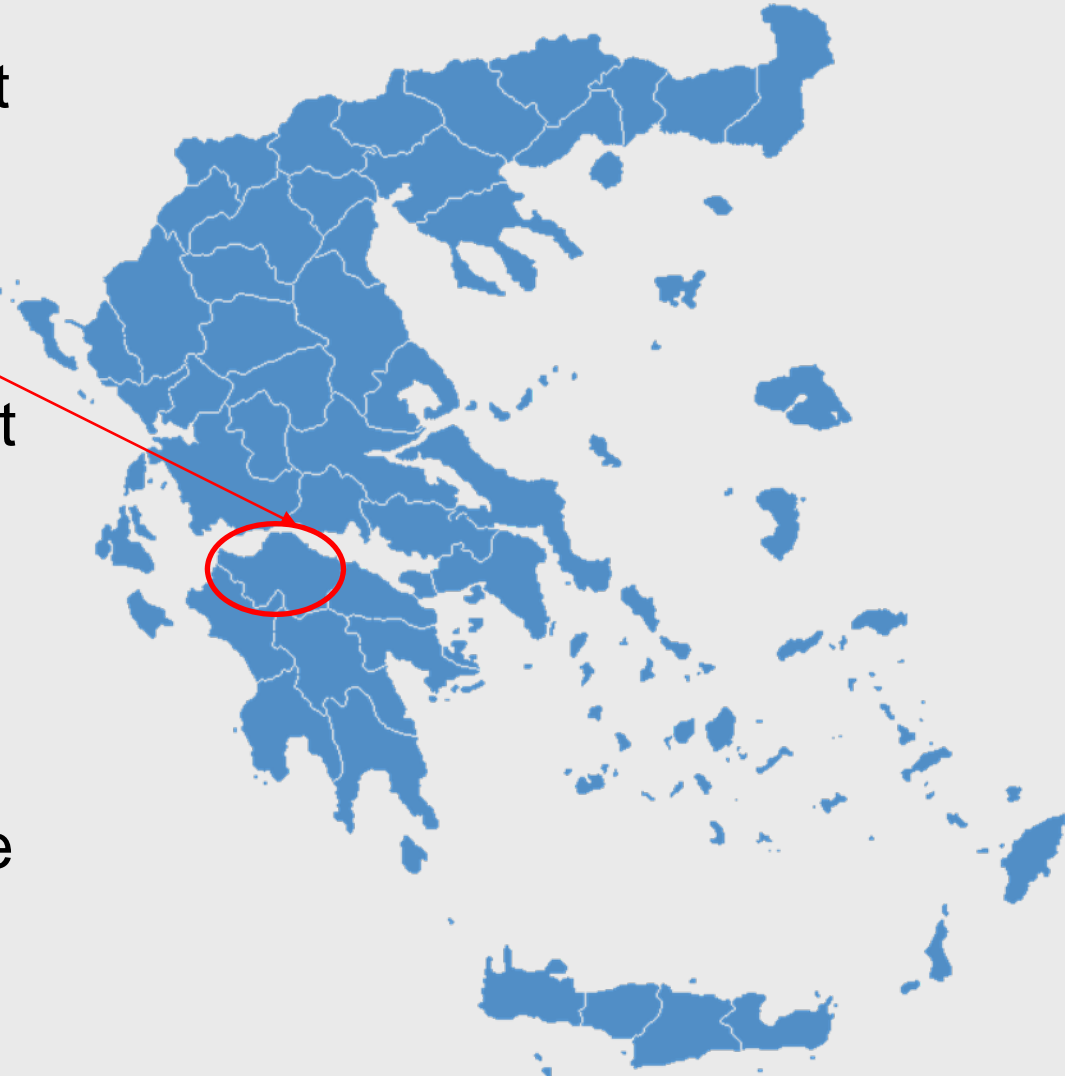


<b>Development Enterprise of Achaia Prefecture (N.E.A.)</b>	<a href="http://www.nea.gr">www.nea.gr</a>  Patra, GR
<b>Epsilon Italia S.R.L.</b> A private SME	<a href="http://www.epsilon-italia.it">www.epsilon-italia.it</a>  Mendicino, IT
<b>Tutela Civium</b> A CP volunteers association	<a href="http://www.tutelacivium.it">www.tutelacivium.it</a>  Calabria, IT
<b>Rodopi Development S.A.</b> A Municipalities joint-stock company	<a href="http://www.anro.gr">www.anro.gr</a>  Rodopi, GR
<b>The Municipality of Kurdzhali</b> Local authority. Borders with Rodopi.	<a href="http://www.kardjali.bg">www.kardjali.bg</a>  Kurdzhali, BU

