



National Institute for Research and Development in Construction, Urban Planning and Sustainable Spatial Development “URBAN-INCERC”, Bucharest, Romania

ECBR – EUROPEAN CENTER FOR BUILDINGS REHABILITATION

REPORT ON ECBR ACTIVITIES IN 2024. PROPOSAL OF ECBR PROJECT IN 2025

Dr. Eng. Emil - Sever Georgescu
DIRECTOR OF ECBR

Joint Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and Directors of Specialised Centres
21-22 November 2024, Paris

ECBR PROJECT 2024

► CREATING DIGITAL KNOWLEDGE CONTENT, MEANS AND SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLS OF ECBR – "DIGIRISX" FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE SEISMIC ZONES OF ROMANIA

Project background

- Romania was struck by earthquake disasters and recently by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In Romania the exposure to seismic risk is still high, while in 2024 there were 47 years since the great earthquake disaster on March 4, 1977.
- *A new National Strategy for Seismic Risk Reduction – for buildings – is now enforced by the ministry in charge – the Ministry of Development, Public Works, and Administration – MDPWA, with the support of the World Bank, starting with 2022. The ECBR field, i.e. "building rehabilitation", needs to be combined with the protection of exposed persons, in order to enforce EUR-OPA goals for inclusive societies.*

In this context, the general aim of the new ECBR Project for 2024 – 2025 is to work for a new and integrated approach, such as:

- to use the digital and media tools to convey scientific and technological knowledge and promote and strengthen the governance capacity and cooperation of all stakeholders for implementing the new National Strategy for Seismic Risk Reduction, while enhancing networking among all decision-makers in DRR.
- to share and disseminate the risk culture for communities, children, adults and groups with special vulnerabilities
- to use the knowledge from EUR-OPA specialized centres and specifically from ECBR, Bucharest, Romania and ECPFE - European Centre on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes, Athens, Greece.

Following the DRAFT RECOMMENDATION - Use of digital tools such as social media and mobile applications for successful disaster risk communication Proposed for adoption at the 80th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and of the Directors of Specialised Centres (Joint Meeting), 6-7 November 2023, Strasbourg (APCAT(2023)01 REC Orig. English)

THE ECBR PROJECT IN 2024 CORRESPONDS TO THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES FOR ACTION OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN:

- *Using scientific and technological knowledge to better assess evolving risks and adapt accordingly the resilience strategies.*
- *Developing cooperation among all decision-makers to better define authorities' adequate role in DRR.*
- ***Promoting risk culture among population (children, adults and groups with special vulnerability).***

Background

- There is a need of correct and updated knowledge and information about earthquake disaster preparedness
- Digital tools correspond to the needs and trends recommended by EUR-OPA

Target groups and community involvement in the ECBR Project 2024

- ▶ The earthquake safety and adequate training for proper protection and behavior of persons in seismic zones of Romania
- ▶ Besides the National Strategy of Seismic Risk Reduction, the project aims at a multiple impact and a cascade effect of knowledge transfer is quite expected for ECBR webinars and development of digital tools.
- ▶ The gender equality and training a fair share of women, as well as disabled or vulnerable persons

Activities in 2024

Coordinator Centre: ECBR, Bucharest, Romania

- Organization of a training ***webinar / seminar with adequate stakeholders, to debate on topics that need to be addressed by digital means and social media and mobile applications for successful disaster risk communication / seismic risk reduction for extended social groups in case of buildings and persons in all seismic zones of Romania***
 - Date: 28 October 2024
 - Venue: ECBR Hall in URBAN-INCERC, about 80 participants (On-line seminar)

TOPICS

- 1. ECBR DIGIRISX Project – aim and objectives*
- 2. Earthquakes at the global level and in Romania. Hazard - vulnerability - seismic risk. The way of manifestation on the constructions*
- 3. Seismic risk: from damages to the political decision regarding strengthening cancellation after the earthquake of March 4, 1977*
- 4. Hazard, vulnerability and seismic risk - Questions and answers*

Partner 1: ECPFE, Greece, Athens – participating as on-line lecturers to ECBR seminars for providing expertise and educational materials –

On-line presentation of Dr. Linda-Evangelia Pelli / Dr. Asimina Kourou – Head of Social Earthquake Defense

Directorate of EPPO: Earthquake planning at work places

- Organization of a training ***webinar / seminar on ECBR / URBAN-INCERC content of digital tool / website on seismic risk reduction***
 - Date: 29 October 2024
 - Venue: ECBR Hall in URBAN-INCERC, about 50 participants (On-line seminar)

TOPICS

- 1. Presentation of the behavior of different types of structures*
- 2. Specific aspects regarding earthquake preparation in different situations*
- 3. Recommendations for preparation and behavior in the event of an earthquake*
- 4. National Seismic Risk Reduction Strategy: general concept, pillars, implementation activities, directions in the investment program, risk exposure data, the specifics of different construction categories*

Partner: ECPFE, Greece, Athens – participating as on-line lecturers to ECBR seminars for providing expertise and educational materials:

Dr. Linda-Evangelia Pelli – ECPFE - OASP Education for earthquake preparedness, OASP Safety initiative for child care centers

Results

2024

- Preparing topics and 10 basic informative materials with knowledge about earthquake prone-risk areas, concerning the preparedness for risk reduction and protection and behavior in an emergency, in case of buildings and persons Social impact and immediate outcomes by ensuring a scientific background for anticipated preparedness and safe behaviour
- Increased networking and exchange of experience by using knowledge from EUR-OPA specialized centres, especially of the partner centre (ECPFE, Greece, Athens).

