EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT: MAIN ACTIVITIES SINCE PARIS 2015

Francesc PLA

7th Annual Meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction
(Helsinki, Finland, 3-5 October 2016)
Ethical principles on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

- Resolution on Ethical Principles relating to Disaster Risk Reduction and contributing to People’s Resilience to Disasters (2011)
- Publication on ethical principles (2012)
  - whole disaster cycle: from prevention to reconstruction
  - deal both with the direct victims of disasters and with the other parties involved
- Need to consider in particular vulnerable groups
  - People with disabilities
  - Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
  - Children
Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response

- Conference on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response (Brussels, Belgium, 4-5 December 2014)
  - Major Hazards and People with Disabilities. Their Involvement in Disaster Preparedness and Response
    - Analyses the challenges to usual disaster management when dealing with people with disabilities
    - Promotes an adapted approach of concerned stakeholders to consider accurately special needs.

- Workshop of Presentation of the Toolkit on Disability and disaster preparedness (21 May 2015, Brussels, Belgium)
  - Major Hazards and People with Disabilities: a toolkit for good practice
    - Provides guidance and examples of good practice for civil protection professionals, decision-makers and people with disabilities to reduce their vulnerability to disasters.

7th Annual Meeting of the EFDRR (Helsinki, Finland, 3-5 October 2016)
Including Migrants in Disaster Preparedness and Response

- Working group on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response (4 meetings)
- Training course (Ravello, June 2016) [in cooperation with IOM]
- Special session in IDRC 2016 (Davos, Switzerland, August 2016)
- Conference on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response (Lisbon, Portugal, 14 October 2016)

Expected outcomes:
- Report on inclusion of Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the preparation and management of disasters and major crisis
- Guidelines for Assisting Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees during emergencies and disasters
- Draft recommendation on the Inclusion of Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees in disaster preparedness and response

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Including Children in Disaster Preparedness and Response

- Conference “Building a culture of prevention through disaster risk awareness improvement among children and adolescents” (Sofia, Bulgaria, 10-11 December 2016)
  - Take stock of actual progress in improving resilience of children and adolescents to disasters.
  - Discuss necessary steps to build a strategy to promote a culture of prevention among children and adolescents
  - Identify concrete actions to implement it.

- Information on hazards for pupils: Besafenet
  - Multilingual website “Be Safe Net” (EN, FR, RU, GR, IT)
  - Material provided by Specialized Centres of the Agreement
  - Information on each hazard presented as responses to the same 12 questions
  - Development of an auto-evaluation module
Ecosystem Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction

- Recommendation (2012)
- Publication: ‘Ecosystem Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction’ (2013)

- Two regional meetings:
  - Tbilissi (Georgia), 29 May-1 June 2012
  - Belgrade (Serbia), 29-30 September 2015

- Participation to PEDRR Secretariat (Chairmanship in 2012) and support to the initiatives
Selected projects in 2011-2015

1. Using Information to Save Lives and Help Victims
   - Trigerring factors integration in landslides hazard mapping
   - Distance monitoring of buildings and structures

2. Using Knowledge to Reduce Vulnerability
   - Coupling terrestrial and marine datasets for coastal hazard assessment and risk reduction in changing environments
   - Earthquake vulnerability assessment of historical centres

3. Placing People at the Heart of Disaster Risk Reduction
   - Involvement of citizens in man-made disasters emergency planning
   - Inform and involve the population in the prevention of seismic and tsunami risks in coastal areas
13th Ministerial Session of EUR-OPA Agreement (Lisbon, 26 October)

Hosted by one of the Member States every 4-5 years, its main goal is to adopt the Medium Term Plan defining the Agreement domains of action for the next 5 years. It also adopts recommendations on specific topics.

Ministerial Session structure:

1. New needs: learning from the refugees crisis
2. New partnerships: sharing tasks among entities
3. New threats: preparing for unanticipated events
4. New interactions: making people a resilience tool

Three documents will be adopted formally

- Resolution “Building more disaster resilient societies in Europe and the Mediterranean region: Priorities for Action”
- Medium Term Plan 2016-2020
- Recommendation on the Inclusion of Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees in disaster preparedness and response
The new Medium Term Plan 2016-20

Focus on needs of national authorities but taking into account also:

- Scientific and technological entities
- Institutional partners (public and private)
- Population (individuals and groups)

MTP 2016-20 based on two main pillars:

1. **Reinforce the work oriented to authorities**
   
   a) **Mobilize the network of Centres for more policy oriented projects**
      - Improve practical knowledge on existing risks and available tools
      - Inform on emerging risks and on potential ways to handle

   b) **Consider the governance issues both nationally and internationally**
      - Improve national governance through international comparison of practices
      - Incorporate international impact of national policies during their definition

2. **Consolidate the work oriented to population**

   a) **Raise the risk awareness of the whole population**
      - Promote future more resilient generations by formal and non-formal training
      - Inform adults, both decision-makers and citizens, through adequate channels

   b) **Promote the participation of population to prevention and preparedness**
      - Foster individual prevention and preparation to disasters
      - Encourage collective involvement in risk prevention actions
Selected projects in 2016-2017

1. **Reinforce the work oriented to authorities**
   
a) **Mobilize the network of Centres for more policy oriented projects**
   
   - Developing Geomorphological mapping skills and datasets in anticipation of subsequent Susceptibility, Vulnerability, Hazard and Risk Mapping
   
   - Revisiting Traditional Building Techniques for Appropriate Maintenance and Earthquake Retrofitting of Vernacular Constructions

   - Consider the governance issues both nationally and internationally
   
   - Enhancing national interagency and international cross-boundary dialogue and inter-operability in fire management in Southeast and Eastern Europe
   
   - Building aseismic code and evacuation planning of critical infrastructures in case of Earthquake or Fire

b) **Consolidate the work oriented to population**

   a) **Raise the risk awareness of the whole population**
   
   - Practical actions to inform migrants on disaster reduction issues
   
   - Development of a pedagogical approach to teach safety aspects at school

   b) **Promote the participation of population to prevention and preparedness**
   
   - Involving citizens in emergency planning design
   
   - Involving touristic actors on earthquake and tsunami mitigation measures
Other international initiatives

- Participation to the EFDRR working group drafting the Matrix of Activities
- Support to the extension until 2020 of the Making Cities Resilient campaign of UN-ISDR
- Support to the IDDR 2016 (reducing disaster mortality)

Live to Tell
International Day for Disaster Reduction
13 October 2016
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

For more information: www.coe.int/europarisks/
The end of the Medium Term Plan 2011-15

MTP 2011-15 was based on three main pillars:

1. **Using Information to Save Lives and Help Victims**
   - Assess the magnitude of events to alert population
   - Promote communication between governments

2. **Using Knowledge to Reduce Vulnerability**
   - Evaluate and use information in spatial planning
   - Assess increased risk from climate change and improve environmental resilience

3. **Placing People at the Heart of Disaster Risk Reduction**
   - Promote efficient DRR policies and governance, taking also care of ethical aspects
   - Improve resilience and preparedness through education and awareness

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