

Strasbourg, 2 November 2018

AP/CAT(2018)05

*Or English*

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

**DRAFT**

**RESTRUCTURING EUR-OPA:  
PRIORITY ACTIVITIES IN 2019**

*Document prepared by the Secretariat  
of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement*

*This document will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring this copy*

## INTRODUCTION

Recent events at the Council of Europe have had a serious impact on the budget of the organisation. In particular, Turkey informed the Secretary General on 12 December 2017 that its decision to discontinue its status as a major contributor would be applicable as of January 2018. Turkey was a major contributor to EUR-OPA. As a consequence of this decision, the overall budget of the Partial Agreement has been decreased by 147.000 euro.

Additionally, in April 2018, Turkey decided to withdraw completely from EUR-OPA as from the end of 2018. The total cut of the Turkish financial contribution amounts to 324.780 euro in 2019. In order to keep a balanced ratio between activity and staff, avoiding major cuts only to the activities, the post of Deputy to the Executive Secretary has been suppressed.

Due to divergences within the Parliamentary Assembly, the Russian Federation withheld 2/3 of its financial contribution to the Council of Europe in 2017 and the total of its contribution in 2018. This uncertain situation has also had an adverse impact on EUR-OPA's work programme because the Russian Federation is a major contributor. For the time being, the Secretariat is not aware if Russia is going to pay or not its annual contribution to EUR-OPA.

Given this complex and unclear situation, the Secretariat would like to propose some contingency measures to ensure the smooth running of EUR-OPA in spite of its reduced human and financial resources. It is therefore proposed to streamline the programme of activities and to identify some priority actions. For example, EUR-OPA could finance a few projects on selected priority topics for up to four years and inform the decision-makers of the outcomes in order to contribute to good governance practices on risk prevention, preparedness and management.

The Secretariat invites the Permanent Correspondents to identify specific targeted activities to be financed by EUR-OPA, in complementarity with the initiatives undertaken by other international organisations in the field of disaster risk reduction.

## PROPOSALS FOR PRIORITY ACTIONS

### 1. Strengthening the interface between science, technology and policy

In the last 30 years, the network of Specialised Centres has produced a significant number of scientific instruments, technological tools and guidelines to better assess evolving risks and adapt resilience strategies accordingly.

The work done by the EUR-OPA Centres is not always visible at national and international level and, therefore, the Permanent Correspondents and national decision-makers do not draw greater benefit from the available scientific and technological knowledge aimed at improving governance practices. In order to increase visibility and accessibility to the work done by the Centres the Secretariat is in the process of developing a dedicated internet page for the Centres and a collaborative platform on the EUR-OPA [website](#).

Permanent Correspondents are invited to use and promote the scientific instruments and guidelines developed by the Centres and to identify policies, strategies and practices in the management of natural and technological disasters. The Secretariat proposes to collect these government practices and make them visible and available to all member States and partner organisations through publications, brochures, internet, social media, etc.

It is now of paramount importance to capitalise on the existing EUR-OPA work and use existing tools for better governance and cooperation in disaster risk reduction.

## **Who is doing what?**

Directors of Specialised Centres: transmit by e-mail to the Secretariat the results of their researchers, scientific instruments, technological tools, guidelines and recommendations, starting with the most recent ones.

Permanent Correspondents: use and promote the Centres' tools, e-mail to the Secretariat their national DRR-related policies, strategies and good practices on selected topics.

Secretariat: collect and upload the Centres' scientific results as well as national policies and governance practices on the EUR-OPA website.

## **2. Priority projects**

It could prove more beneficial to allocate the funds to limited priority projects of a four-year duration wherein several Centres can simultaneously cooperate on the same topic. The Permanent Correspondents should select priority topics quadrennially in order to deal with different and/or emerging issues on a rotational basis.

It is recommended that one or more Permanent Correspondents take a leading role and become the “ambassador” of such a project; providing support and visibility, in collaboration with the Secretariat, for political relevance and to ensure its impact.

## **Who is doing what?**

Permanent Correspondents: select priority topics for limited targeted projects in 2019 for 2020 starting the new biennial programme phase, provide support and visibility to the projects, promote the use of projects' results to decision-makers in order to identify policies and government practices in DRR.

Directors of Specialised Centres: submit to the Secretariat selected project proposals in line with the agreed priority topics and ensure the appropriate cooperation between partners.

