



People with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response: reflection from the EU perspective

**Conference on Including people with Disabilities in disaster
Preparedness and Response, Brussels 4-5 December 2014**

**Hans Das, Head of Unit
DG ECHO Civil Protection Policy Unit**

European Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM)

- Framework for cooperation in disaster response, preparedness and prevention
- Natural and manmade disasters, inside and outside EU
- European Commission + 31 Participating States (EU 28 + NO, IS + former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
- New legislation since 17 December 2013



People with disabilities as EU priority

- The EUCPM supports, complements and facilitates coordination of Member States' actions
 - Including increasing public awareness and preparedness for disasters
- LV presidency priority - increasing public awareness and preparedness for disasters, particularly for persons with disabilities
- Workshop in Riga, January 2015 – *"Needs of persons with disability throughout disaster management cycle"*
- Follow up by Council Conclusions

EU projects related to persons with disabilities

- 9 projects co-funded related to persons with disabilities under the UCPM (950 000€)
 - **Rescuing Injured Disabled Persons in Case of Disasters project-Verona charter**
 - project is contribution to the impact of the UN Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities
 - aim to link existing fundamental needs of people with disabilities and CP
 - signed in Verona 2007 by participants of the conference who have signed on behalf of their institutions



Thank you for your attention!

**Visit our website on
<http://ec.europa.eu/echo>**