# Development Enterprise of Achaia Prefecture (NEA)



**NEA** is a non profit organisation with sole shareholder the **Prefecture of Achaia** (the largest prefecture of Western Greece) with main aim to contribute to the *development* of the region.





# Objective

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Main objective of the Enterprise is to plan, process and implement development activities, which will contribute to the economic, social and cultural, symmetrical and sustainable development of the Prefecture of Achaia focusing on the environmental protection and maintenance.

# The problem



**Climate change** has caused adverse local weather conditions: flash floods, landslides, river overflow forest fires, heavy snowfalls, heat waves etc.

**After the extended summer 2007 forest fires in Southern Europe, the need for enhancement of the Civil Protection has been more than ever emerged.**





# Problem Description



**In the northeastern Achaia  
3 civilians died, 184 houses were completely destroyed,  
dozens of villages were devastated, thousands of animals  
and hundreds of farms were burnt.**

**300 km<sup>2</sup> of forests, 40km<sup>2</sup> of crops were burnt**

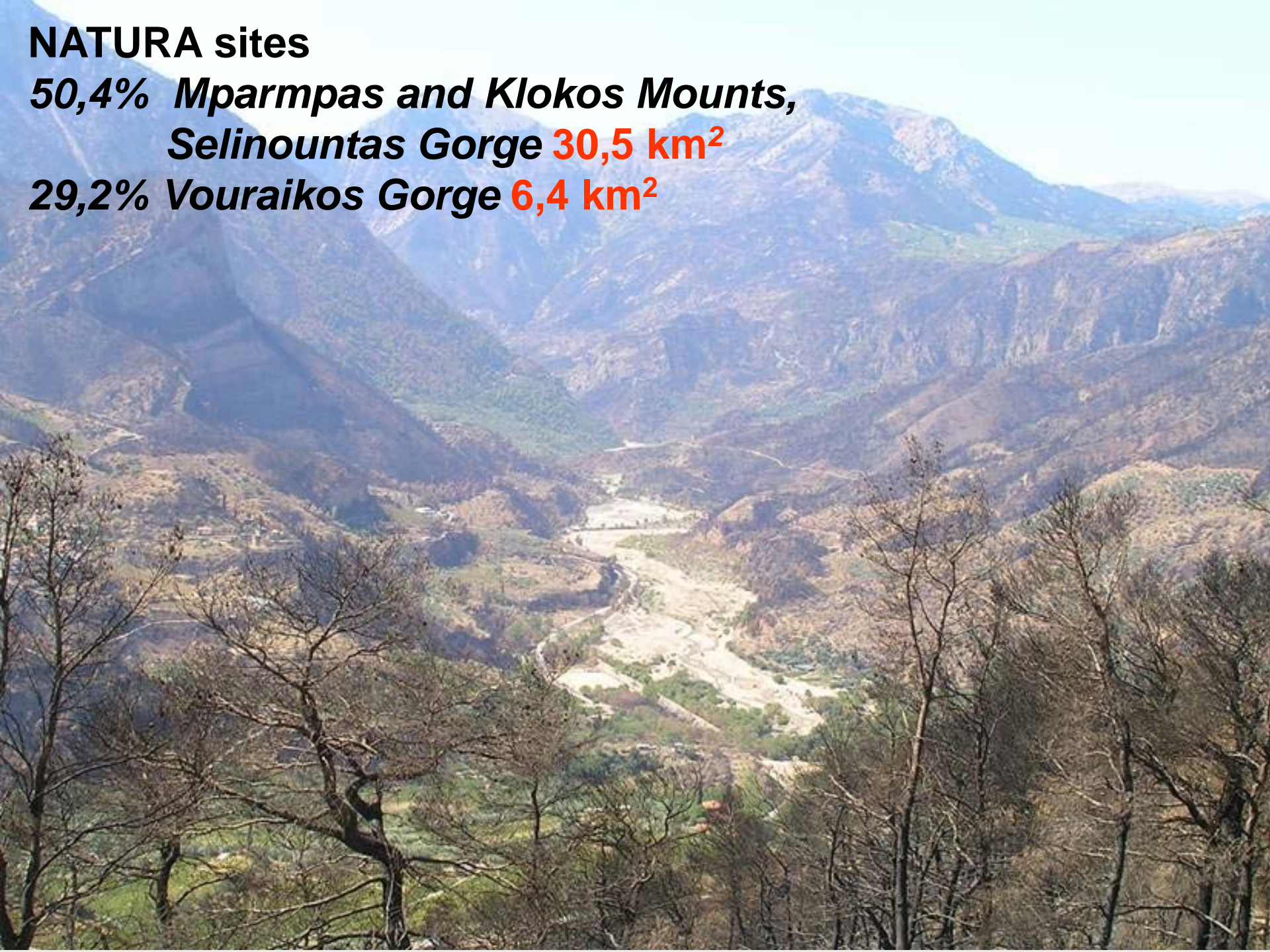
**Totally 12 Municipal Districts suffered extensive damages  
and were declared fire-stricken**

