



Strasbourg, 07 July 2015

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**European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)**

**1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group on  
migrants, asylum seekers and refugees  
in the context of major risks prevention and management**

**11 June 2015**

**Paris**

**REPORT**

[www.coe.int/euoparisks](http://www.coe.int/euoparisks)

## **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened at 10.30 am on 11 June 2015 by Mr Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO, Head of the Democratic Initiatives Department, Acting Executive Secretary, European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement EUR-OPA. He welcomed the participants (cf Appendix 1 - List of participants).

## **2. Adoption of the Draft Agenda**

The draft agenda was adopted (cf Appendix 2 - Draft Agenda). A tour de table followed.

## **3. The EUR-OPA Agreement: work on vulnerable groups and disaster risk reduction**

Mr Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO introduced the Intercultural Cities Programme, a network of cities promoting diversity and the more technical EUR-OPA Major Hazard Agreement, which both fall in his field of responsibility within the Democratic Initiatives Department in DG II at the Council of Europe.

Resolution 2011 – 1 of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on Ethical Principles relating to Disaster Risk Reduction and contributing to People’s Resilience to Disasters ([http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/ressources/resolution/RES\\_2011-1\\_EthicalPrinciplesDRR\\_EN.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/ressources/resolution/RES_2011-1_EthicalPrinciplesDRR_EN.pdf)) was adopted in 2011. Since then they have been the basis for the work carried out on vulnerable groups in relation to Disaster Preparedness and Response in the framework of the current EUR-OPA Medium Term Plan (2011-2015). Three vulnerable groups are being looked at more closely: people with disabilities; children; migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. While the work on children will commence in 2016, the work on people with disabilities is now coming to a close.

Ms Mechthilde FUHRER, Deputy to the Executive Secretary, European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement EUR-OPA, presented the results of the work carried out in the project “People with disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response” since its onset in early 2013. The book “Major Hazards and People with Disabilities: Their Involvement in Disaster Preparedness and Response” (<http://www.coe.int/en/web/euoparisks/publications>) presents its results: a report, guidelines and a political Recommendation. In addition a practical Toolkit has been prepared: “Major Hazards and People with Disabilities: a toolkit for good practice” (<http://www.coe.int/en/web/euoparisks/major-hazards-and-people-with-disabilities.-toolkit-for-good-practices>). The working methods and tools of this project were introduced and it is hoped that they will inspire the work to be carried out in the framework of the project on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

## **4. Civil protection: migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of major risks prevention and management**

On 12-13 June 2014 the EUR-OPA Agreement and the Intercultural Cities Programme jointly organised a Workshop on “Civil protection in diverse societies: migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of major risks prevention and management”. Researchers covered the intercultural field and migration issues and civil protection professionals presented case studies, covering a broad range of topics. The results of a Questionnaire are also outlined in the [Report of this Workshop](#), which also comprises Recommendations. These should be taken into account while working on the issue of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of major risks prevention and management. Mr Georgi PETROV,

Expert, Ministry of Interior, Sofia, Bulgaria, presented the findings of this workshop in which he participated (cf. Appendix 3 – PowerPoint Presentation). Mr Tomoaki SHIMANE, Japan Foundation, who was another participant in that workshop, completed and outlined how this topic can be relevant for Japan.

## **5. Vulnerable groups: migrants, refugees and asylum seekers**

Mr Francesc ARAGALL, President, Design for All Foundation, illustrated in his presentation how the Design for All methodology, used in the project “People with disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response” can link the two projects (cf. PowerPoint Presentation - <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/sso/SSODisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680302ab2>).

## **6. Brainstorming on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of major risks prevention and management**

An exchange of views took place. The experts presented their expertise and introduced different ongoing initiatives. Ms Vera GOLDSCHMIDT, International Organisation for Migration, presented her expertise in the field of civil protection. She also presented tools she has developed and which can be inspiring for the work to be carried out in this new project.

Ms Hripsime TOROSSIAN, French Red Cross, stressed that difficulties lie in social links and that migrants are not integrated in the current social corpus, and in the case of a catastrophe this will prove to be even worse. Local populations have to be prepared for living together with migrants. Mr Bertrand PAUVERT, researcher, CERDACC, called for a methodology of preparedness, taking all these issues into account. The term “stranger” will need to be split into migrant, asylum seeker and refugee. The question was raised whether there are other groups, tourists for example, to be taken into account. Documents are already developed on this issue.

Now synergies have to be ensured, the political momentum should be used; awareness for civil protection professionals exists. Mr Tony VARO, Head of Civil Protection, Monaco and Chair of the EUR-OPA Committee of Permanent Correspondents, pointed out that the start for change lies in the questioning. Civil protection needs to adapt itself and take into account all populations. He further underlined that education is a way to success. Mr Mohamed HANNAN, Disabled People’s International, mentioned the crucial importance of cultural communication in the context of the work with vulnerable groups. Mr Mohamed HANNAN discussed very briefly of his personal experiences as migrant with disabilities. He described his contribution to the research on Vulnerable or Invisible asylum seekers with disabilities in Europe. Mr HANNAN pointed out that it is necessary to include migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities in the context of major risks prevention.

Mr Stepan BADALYAN, Director of the European Interregional Scientific and Educational Centre on Major Risk Management, Armenia, introduced the topic of old and new migrants and the question of them living together.

Mr Badaoui ROUHBAN, Global Risk Forum Davos, encouraged the participants to keep in mind the lessons from the previous project where a solid basis had been developed for guidelines on “People with disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response”. This issue was included in the Post-2015 Framework

for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, 14-18 March 2015.

