

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 2022. PROPOSAL OF ECBR PROJECT IN 2023

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17-18 November 2022

ECBR PROJECT 2022-2023

▶ ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE OF BUILDINGS AND PERSONS WITH SPECIAL VULNERABILITIES TO EARTHQUAKES AND PANDEMICS IN ROMANIA, WITHIN THE EUR-OPA GOALS FOR INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

▶ **ECBR activities in 2022 - Because of the SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19, the ECBR Seminars were held on-line**

Specific objectives in 2022

- Preparation of training materials and of scientific knowledge transfer on seismic risk reduction **for institutions of care and treatment of disabled, NGO for disabled individuals and for special schools for students with disabilities, addressed to professors, school principals / directors and administrative staff** , by training seminars
- Knowledge transfer by training seminars for these institutions for implementing the new **National Seismic Risk Reduction Strategy**, using the prepared materials.

Activities in 2022

- **Organization of an on-line training seminar – Webinar for institutions of care and treatment of disabled, NGO for disabled individuals**
 - Date: 13 October 2022 Zoom Webinar broadcast from ECBR Hall in URBAN-INCERC, **61 applicants**
- **Organization of an on-line training seminar – Webinar for special schools for students with disabilities, addressed to professors, school principals / directors and administrative staff**
 - Date: 14 October 2022, Zoom Webinar broadcast from ECBR Hall in URBAN-INCERC, **41 applicants**

Results - 2022

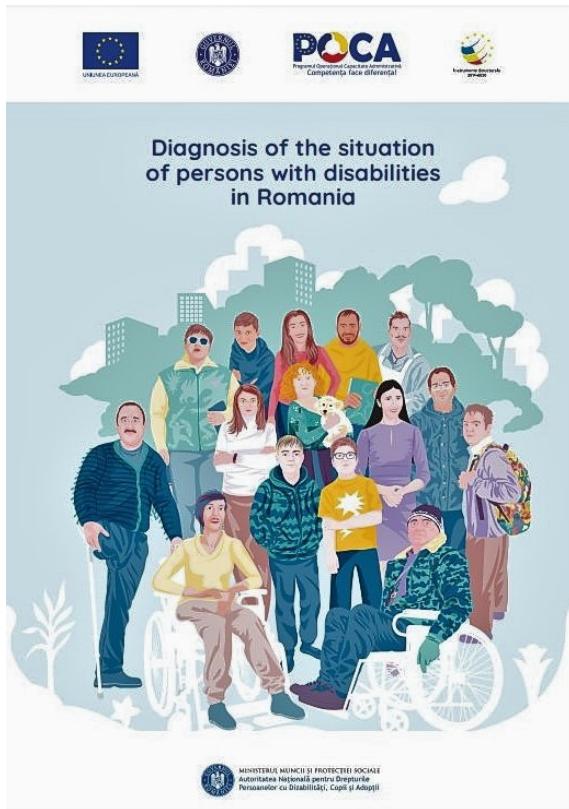
- Providing scientific and practical knowledge about the objectives of the new Strategy of Seismic Risk Reduction and creating positive disaster risk reduction perception for institutions of care and school / educational facilities - addressed to professors, directors and administrative staff and employees, respectively.

Deliverables - 2022

- Reports of seminars and workshops to be distributed to the EUR-OPA Secretariat and partners
- Publication of training materials for care institutions, schools staff and employees, as well as course support for seminar participants

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

- ▶ *Organization in 2022 of on-line seminars with sessions and discussion sessions*
- ▶ *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 II*
- ▶ *Presentations covering four themes, as follows:*
 - *The situation of seismic hazard, vulnerability and risk in Romania. Destructive earthquakes in the history of Romania. European and worldwide earthquakes that involved facilities with vulnerable persons. Seismic risk reduction and earthquake preparedness in such facilities. Actions to be taken before, during and after earthquakes. Education / teaching resources*
 - *National Seismic Risk Reduction Strategy – outline, objectives and pillars*
 - *Seismic risk reduction and earthquake preparedness in respective facilities. Actions to be taken before, during and after earthquakes. Education / teaching resources*
 - *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*



ISBN 978-973-0-35208-5 (Romanian)

ISBN 978-973-0-35206-1 (English).

