

IDNDR Portuguese Goals and Achievements

Expectations Post-2000

*Armando Tabor da SNPC
(IDNDR Focal Point)*

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the *Portuguese Basic Law for Civil Protection* all civil protection agents and technical and scientific institutions are responsible for co-operation with the National Service for Civil Protection (SNPC) as permanent co-partners to achieve the objectives of civil protection. Therefore, the Portuguese Government decided that there was no special need to create a National Committee to tackle with the objectives, principles, strategies and plans of action of the IDNDR as they are part of the current missions of the SNPC.

This short paper is just a summary of the goals and achievements we were able to accomplish in Portugal during the decade, and the expectations we have for the year 2000 and beyond.

IDNDR PORTUGUESE GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Between 1991 and 1993, important *legislation* was introduced and enacted in relation to natural disaster reduction, such as, the Civil Protection Basic Law, the National Service for Civil Protection Organic Law, and other decrees regulating the organisation of Emergency Operation Centres, at national, regional and local level, the support by Armed Forces, and the co-operation of scientific and technological institutions with SNPC.

The *National Emergency Plan* was worked out through 1992/1993, and approved by Portuguese Cabinet's decision on 1994 September. This was an important step to push forward the emergency planning at district and municipal level, that is increasing now.

A comprehensive national assessment on natural and man-made risks was established by the National Emergency Plan. However, detailed studies on risks and their mapping at local level remain to be done. An important project on *seismic risk at Lisboa* was carried out by an interdisciplinary team covering: historical seismicity; seismotectonic environment; microzonation; building stock; population's dynamic; damage simulation; emergency management; and prevention measures. A CD Rom on the findings of this project was produced for public information at large.

There are plans to continue the project in order to make the microzonation of other earthquake prone areas.

Detection and early warning systems for adverse weather conditions and forest fires have been developed so far but they require further improvements in order to be effective in real time.

The INAG, Water Institute, has developed a very effective Detection and Warning System for Floods whose main objective is to provide real time hydrometric data 24 hours a day on the basins of the Portuguese big rivers, through *Internet*.

An extensive *population awareness and information campaign* has been in force since 1992 through the dissemination of around 50.0 million leaflets containing security procedures and self-protective measures upon earthquakes, floods, storms, domestic and forest fires, saving water resources, using domestic gas, etc., as well as other informative and technical publications.

Highest priority was established at national level for the development of *civil protection education* curricula's programmes for inclusion into the official education system. This was a target of utmost importance foreseen in the Portuguese law as a way to bring the new generations up to the scratch for a solid and long lasting culture on disaster's prevention.

A *Protocol* signed in September 1992 by the Ministers of Interior and Education ratified the co-operation among institutions of both ministries, not only to achieve the full output in the awareness and information of the students, but also to accomplish the objective above mentioned.

It was decided by the Ministry of Education that civil protection matters would be included on the *Civic Education* discipline, for the 3rd Cycle of Basic Education, which corresponds to the 7th, 8th, and 9th years of scholarship.

With the technical assistance of the SNPC an author with wide experience on scholar books making published the manual *Educating for Civil Protection*, which was conceived for providing to educators technical background on risks and on the civil protection system. Since 1996, under the sponsorship of the SNPC, several thousands of this manual were distributed to all Portuguese Schools of 2nd and 3rd Cycles of Basic Education (5th to 9th years of scholarship), as a way to create a new conscience and mentality of the educators on disaster's prevention.

The youngster's education was not forgotten. The *Programme Grow-up in Safety*, created by the Municipal Service for Civil Protection of Lisboa, sponsored by the Ministry of Education, SNPC, and one private Insurance Company, aims to teach youngsters from the 1st Cycle of Basic Education (1st to 4th years of scholarship) to tackle with daily hazards and major risks to which Lisboa is prone (earthquakes and urban fires). The children, assisted by skilled educators, act as real life in various didactic rooms and pre prepared areas. A training-package of one video and a game was produced and broadly distributed to all 12 000 Portuguese Primary schools.

Frequent *training and exercises* for authorities, civil protection agents, response units, and vulnerable groups of population have been met at national, district and municipal level. The SNPC has assisted the Municipal Services for Civil Protection for training support on *Off-site Emergency Plans* of their chemical complexes, in the framework of *SEVESO Directive*. Since 1988 seven drills were carried out and the inherent comprehensive public information campaigns were duly concerned for increasing the population's safety without affecting their subjective and psychological sense of life.

Every year the SNPC has planned and organised ad hoc programmes for celebration of the *Would Disaster Reduction Day* mainly consisting of seminars on the themes proposed by the IDNDR Secretariat with a large participation of policy-makers, civil protection authorities and agents, scientific community, and mass media.

Portugal has been participating with tens of experts in ordinary meetings and programmes of activities of the following *international organisations*: UN (IDNDR Secretariat); NATO (CPC and PFP); European Union (DG XI/C/4); Council of Europe (EUR-OPA, Open Partial Agreement, Major Hazards Agreement); ICDO, International Civil Defence Organisation; and ULA, Union of Local Authorities.

In the frame of the Community Action Programmes the SNPC, under mandate of DG XI, organised 4 (four) *European Union Workshops* on: Forest Fires, 1992; Volunteers, 1994; Co-operation in Civil Protection Below the Central Government Level in Europe, 1996 (in co-operation with The Emergency Planning Society, UK, manager of this pilot project); and Civil Protection in Urban Areas, 1997.

In the frame of the EUR-OPA, Major Hazards Agreement, an *European Centre for Urban Risks* was set up in Lisboa, 1998. Its main activities will focus on: risk assessment and analysis of vulnerabilities at urban level; awareness and information of the public; emergency planning at urban level; urban rehabilitation of old historical centres; and land use and urban development planning.

Also the *regional co-operation* in the field of civil protection has been developed in the frame of the Ibero-american Association for Civil Protection, the Western Mediterranean Countries, and the PALOP, Countries of Official Portuguese Language. In the second case we have bilateral agreements for co-operation with Spain, France, Morocco, and Tunisia (under preparation). In the last case programmes for co-operation with Angola and Cabo Verde are already underway.

EXPECTATIONS POST – 2000

At national level the SNPC will strive to enhance the performances of the civil protection system, namely through the continuation and/or up-grade of current projects and programmes focused on the following fields:

Prevention: consistent engineering and other physical protective measures; enforcement by authorities of safety standards and rules; enhanced land use and urban planning; environmental protection as a component of sustainable development.

Preparedness: improved awareness, information and education programmes aimed at generating in the public at large, policy-makers and other social groups a solid culture on civil protection, in order to insure support for, and effectiveness of, disaster reduction activities; enrolment of media as contributing actors in awareness raising, information and opinion building in order to increase recognition of the potential of disaster reduction to save lives and protect property; improved co-ordination and co-operation among ongoing national disaster research activities, at universities and other technical and scientific institutions, through interdisciplinary programmes.

Emergency planning and management: development of emergency plans at all levels; frequent training and exercises at all levels; progressive integration of private sector, voluntary organisations, and NGO's either on emergency planning or management; upgrade communications, monitoring, detection, and early warning systems based on high-tech supports.

International and regional co-operation: because we are not alone links between Portugal and other countries, international and regional organisations are supplementary ways for greater coherence and efficiency to enhance efforts, procedures and resources assigned to the world communities.

In summary we think these projects and programmes would cover the needs of most countries far beyond 2000.