All these matters discussed will be included in the Project Outline (cf. Appendix 4), which will serve as a basis for the Draft Terms of Reference, procedures and working schedule of the project. The Secretariat announced an upcoming Conference (cf. Appendix 5)

## **7. Date and place of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Working Group will take place in Brussels in September 2015. It will be jointly organised by the Secretariat, DG-ECHO and the IOM (to be confirmed).

## **8. Closure of the meeting**

The meeting was closed at 17.00. Mr Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO thanked the participants for their contributions.

The results of the Working Group meeting were presented at the 66th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the Agreement on 12 June. The views expressed by the delegates will be taken into consideration in the project outline.

## APPENDIX 1

### 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of major risks prevention and management 11 June 2015, Paris

#### List of Participants

##### Experts

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## APPENDIX 2

### **1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of major risks prevention and management 11 June 2015, Paris**

#### **AGENDA**

##### **1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AT 10.30**

##### **2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

*AP/CAT (2015) OJ 05: Draft Agenda*

This first meeting exceptionally provides interpretation between English and French. Further meetings of this Working Group will be conducted in English only.

##### **3. THE EUR-OPA AGREEMENT: WORK ON VULNERABLE GROUPS AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: INTRODUCTION BY THE SECRETARIAT**

Mr Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO, Head, Democratic Initiatives Department, Acting Executive Secretary, EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, will introduce the work conducted by the Council of Europe in the field of vulnerable groups.

Ms Mechthilde FUHRER, Deputy to the Executive Secretary, EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, will present the work carried out in the project “People with disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response” ([www.coe.int/europarisks](http://www.coe.int/europarisks))

##### **4. CIVIL PROTECTION: MIGRANTS, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN THE CONTEXT OF MAJOR RISKS PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT**

Mr Georgi PETROV, DG Fire Safety and Civil Protection, Ministry of Interior, Sofia, Bulgaria, will introduce the workshop jointly organised in June 2014 by EUR-OPA and the Intercultural cities programme on “Civil protection in diverse societies: migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of major risks prevention and management”.

The report is available on our website: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/europarisks/migrants>

##### **5. VULNERABLE GROUPS: MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**

Mr Francesc ARAGALL, President, Design for All Foundation, Barcelona, Spain, will illustrate the connection between the project “People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response” and “Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the context of major risks prevention and management” using the Design for All approach. He will speak on “Disaster Preparedness and Response” also including “Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees”.

**6. BRAINSTORMING ON MIGRANTS, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN THE CONTEXT OF MAJOR RISKS PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT**

Exchange of views

**7. LUNCH BREAK FROM 13.00 - 14.30**

**8. SETTING THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORK ON MIGRANTS, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN THE CONTEXT OF MAJOR RISKS PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT**

- Working Group: Terms of Reference, procedures, working schedule
- Activities and expected results

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**10. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

**11. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING AT 17.00**

Mr Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO will close the meeting.

The findings of this Workshop will be presented on 12 June 2015 at the 66<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA).

### **APPENDIX 3**

Presentation of Mr Georgi PETROV, Expert, International Cooperation, NATO, EU and Humanitarian Operations Unit, DG Fire Safety and Civil Protection, Ministry of Interior, Sofia, Bulgaria



Workshop-CPDS.ppt

## APPENDIX 4

### Project outline

- The aim of the project is to obtain guidance for civil protection professionals, in accordance with the Council of Europe values (respect for differences, valuing diversity, fight against stereotypes) and following up on the experiences and results of the project “People with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response” . .
- The project will include three main components: civil protection, the humanitarian and social dimension, research.
- The starting point is to put the question.
- All phases of the disaster cycle are to be covered.
- The topic of migrants has not been considered yet by Civil Protection.
- The topic is to be described, definitions are to be used.
- The methodology of “Design for all” and the 7 success factors will be used.
- Citizens, migrants and migrants’ organisations will be involved, as well as migrants with disabilities as vulnerable group and service providers for asylum seeker and refugees.
- Education and training will be essential.
- Communication is key (throughout the disaster cycle, languages, cultures and building a culture of risk).
- The project will be conducted in close cooperation with partners active in the field (IOM, Red Cross, DG-Echo, UNISDR, UNESCO, etc.)
- The Recommendations of the 2014 Report (EUR-OPA + ICC-Workshop) will be included.

On the basis of the Project Outline the Secretariat will develop the Mandate of the Working Group, the tasks of the members of the Working Group will be described, as well as the Schedule.

### Schedule

- The Secretariat drafts the meeting report, which is circulated, commented, adopted by the members of the Working Group. Challenges are to be identified.
- Members of the Working Group and experts will be identified and appointed.
- Dates will be set.
- Tasks will be given, such as the drafting of a Questionnaire, asking for experiences and good practices. This Questionnaire ought to be developed in July, to be circulated amongst the Working Group members and sent to the Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Agreement. A deadline for replies has to be set. The answers have to be evaluated and a draft report elaborated.
- In September the second meeting of the Working Group will be organised, probably in Brussels. Date and venue to be confirmed.
- A Workshop may be organised in October/November in Bosnia and Herzegovina. To be confirmed. If not, a Workshop could be organised in spring 2016.
- A Conference, concluding the project, would be organised in October 2016. Portugal has expressed its intention to organise this Conference. At that event the project outcomes would be presented: the report, guidelines, a Political Recommendation and a practical Toolkit.

## APPENDIX 5

Programme of the meeting

**Méditerranée: une route dans la mer**  
**Migrations de peuples, cultures, religions**  
**Pozzalo, Italie, 20-25 novembre 2015**



Programme  
Pozzalo\_mai2015.pdf