



Latvian Presidency  
of the Council of the  
European Union



# Background note

## Workshop on needs of persons with disability throughout disaster management cycle

New Decision on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism No 1313/2013/EU introduced new areas of actions – prevention and preparedness, and each new instrument should be shaped accordingly. The decision prescribes that Union Mechanism shall support, complement and facilitate coordination of Member States' action in pursuit of the common specific objective to increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters. In this context, Latvian Presidency will focus on rising awareness and preparedness for disasters for persons with disability.

Various European Union strategic documents and regulations aim to ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in different areas, but taking in consideration increasing numbers of disasters within the European Union and outside, it is vital to understand and integrate the needs of persons with disability in disaster management planning. For this reason Latvian Presidency will dedicate a workshop that will aim to find the gaps in relations between needs of persons with disability and disaster management cycle.

Workshop will start with three panel discussions: needs of persons with disability throughout disaster management cycle, best practices in civil protection for persons with disability and use of new technologies and innovative solutions for persons with disability during emergencies. Each panel discussion will be facilitated by experienced experts and they will take a look into the topic from perspective of disaster management cycle, particularly prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. When the scene for fruitful work will be set all participants will be split in three groups (prevention, preparedness, response & recovery) to discuss issue of persons with disability in different areas of disaster management cycle. Participants are invited to share knowledge, experience and provide proposals for improvement in particular area.

In order to demonstrate some practical examples of new technologies and innovative solution Presidency will organize an exhibition in between workshop sessions. Presidency will ensure presence of some private/public entities during the exhibition, but every participant can bring and demonstrate technological solutions of its own country. If so, do not hesitate to contact Presidency in advance.

During the Latvian Presidency there will be a major event – Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan, Sendai where new International Strategy for Disaster Reduction will be adopted. Presidency's workshop and following Council Conclusion will reflect Union's approach to empower vulnerable groups and will compliment Union's position on principles for new International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

**Looking forward to meet you in Riga!**

# Workshop on needs of persons with disabilities throughout disaster management cycle

12-13 January 2015, Riga, Latvia

## Agenda

### *11 January*

20.00 – 22.00 Mingling in the lobby bar of the “Radisson Blu Daugava” hotel

### *12 January*

09.00 – 9.30 Registration

9.30 – 10.00 Opening Ceremony

10.00 – 11.20 I Panel discussion  
“Needs of persons with disabilities throughout disaster management cycle”

11.20 – 11.45 Coffee break

11.45 – 13.00 II Panel discussion  
“Best practices in civil protection regarding persons with disabilities”

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.00 III Panel discussion  
“Innovative solutions and technologies in civil protection for persons with disabilities”

15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 – 17.15 Workshop

20.00 – 22.00 Official dinner

### *13 January*

10.00 – 11.30 Workshop (continuation)

11.30 – 12.30 Poster session on innovative solutions in topical area

12.30 – 13.00 Conclusions

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch and farewell