We made reference to:

- the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- the European Convention on Human Rights and other legal standards
- **the Council of Europe Disability Strategy 2017-2023, adopted in 2016.**

We stressed-out how the Council of Europe endeavors to enhance equal opportunities, improve the quality of life and independence of people with disabilities, guarantee their freedom of choice, full citizenship and active participation in the life of the community

We cited also a complex and critical Report of 2021, edited by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and World Bank (425 p) „Diagnosis of the situation of persons with disabilities in Romania”. ISBN 978-973-0-35208-5 (Romanian); ISBN 978-973-0-35206-1 (English).

Some 8 pages refer to risk and emergency situations. The vulnerability to disasters is higher for disabled and the disaster plans do not cover special provisions for them.

The connection with SARS-Cov-2 / COVID-19 was related to the case of the Croatia Earthquake of March 22, 2020.

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

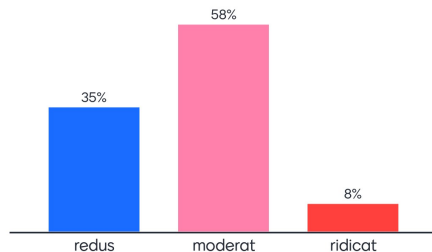
I. During the ECBR Webinar on October 13, with institutions for care and treatment of disabled, NGO for disabled individuals, participants answered an on-line surprise survey on two questions:

- Which are the 3 words that come to your mind when you think about **EARTHQUAKE**?
 - Answers: **prevention**, panic, disaster, victims, fear, collapse, chaos, fire, help, etc
 - We remarked that **prevention was prevalent over panic**

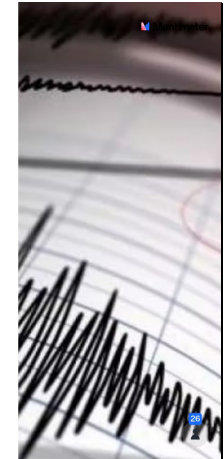


Cum ați aprecia riscul seismic al clădirii în care lucrați?

Mentimeter



Scrieti 3 cuvinte care va vin in minte cand va ganditi la cutremur:



How would you assess the seismic risk of the building in which you work?

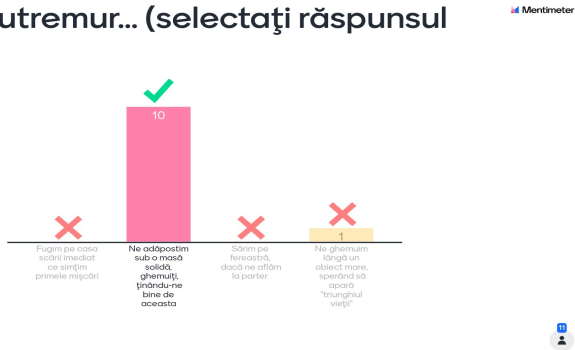
- Answers: 35% low, **58% moderate**, 8% high
 - We remarked that **the opinion on a moderate risk is confirmed by the visual assessment of their buildings, made by ECBR members**



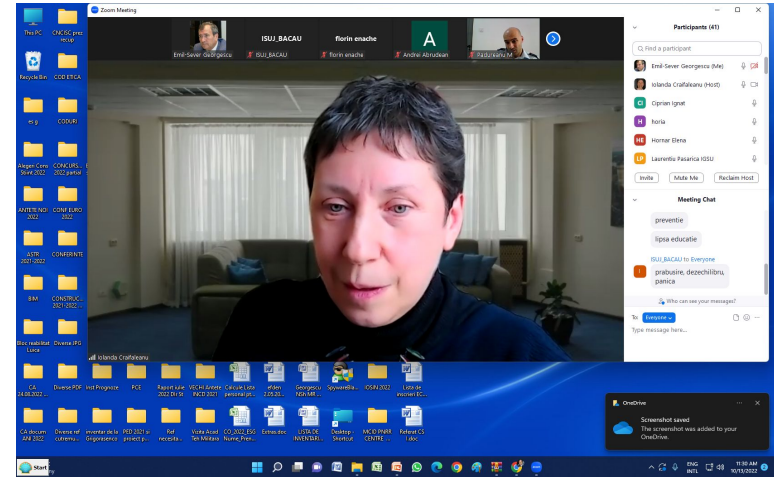
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**II. During the ECRB Webinar of October 14, with the staff of special schools for disabled, participants answered an on-line surprise survey on two questions:
What would you do in case of earthquake?**