Deliverables (Outputs)

2024

Coordinator Centre: ECBR, Bucharest, Romania

- Training materials with recommendations for various social groups in case of buildings and persons, as seminar support text (brochures, leaflets in printed and/or electronic version) and scientific knowledge transfer on seismic risk reduction
- Reports of ECBR seminars to be distributed to the EUR-OPA specialized centres

Partner: ECPFE, Greece, Athens

- Presentations and recommendations including expertise and educational materials for earthquake and pandemics preparedness in buildings in Greece, to be shared with Romanian participants in seminars.

The most significant achievements as result of the grant during the time reporting period:

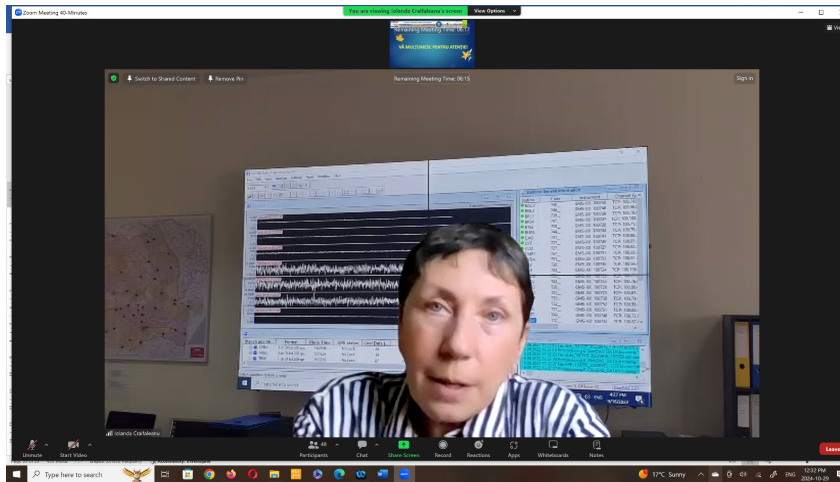
- ▶ *Creating the digital knowledge content for the DIGIRISX earthquake preparedness tool – 10 basic folders - to be made operational in the next period*
- ▶ *Organization in 2024 of two on-line webinars/seminars with sessions and discussion sessions about the prepared content*
- ▶ *Preparation of deliverables for seminars by ECBR members:*
 - *Dr. Eng. Emil Sever Georgescu, Senior Researcher I*
 - *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Habil. Iolanda-Gabriela Craifaleanu, Senior Researcher I*
 - *Lecturer Dr. Eng. Daniela Dobre, Senior Researcher III*
 - *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Claudiu Sorin Dragomir, Senior Researcher I*
- ▶ *Presentations covering specific themes, as follows;*
 - *The situation of seismic hazard, vulnerability and risk in Romania.*
 - *Destructive earthquakes in the history of Romania.*
 - *Seismic risk reduction and earthquake preparedness in buildings.*
 - *Actions to be taken before, during and after earthquakes. Education / teaching resources*
 - *National Strategy for Seismic Risk Reduction – outline, objectives and pillars*
 - *Discussions and on-line surprise surveys on the participants' perception on specific aspects of seismic risk reduction in their places of residence and at work*
- ▶ *Ensuring a dialog with stakeholders – future users of the digital tool, about the topics and public perceptions*



