

Lisbon, 26 October 2016

**EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN
MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)**

**Recommendation 2016 - 1 of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on
the Inclusion of Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees in disaster
preparedness and response,**

**adopted at the 13th Ministerial Session of the European and Mediterranean Major
Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Lisbon, Portugal, 26 October 2016.**

The Ministers,

- A. Recognising that migrants, asylum seekers and refugees have a fundamental right to a degree of protection against disasters that is equal to that enjoyed by the rest of the population;
- B. Mindful that in EUR-OPA member States awareness, planning, services, training and emergency assistance to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees would benefit from significant improvement;
- C. Desirous to promote a more integrated, efficient and effective approach to protecting migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in Europe from the risks and impacts of disasters;
- D. Taking note with satisfaction of the report on “The inclusion of Migrants, Refugees, Asylum Seekers in Disaster Preparedness and Response” and of the “Guidelines for Assisting migrants, asylum seekers and refugees during Emergencies and Disasters”, as well as other relevant frameworks and guidelines.

RECOMMEND that member States of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA):

1. Integrate specialised measures on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees into national disaster risk reduction policies, planning processes, training curricula and emergency management, favouring, investment in long-term strategies that would reduce the vulnerability and exposure to disaster of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees;
2. Design and promote national programmes and standards for the rescue, protection and care of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees when and where they are at risk of disaster;

3. Design, promote and coordinate measures at all levels, through authorities and emergency management services, making use of civil society;
4. Involve civil society and other non-state actors, including the private sector, that provide care, services and representation to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees;
5. Ensure that migrants, asylum seekers and refugees are included in the entire disaster risk reduction process, taking their views into account and using their skills and capacities;
6. Ensure that education and training on the protection and assistance of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees are in the mainstream curricula for disaster risk reduction;
7. Support the efforts of the Agreement to promote inclusive disaster risk reduction for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in its member States through the promotion of adequate policies, the sharing of expertise, the organisation of training programmes and the promotion of promising practices.

INVITE the member States of the Council of Europe which are not parties to the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), to examine the above recommendations and to use them as a source of inspiration for their policy and practice.