Secretariat: provide support and resources to selected projects, guarantee the visibility and the diffusion of projects' outcomes on EUR-OPA website as well as national policies and management practices of major risks.

**USING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE TO BETTER ASSESS EVOLVING RISK AND ADAPT ACCORDINGLY THE RESILIENCE STRATEGIES**

*First Priority for Action of the Sendai framework:  
"Understanding disaster risk"*

AND

**DEVELOPING COOPERATION AMONG ALL DECISION-MAKERS TO BETTER DEFINE AUTHORITIES' ADEQUATE ROLE IN DRR**

*Second Priority of Action of the Sendai Framework:  
"Strengthening disaster risk governance"*

**A) Strengthening the interface between science, technology and policy**

- Fires
- Floods
- Landslides
- Heat-waves
- Earthquakes
- Nuclear disasters

Tools available are listed in Appendix I

Role of Permanent Correspondents and Directors of Specialised Centres:

- Implement/promote good practices in order to improve governance and cross-border cooperation on wildfire DRR.
- Implement/promote recommendations to protect the population from UFPs/smoke exposure, including vulnerable groups.
- Disseminate teaching and guiding materials for citizens on the causes of floods and prevention measures to areas exposed to this risk.
- Apply and test the cost-effective autonomous telemetric early warning system for detecting floods, in particular in cross-border regions, and exchange experience with neighbourhood countries (e.g. floods that originate in France but extend to Monaco).
- Implement/promote the Guidebook on local heat-wave risk adaptation skills.
- Implement/promote the Recommendations to protect people from nuclear disaster together with the appropriate national institutions.
- Implement/promote the Guidelines for strengthening the role of local authorities in building disaster resilient communities
- Work with local authorities, national and local media to raise awareness on DRR.

**B) Priority projects**

- Natural hazards: implementation of existing guidelines and recommendations in order to identify appropriate legislations, policies and governance practices on risk management.
- Nuclear disasters: implementation of recommendations promoting the effective protection of people and an efficient cross-border and transnational cooperation in order to identify legislation, policies and practices.

Permanent Correspondents should specify the matter to deal with and prioritise the projects.

**PROMOTING RISK CULTURE AMONG POPULATION  
(CHILDREN AND GROUPS WITH SPECIAL VULNERABILITIES)**

*Fourth Priority for Action of the Sendai Framework:  
“Enhancing disaster preparedness”*

AND

**FOSTERING POPULATION’S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION**

*Third Priority for Action of the Sendai Framework:  
“Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience”*

**A) Strengthening the interface between science, technology and policy**

**1. Children:**

- Promote disaster risk education in schools, focusing on local risk and the conduct to be observed in emergency situations.
- Promote the training on risk preparedness for teachers in schools located in risk prone areas. Organise awareness campaigns with public participation.
- Elaboration of academic curricula for the training of didactic staff on protection of children against risks.

Tools available are listed in Appendix I

Role of Permanent Correspondents and Directors of Specialised Centres:

- Raise awareness of Ministries of Education on the existing (user-friendly and pertinent) EUR-OPA educational tools.
- Liaise with the Ministry of Education to encourage secondary schools to participate in the BeSafeNet Olympiad online competition.
- Encourage evacuation drills in schools located in risk-prone regions.
- Organise awareness campaigns and develop training materials on risk preparedness.
- Disseminate training and pedagogical materials for citizens on seismic risk preparedness

**2. Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees**

Tools available are listed in Appendix I

Role of Permanent Correspondents and Directors of Specialised Centres:

- Implement/promote guidelines and practices for the inclusion of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in disaster preparedness and response.

**3. People with disabilities**

Tools available are listed in Appendix I

Role of the Permanent Correspondents and Directors of the Specialised Centres:

- Implement/promote good practice on disaster preparedness and response targeting people with disabilities

**B) Priority projects**

- 1 project on education targeting schools and raising public awareness
- 1 project on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees
- 1 project on people with disabilities

Permanent Correspondents should specify the matter to deal with and prioritise the projects.