Dr. Eng. Emil-Sever Georgescu



Dr. Linda-Evangelia Pelli

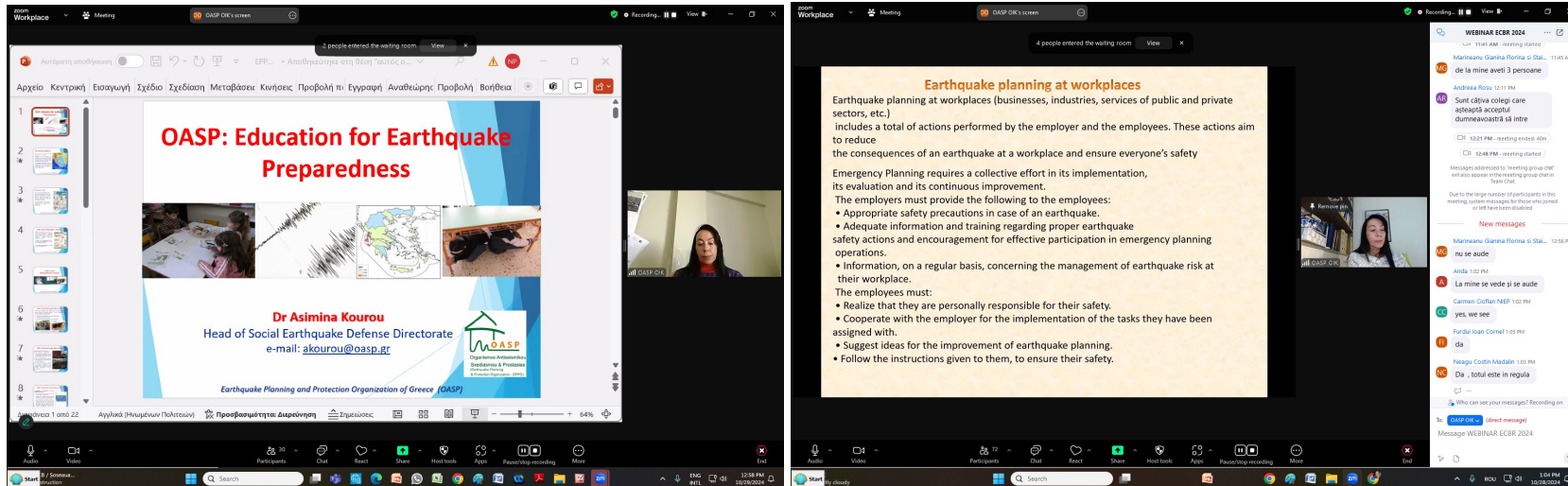


Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Habil. Iolanda-Gabriela Craifaleanu



Lecturer Dr. Eng. Daniela Dobre

SPECIFIC ISSUES IN 2024: CONTRIBUTION OF OASP / EPPO-ECPFE, Athens, Greece



OASP / EPPO Contributions: On-line presentation of Dr. Linda-Evangelia Pelli / Dr. Asimina Kourou



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Habil. Iolanda-Gabriela Craifaleanu delivering issues of the National Strategy of Seismic Risk Reduction

Steps that have been taken to ensure that the results of the project are sustained:

- ECBR enhanced the stamina and the interest on earthquake preparedness by the ECBR / URBAN-INCERC website
- MDPWA and the team working on the draft of the National Strategy for Seismic Risk Reduction attended and were informed about the opinions of the ECBR Seminars participants

What has worked well and less well during the reporting period in terms of the strategies that we have used to reach our key target groups

2024

- *The participants have their own perceptions about seismic risk, as it was proven by the ECBR surveys concerning the perception of the seismic risk of their building*
- *The participants were from almost all seismic zones of Romania*
- *Therefore, ECBR Webinars covered all hazard and risk exposure zones*
- *The objectives of the National Seismic Risk Reduction Strategy in preparation were highly appreciated and rated by the participants, with more emphasis on mobilizing the participation and inclusive action*
- *We shall keep in touch with all participants and provide them support materials for training and dissemination*

Stories which best illustrate the successes and / or challenges of our work to date

During the ECBR Webinar on October 29, 2024, the participants were invited to some surprise on-line tests.

Their answers proved that:

- They appreciated the role of main pillars of National Strategy of Seismic Risk Reduction*
- They identified the correct procedures of response and self-protection during the incidence of earthquakes*
- They associated the term of earthquake with fear, panics, chaos*
- They appreciated the level of risks in their buildings, mostly as moderate*

ACTIVITIES IN 2025

Coordinator Centre: ECBR – EUROPEAN CENTER FOR BUILDINGS REHABILITATION

- Organization of a webinar / seminar with adequate stakeholders, on the improved ways and extended topics prepared to be addressed by digital means and social media and mobile applications in specific seismic zones of Romania*
 - Date: October 2025, duration - one day
 - Venue: ECBR Hall in URBAN-INCERC, about 25 participants (On-line seminar)
- Organization of a webinar / seminar on ECBR / URBAN-INCERC content of digital tool / website on seismic risk reduction in specific seismic zones of Romania*
 - Date: October 2025, duration - one day
 - Venue: ECBR Hall in URBAN-INCERC, about 25 participants (On-line seminar)

Partner: ECPFE, Greece, Athens: participating as on-line lecturers to ECBR seminars for providing expertise and educational materials

Deliverables (Outputs) 2025

Coordinator Centre:

- Training materials with recommendations for various social groups in case of specific seismic zones and situation, buildings and persons, as seminar support text (brochures, leaflets in printed and/or electronic version) and scientific knowledge transfer on seismic risk reduction
- Reports of ECBR seminars to be distributed to the EUR-OPA specialized centres

Partner: ECPFE, Greece, Athens

- Presentations and recommendations (brochures, leaflets) including expertise and educational materials for earthquake and pandemics preparedness in similar facilities in Greece, to be shared with Romanian participants in seminars.
- Participating as on-line lecturers to ECBR seminars for providing expertise and educational materials

Expected Results 2025

- Improving and extending topics and informative materials with knowledge about earthquake prone-risk areas, concerning the preparedness for risk reduction and protection and behavior in an emergency, in case of specific seismic zones, buildings and persons
- Intermediate outcomes- Increased networking and exchange of experience by using knowledge from EUR-OPA specialized centres, especially of the partner centre (ECPFE, Greece, Athens).
- Immediate outcomes - social impact by ensuring a scientific background for anticipated preparedness and safe behavior



Thank you!