## **NATURA sites**

**50,4% *Mparmpas and Klokos Mounts,***

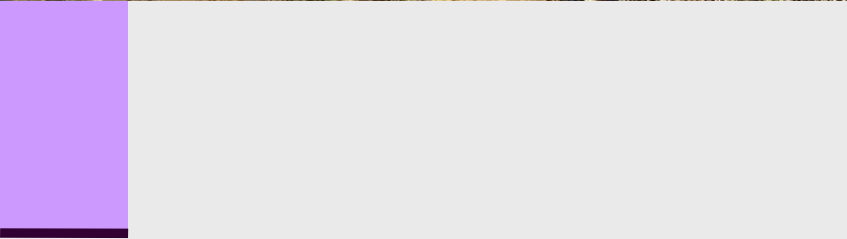
***Selinountas Gorge* 30,5 km<sup>2</sup>**

**29,2% *Vouraikos Gorge* 6,4 km<sup>2</sup>**





***Complete destruction of  
vegetation in the burnt  
area of Aigialeia***



***Floods and soil erosion –  
the effects on the  
drainage basins***



# LANDSLIDES – STORMS - FLOODS - MUDFLOWS - FALLS

- Intense inclines
- Geological status
- Human interventions in the streambeds
- Burnt areas particularly charged



*Falls of rocks and blocked pavement in the mountainous provincial network of Achaia (600km at 500-1000m altitude)*

# PROMYLIFE



The *self-protection* capability of citizens is proved not to be adequate to face these adverse/extreme weather conditions.

Thus, as a prefecture entity with major priority to civil protection and creation and maintenance of infrastructures we have been considering of the need to **better protect citizens' lives in major emergencies.**



# Dimensions of cooperation

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- Internal project management and financial monitoring procedures
- EU cooperation dimension at regional/ local level
- Mutual exchange of experiences
- Technical know how and best practices transfer
- Cross border cooperation development
- Cooperation with CP authorities and experts
- Local actors involvement: **volunteers, non governmental organizations**
- Vulnerable groups and general public

# ProMyLife project



EC/CP Unit

Project  
Coordination

National level

Regional level

Local level

No-profit  
Volunteer  
Organisations

No-profit  
Volunteer  
Organisation

No-profit  
Volunteer  
Organisation

No-profit  
Volunteer  
Organisation

Students

Persons with  
disabilities

Elderly

Other  
vulnerable  
groups

Bottom-up Approach

ProMyLife project area

# Vulnerable groups

- People with disabilities
- Elderlies
- Children



***Every citizen who is not properly trained or informed, in dealing with a state of emergency, is potentially a vulnerable population group member.***





