



EU2015.LV

Latvian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union



Disability-inclusive disaster management

the work done so far and the way forward



Allegory



British Paraorchestra (conductor Charles Hazelwood), the world's first professional ensemble of disabled musicians which made its debut during the closing ceremony of the London Paralympics

LV Pres work on disability-inclusive issue

New Decision on Union Civil protection mechanism “*shall support, complement and facilitate coordination of MS’ action in pursuit of the common specific objective - to increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters*”

- Workshop (12-13 January 2015, Riga)



LV Pres work on disability-inclusive issue

- Workshop features
 - Exhibition/Practical demonstrations (public&private entities)
 - Web-stream: Presidency's website and preventionweb.net
 - Experts from MS, EP, EC, Asia, Latin America, Int'l organizations and PwD-NGOs
 - Co-financed by EC
 - International sign language
 - Social networks for Q&A



LV Pres work on disability-inclusive issue

- Workshop technical proposals translated into political commitments
- Draft document prepared and examined in Council's Civil protection working group (PROCIV)
- Document adopted at JHA Council, 12 March 2015, before WCDRR

Council Conclusions - examples

- developing existing training and exercise programmes - disability-inclusive disaster management (*tailored to the needs of PwD*)
- provide knowledge and raise awareness among PwD and general society (*through the public campaigns, video and audio format materials, specific training etc.*)
- evaluate existing national civil protection resources and relief items for their capacity to meet the specific needs of PwD, (*sheltering for Internally displaced persons, IDP*);

WCDRR - Road to Sendai

- Encouragement - to present the EU approach and achievements for empowering vulnerable groups within the context of the new DRR Strategy



On expert level

- UN DESA (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) organized **public forum – Taking action towards disability-inclusive DRR framework and its implementation**

On political level

- Latvian Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs address the speech on one of the working sessions - **Proactive participation of PwD in Inclusive DRR for all**



UN World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai Japan

The way forward - challenges

- Call for proposals 2015 for prevention and preparedness projects - difficulties to appoint common project ideas
- Implementation challenge of CC - due to diverse needs, development level and principles in the EU MS
- Existing cooperation and networking with stakeholders, but different agenda
- European Parliament's Disability Intergroup - promoting the disability policy in their work at the EP as well as in the national contexts (+)
- Toolkit – how to put into practice (to use)

Thank you for you attention!