## Appendix I

Council of Europe Recommendations and Guidelines
--

### A) Climate Change

- a. **Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)03** of the Committee of Ministers to member States on cultural heritage facing climate change: increasing resilience and promoting adaptation [EN](#)[FR](#)
- b. **Recommendation 2011 - 2** of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on preventing and fighting wildland fires in a context of climate change, adopted at the 61st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Agreement, Yerevan, Armenia, 29-30 September 2011 [EN](#) [FR](#)
- c. **Recommendation 2010 - 1** of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on reducing vulnerability in the face of climate change, adopted at the 12th Ministerial Session of the EUR-OPA Agreement, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 28 September 2010 [EN](#) [FR](#) | [RU](#)
- d. **Recommendation 2009 - 1** on Vulnerability of Cultural Heritage to Climate Change, adopted at the 57th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Agreement, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 15-16 October 2009 [EN](#) [FR](#)

### B) Environment

- a. **Recommendation 2012 - 1** of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, adopted at the 62nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Agreement, Strasbourg, France, 26-27 April 2012 [EN](#) [FR](#)
- b. **Recommendation** on Risks in coastal areas, adopted at the 53rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Agreement, Bucharest, Romania, 27-28 September 2007 [EN](#) | [FR](#)

### C) Governance

- a. **Recommendation** on local and regional authorities preventing disasters and facing emergencies, adopted at the 11th Ministerial Session of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Marrakech, Morocco, 31st October 2006 [EN](#) | [FR](#)
- b. **Recommendation 2009 - 2** on the promotion and strengthening of national platforms for disaster risk reduction, adopted at the 57th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Agreement, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 15-16 October 2009 [EN](#) [FR](#)

## D) Radiation Risks

- a. **Recommendation 2011 - 1** of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on information to the public on radiation risks, adopted at the 61st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Agreement, Yerevan, Armenia, 29-30 September 2011 [EN](#) | [FR](#)
- b. **Recommendation 2008 - 1** on Radiological protection of local communities : improving preparedness and response, adopted at the 55th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Agreement, Istanbul, Turkey, 30-31 October 2008 [EN](#) | [FR](#)

## E) Vulnerable groups

- a. **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 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Lisbon, Portugal, 26 October 2016. [EN](#) | [FR](#)
- b. **Guidelines** for assisting migrants, asylum seekers and refugees during emergencies and disasters (2016) (AP/CAT(2016)08 [EN](#) | [FR](#)
- c. **Recommendation 2013 - 1** of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on the inclusion of people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response, adopted at the 64th meeting of the Committee of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Paris, France, 24-25 October 2013 [EN](#) | [FR](#)
- d. *Major Hazards and People with Disabilities: a [toolkit for good practice](#)*
- e. **Recommendation** on Disaster risk reduction through education at school, adopted at the 11th Ministerial Session of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Marrakech, Morocco, 31st October 2006 [EN](#) | [FR](#)
- f. **Recommendation** on Psychosocial support and services for victims of disasters, adopted at the 53rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Agreement, Bucharest, Romania, 27-28 September 2007 [EN](#) | [FR](#)

<b>Selection of other tools and reference texts (the list is not exhaustive)</b>
--

### **Fires**

- Recommendations and good practices to improve governance and cross-border cooperation on wildfire disaster risk reduction with emphasis on Eastern Europe.
- Recommendations to protect the population against exposure to fine and ultrafine particles as a side effect of forest fires, with special attention to vulnerable groups of population (e.g. pregnant women, children, people with disabilities).

### **Floods**

- Relevant material, instructions, booklets for public information on floods.
- Cost-effective autonomous telemetric early warning systems for the detection of floods, mudflows and rock fall initiation.

**Heat-waves**

- Guidebook on local heat-wave risk adaptation skills.

**Nuclear disasters**

- Recommendations for better protection of people in case of nuclear disasters.

**Local authorities**

- Guidelines for strengthening the role of local authorities to build disaster resilient communities.

**Vulnerable groups**

- BeSafeNet: a website providing reliable educational material about hazards and preparedness. An Olympiad on knowledge of natural and technological hazards will be organised in April 2019 and will consist of an online competition.
- Methodology for teaching the course “Basic knowledge on safe life activities basis” for public school teachers.
- Methodology and Action Plan to prepare national and municipal Campaigns on awareness raising, acquisition and consolidation of adequate behaviour skills in emergencies.
- Training and pedagogical materials on seismic risk for citizens’ preparedness.
- Recommendation 2016-1 of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on the inclusion of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in disaster preparedness and response.
- Guidelines for assisting migrants, asylum seekers and refugees during emergencies and disasters.
- Migrants in disaster risk reduction: practices for inclusion.