# Project Aims

- To identify actual **citizens' needs**
- To improve the **preparedness** of the public and in particular of the vulnerable groups (elderly, children, disabled and disadvantaged people, etc.) in major and extreme events and to adapt to the climate change effects
- To enhance the **emergency planning procedure** and emergency/public utility services co-ordination in major emergencies.
- To prevent **natural disasters' impacts** through an improved knowledge in vulnerabilities issues and safety behavior competences



# ‘Working methods - Events’

- Approach of vulnerable groups (elderly, school community, disadvantaged) at local level
- Suggested Self protection techniques/best practices presentation and pilot application
- Promoting **civil participation** at local/regional level through local societies and NGOs in co-operation with local authorities and emergency services.
- Daily regional/local events: Tabletop exercise  
Cross-border study  
School events  
Media events  
Seminars/meetings.



# The Collaborators - Potential Users

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Institutions/Services that expressed interest for the Project outcomes:

- CP National authorities, Greece
- Earthquake Protection Organization, Athens
- Region Western Greece, Patra
- Achaia Prefecture Emergency Services
- Region Calabria, Italy
- CP regional Directorate, Bulgaria
- Municipalities and volunteers in all 3 MS.



# Results & Outcomes

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- Informative and educational material for the public and the vulnerable groups
- Interaction among partners and local communities CP actors
- Guidelines development (self protection)
- Organisation of CP events
- All the above adapted to the actual citizens needs, emphasis to vulnerable groups



# Komotini, Greece 18 July 2008

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- **Open public meeting “Cross Border Civil Protection Issues”**
- **Visit to the premises of the Special Unit of Disaster Management -Komotini**

*Organised by ANRO*





# Cosenza, Italy 17-18 November 2008

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- **Conference “Emergency management: from the Institutions to the Volunteers”**
- **Visit to the Civil Protection Operative Centre of the Regione Calabria (Germaneto – CZ)**
- **Civil Protection Exercise in the Municipality of Piane Crati (CS)**

*Organised by EPSILON ITALIA & TUTELA CIVIUM*













**Patras, Greece January 12, 2009**

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**Consultation Meeting of CP experts for the  
program PROMYLIFE,  
Prefecture of Achaia**

**Only The Trained Citizen is a Safe Citizen**





**Patras, 23 June 2009**

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## **Table Top Exercise**

**“How to Better Protect citizen's Lives in Major Emergencies”**

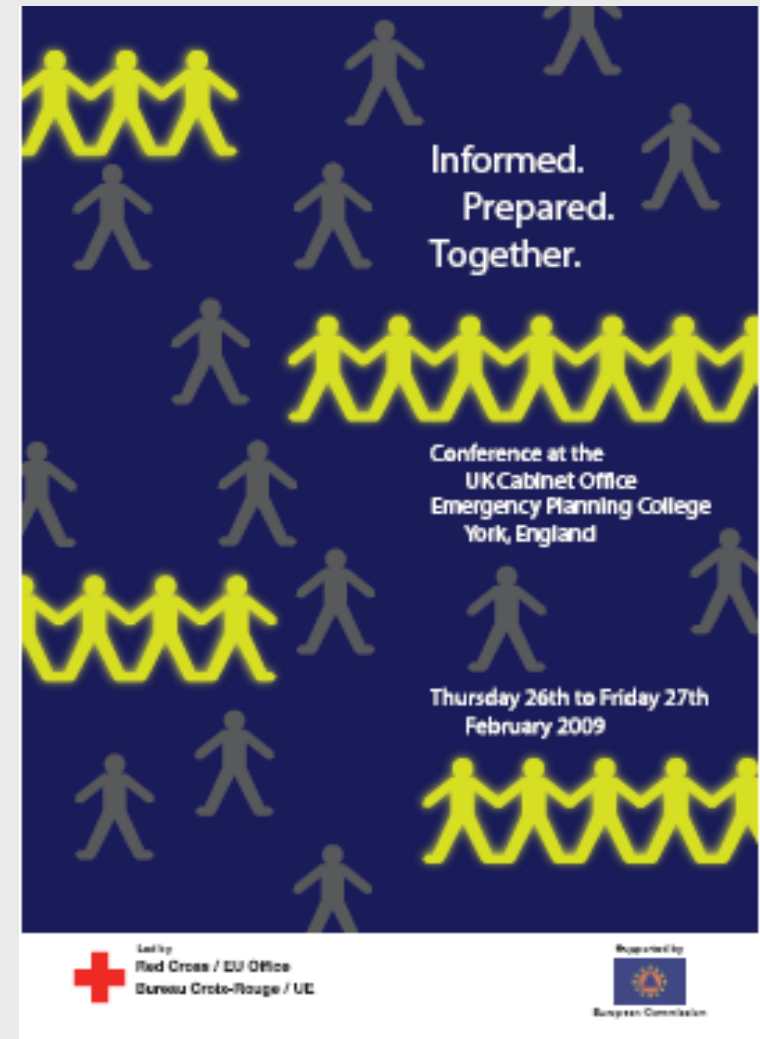
*The scenario pertained to the confrontation of multiple events (earthquake, forest fire and landslides), laying emphasis on the rescue of the most vulnerable citizens (children, elderly, disabled).*





