

## **Concept Note: Signing Ceremony of an Action plan between the European Committee of the Regions and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction**

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 13 October as the date to celebrate International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) to promote a global culture of disaster reduction, including disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. Since it began 25 years ago, the day has grown in a major global awareness event celebrated in many ways to encourage efforts to build more disaster-resilient communities and nations.

In the last 20 years, 1.3 million people have died in disasters, such as storms and floods, heat waves and droughts, and earthquakes. Many could have been saved by more investments in disaster risk reduction and prevention measures. For this reason, the theme of this year's IDDR is "The Sendai Seven Campaign - 7 Targets, 7 Years" and will focus on reducing disaster mortality under the slogan "Live to Tell."

Within the context of IDDR and the European Committee of the Regions "Open Days for Regions and Cities", the event will include a panel discussion featuring EU Committee of the Regions President Markku Markkula; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction Robert Glasser; and European Commission DG ECHO Director-General Monique Pariat, which will focus on how disaster risk reduction can contribute to greater resilience and sustainability at the local and regional levels in Europe and how the respective institutions can best support these efforts.

The event will further announce the signing of a joint action plan between the Committee of the Regions and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) towards the implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 at the local and regional levels in Europe. The joint action plan will contribute to a strategic and long-term partnership to benefit European countries and their citizens.