

# European Network for Psychosocial Crisis Management – Assisting Disabled in Case of Disaster – Implementation of Psychosocial Crisis Management

## Workshop – Disability and Disaster Preparedness - Toolkit

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Bundesamt  
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## **European Network for Psychosocial Crisis Management – Assisting Disabled in Case of Disaster**

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and Civil Protection (DG ECHO)**

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# Main objective of EUNAD



- EUNAD aims toward the implementation and preparation of **EU human rights-related assistance programmes for disabled survivors** of disasters.
- EUNAD is a step forward in the implementation of the UN **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



# Starting Point 2013 → 2015

## Starting point 2013

- Most guidelines show a lack of specialized concepts for practical care, health care and psychosocial support and counseling services for people with disabilities in disaster situations.
- In the literature analysis in total just 38 documents matching the topic ‘disability and disaster’ were found.



2015 → ++++++

# Literature analysis

In total **38 documents matching the topic exactly** (disability and disaster)

- 6 technical solutions (e.g. alarm/equipment)
- 5 short reports (articles) about local community activities (focusing on people with disabilities) – that have been implemented or are being prepared; often as a result of an experience with disaster
- 2 a brief overview of obligatory legal norms applying to the field with reference to the more detailed sources of information (US)
- 4 theoretical scientific papers, chapters, an overview of available literature and other sources
- 4 emergency management research (including people with disabilities) – information about projects supported by funds
- 4 scientific reports about research projects, analysis of local circumstances, comparison of crisis management in different parts of the world , recommendations for changes
- 2 scientific overviews of the topic communication with people with different disabilities
- 4 brief practical instructions for communication with people with disabilities
- 1 scientific study of terminology and the possibility of cooperation with people with disabilities
- 1 detailed consensus document – an outcome from a conference – detailed summary of the key topics
- 2 specific information about victims of crimes with disabilities and the barriers they experience in communication (communication with uniformed)
- 1 paper focusing on problems of shelter workers
- 2 complex training manuals (for helpers)

- ✓ EUNAD recommendations: Crisis Management for sensory impaired people
- ✓ EUNAD Expert Group
- ✓ Intensive Cooperation with the Associations of the disabled
- ✓ Training concepts and training material
- ✓ First empirical results on special psychotraumatology of sensory impaired people

# Gaps – Psychosocial Crisis Management

- a knowledge gap on the specific acute reactions and needs of sensory, mentally and physically disabled people in disaster and other potentially traumatic incidents
- a knowledge gap on the specific mid- and long-term trauma related reactions of sensory, mentally and physically disabled persons in disaster and other potentially traumatic incidents
- a knowledge gap on psychosocial interventions for disabled people in the acute response as well as in the mid- and long-term recovery
- a gap of integrating the needs of disabled people in risk and crisis communication
- Specific training concepts
- educational tools to prepare disabled people to act in as crisis constructive and efficient as possible

**There is still a further need to analyse the needs, the gaps, the challenges, and to develop training concepts, educational tools and practical and activity-oriented recommendations.**

# Task: Research

- Prevalence of traumatic experiences among disabled people
- How disabled people deal with potential threats
- The experience of safety and risk of disabled people in disaster situations
- Needs of people with disabilities
- Coping strategies of disabled people
- Risk of disabled people for being victims of accidents, crimes, violence and other critical incidents
- Posttraumatic stress, depression, social withdrawal and other trauma related disorders among disabled individuals
- Specifics in psychotraumatology of disabled people
- Evaluation of psychosocial interventions (psychosocial acute support, counselling, psychotherapy)

**Knowledge will be beneficial to national, regional, and local authorities in preparing and organizing emergency response and may lead to better support for disabled people during and after critical incidents.**



# Task: Rising Awareness

Preparation and dissemination of information concerning the needs and demands of people with disabilities in disaster situations and the need for special solutions in preparedness and response

- Civil protection authorities
- Organisations of danger defence / uniformed services (fire brigade, rescue services, police)
- NGO's
- Physicians
- Psychosocial acute helpers (e.g. pastoral emergency care, crisis intervention teams)
- Social worker
- Psychological crisis intervention teams for schools
- Mental health professionals

# Network and Expert Group

The aims are

- to build up and extend the network with European, national and local associations of disabled people and European, national and local civil protection authorities
- to integrate members of the associations in disaster preparedness and response
- to extend the EUNAD Expert Group and to integrate the Expert Group in the EU CP Mechanism

Associations on a European level among others are

- the European Union of the Deaf
- the European Blind Union
- the European Association of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families
- the European Disability Forum
- *the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)*
- *the European Association of Intellectual Disability Medicine*
- *the European Association for Mental Health in Intellectual Disability*

## **Guidelines have to include the needs of and solutions for people with disabilities**

Warning

Risk and Crisis Communication

Information

Evacuation

Architectural issues (e.g. shelters, assistance centers)

**Psychosocial Support (acute, mid- and long-term term)**

# Task: Training

- Development of training concepts and extension of existing concepts for different vocational groups
  - Integration of the topics in the regular curricula
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- Organisations of danger defence/uniformed services (fire brigade, rescue services, police), NGO's
  - Physicians
  - Psychosocial acute helpers (e.g. pastoral emergency care, crisis intervention teams)
  - Emergency psychologists
  - Social worker
  - Psychological crisis intervention teams for schools
  - Mental health professionals
  - Special education teacher

# Task: Education

Development of educational toolkits which can be used at schools for disabled children and youths to improve their preparedness and self-help competences in emergency situations and to promote resilience. Contents are e.g.

- How to orientate in chaotic, stressful critical incidents and disaster (e.g. understand visual and hearing impressions)
- How to communicate with uniformed services, physicians and other helpers
- Improve the understanding of the tasks of uniformed services

# Project Partner



- Center for Psychotraumatology, Alexianer, Krefeld, Germany (Coordinator)
- Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic
- Federal office of civil protection and disaster assistance, Bonn, Germany
- Norwegian Center of Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies, Oslo, Norway
- University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark



Nasjonalt kunnskapssenter  
om vold og traumatisk stress



# Cooperating Partners



- Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic
- German Association for Rehabilitation
- Israel Trauma Coalition
- Spanish Society of Psychotraumatology, Traumatic Stress and Dissociation
- University of Oslo - Medical Faculty
- University of Cologne
- Associations of the visually and hearing impaired



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



## More information

[www.eunad-info.eu](http://www.eunad-info.eu)



**People with disabilities don't have special needs. They have the same needs like other people in emergency situations, but to answer their needs we need special solutions.**

# Thank you for your attention!!

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