# Cooperation with other projects

- “Informed Prepared Together” workshop of Red Cross/EU Office at Brussels in 6-7 October 2008. Project **“Inform and prepare communities to work together in CP”**.
- EU-wide conference, at York (UK) in 26-27 February 2009.
- Site visit in Patras in 3 June 2009. Members of the Red Cross EU Office presented the family of products.





# Children

*“In case of a natural disaster, there are a lot of people who can help us. However, if we know what we must do and have prepared as a family, we will handle a possible disaster in a better way.*

*No matter how sudden or unforeseen a natural disaster is, it does not last for a long period. Children may need to change their daily routine for a while but everything will come back to normal day by day. “*

**WE PREPARE RIGHT!**

**WE LEARN WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A  
NATURAL DISASTER**





# People with disabilities

## ■ WE ARE AWARE - WE ARE PREPARED

Community capacity building, effective networking and social care programs are valuable tools to approach, inform, educate, train and maintain contacts with the most vulnerable group members in a community.

The support systems include

- Caregivers and caregiver organizations,
- Community-based organizations,
- Volunteer organizations and NGOs

Developing, maintaining, and practicing specific emergency plans



# Effective networking

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Creating a personal support network can help persons with disabilities to prepare for and cope with an emergency. The network may consist of family, friends, relatives, neighbours, and co-workers.

It should consist of people who:

- Are trusted.
- Could check if assistance is needed.
- Are aware of capabilities and needs.
- Can offer help within a very short time.



# Community capacity building

## Identify and register the community's vulnerable populations:

- ✓ Who the vulnerable community members/groups are,
- ✓ Where they live,
- ✓ What their actual needs are, and
- ✓ Who are in contact with them and may provide help to them

**Social Care Programs** offer good possibilities in obtaining contact details and information about the elderly, persons with disabilities, people with chronic diseases and reaching them when needed.

**'Home Care'** (or **'Assistance at Home'**) - EU supported social program



# Modern technology

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Modern technology and telecommunication capabilities can be critical to connecting persons with disabilities with their friends and family and with the community and its resources.

Modern technology tools and systems can be used to enable the functioning of formal and informal social networks in a community, enhancing their resilience before, during, and after a disaster.



# Communication strategy

- Prepared **before a disaster occurs.**
- **During disasters** citizens require an updated communication with timely, honest and accurate information from a trustful source, about the progress of the disaster, guidelines (what to do and what to avoid) and protective measures.
- Continue the communication **in the post disaster period.** Those affected need a long and adequate social and psychological support. *They should be treated humanely, with respect to their particular needs.*
- **The voluntary sector** - a great resource before and after a disaster. Volunteers constitute an integral part of the community and citizens trust them.
- **The media** - A key element in risk and emergency communication.



# Towards a preventive policy

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A preventing policy should follow action lines as:

- **Identify and register the community's vulnerable populations:**
- **Transmit clear and concise messages repeatedly to all.**
- **Deliver messages via multiple channels and modes of communication.**
- **Computer technology access into disadvantaged communities.**
- **Develop ongoing and proactive sustainability mechanisms in society.**

***Effective risk communication is an ongoing process, not a single act.***



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