În caz de cutremur... (selectați răspunsul corect)



10 of 11 responders selected the protection under a table



How would you rank the importance of the objectives included in the draft of the National Seismic Risk Reduction Strategy? (please scale from 0 to 5)

Objective 1: Reduce seismic risk

Reduce seismic risk nationwide by saving lives, reducing injury, and protecting assets through prioritized and efficient investments

Objective 2: Promote well-being

Promote well-being by creating co-benefits on energy efficiency and sanitary conditions, among other functionality aspects; and

Objective 3: Boost resilience

Boost resilience by integrating risk considerations in territorial and sectorial planning and ensuring resilient recovery and reconstruction processes

Objective 4: Mobilize participation and inclusive action

Mobilize participation and inclusive action by raising public awareness on seismic risk management and building ownership in the implementation of risk reduction measures

Answers / Scores:

Objective 1 - 4.9;

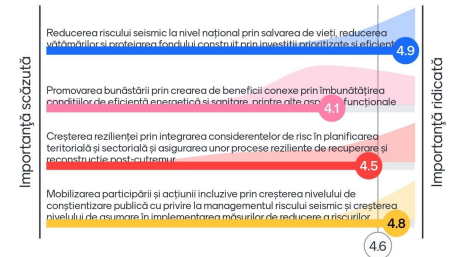
Objective 2 - 4.1;

Objective 3 - 4.5;

Objective 4 - 4.8...

Average ranking 4.6 from 14 responders, with greater considerations for Objective 1 (reduce seismic risk) and Objective 4 (mobilize participation and inclusive action)

Utilizați cursorul scalelor pentru a desemna importanța obiectivelor SNRRS



III. The participants were from almost all seismic zones of Romania

Map of left side – earthquake epicenters since 984 AD

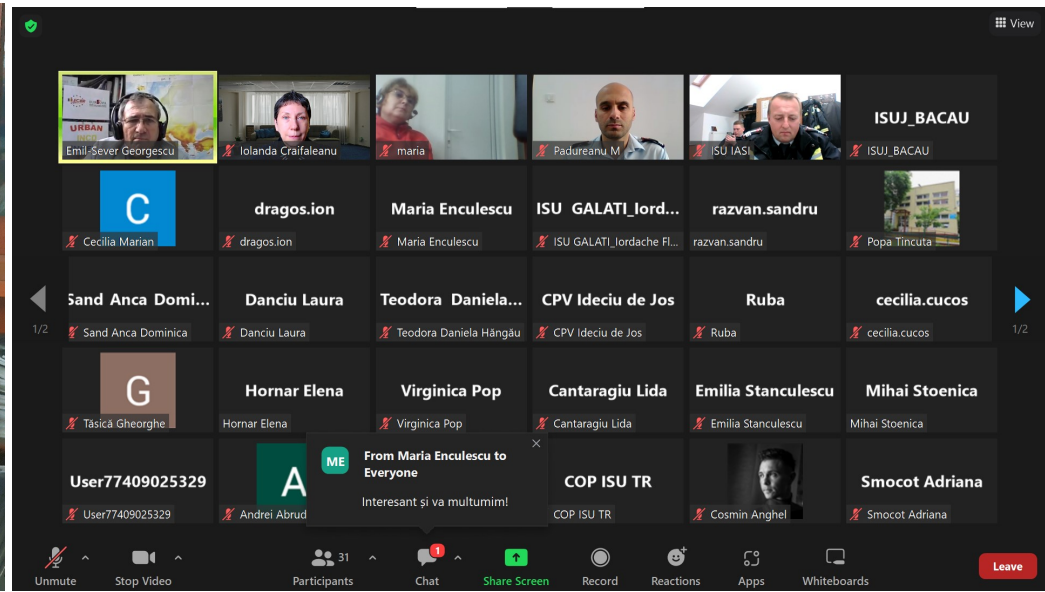
Map of center – the places of applicants

Map of right side – the official seismic zonation



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

- ▶ **ECBR preserved the stamina and the interest of institutions for care and treatment of disabled, NGO for disabled individuals and special schools staff, by posting course materials on the ECBR / URBAN-INCERC website**
- ▶ **MDPWA and the team working on the draft of the National Seismic Risk Reduction Strategy attended and were informed about the opinions of the ECBR Seminars participants**



REMARKS:

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

2022

- The staff of designated facilities from the seismic areas of Romania was very attracted by the topics and by the on-line attendance. The number of applications was large.
 - Women represented 62% in the webinar for care institutions and 59% in the session for special schools. We shall give more attention to gender pattern, since women may be a factor of faster risk reduction process
- The participants have their own perceptions about seismic risk, as it was proved by the ECBR surveys
- Concerning the seismic risk of their building, the staff of institutions of care is rather optimistic, this opinion can be related to the low-rise buildings where they work
- 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 to school students, families and population

- This was the first contact with a very demanding category of population. The number of disabled is large:
 - 853.465 certified persons with handicap
<http://anpd.gov.ro/web/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Diagnoza-situatiei-persoanelor-cu-dizabilitati-in-Romania.pdf>
 - 181 special schools with 19,916 disabled students
 - In other 5,073 educational units – 51,000 students with SEN (Special Education Needs), more than 50% in gymnasium schools
 - 3,581 children with SEN in kindergarten

PROPOSAL FOR THE SECOND PART OF ECBR PROJECT IN 2023

▶ ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE OF BUILDINGS AND PERSONS WITH SPECIAL VULNERABILITIES TO EARTHQUAKES AND PANDEMICS IN ROMANIA, WITHIN THE EUR-OPA GOALS FOR INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Project background

- ▶ Romania was struck by earthquake disasters and recently by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ In 2022 there were 45 years since the great earthquake disaster on March 4 1977. The exposure to seismic risk is still high
- ▶ A new National Strategy of Seismic Risk Reduction – for buildings – will be enforced by the ministry in charge – 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 persons with special vulnerabilities for these risks, as to enforce EUR-OPA goals for inclusive societies.

In this context, *the general aim of the new ECBR Project for 2023 is to work as a partner to enforce that strategy in a new and integrated approach*, such as:

- to use of scientific and technological knowledge to promote this Strategy in order to strengthen the governance capacity and cooperation of all stakeholders for implementing the new National Strategy of Seismic Risk Reduction while enhancing networking among all decision-makers in DRR.
- to share and disseminate the risk culture for communities, children, adults and staff in charge / groups with special vulnerability, migrants, refugees, persons in penitentiaries etc.
- 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, and/or European Centre on Forrest Fires, Greece, Athens.

THE ECBR PROJECT 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 are some 37 penitentiaries with some 23.000 inmates (2018)** (<https://anp.gov.ro/blog/lnk/statistici/>)
- ▶ **The General Inspectorate for Immigration in Romania focused on setting up a network of 12 integration centres in 6 regions** (https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/romania-national-network-integration-centres_en)

Activities in 2023

Coordinator Centre: ECBR, Bucharest, Romania

- Organization of a training ***webinar / seminar on seismic risk reduction and pandemics protection for vulnerable groups in case of buildings and persons with restrained conditions (penitentiaries)***
- Date: September or October 2023, duration - one day
- Venue: ECBR Hall in URBAN-INCERC, about 25 participants (On-line seminar)
- Organization of a training ***webinar / seminar on seismic risk reduction and pandemics protection for vulnerable groups in case of centers and facilities for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, for staff in charge and some centre's residents.***
- Date: September or October 2023, duration - one day
- Venue: ECBR Hall in URBAN-INCERC, about 25 participants (On-line seminar)

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

Expected Results

2023

- Transfer of knowledge in prone-risk areas, concerning the **risk reduction and protection and behavior in an emergency, for vulnerable groups and staff in charge, in case of buildings and persons with restrained conditions (penitentiaries) and in centers and facilities for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. This is a less discussed issue in Romania.**
- Social impact and immediate outcomes by training of staff on anticipated preparedness and safe behavior
- Increased networking and exchange of experience using knowledge from EUR-OPA specialized centres, especially of the partner centre (ECPFE and ECFF Greece, Athens).

Deliverables (Outputs)

2023

Coordinator Centre: ECBR, Bucharest, Romania

- Training materials with recommendations for vulnerable groups in case of buildings and persons with restrained conditions (penitentiaries) and in centers and facilities for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, 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 1: ECPFE and ECFF 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.

Target groups and community involvement in the ECBR Project 2023

- ▶ The earthquake safety and adequate training for proper ***protection and behavior of persons with restrained conditions (penitentiaries), migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, staff etc, as vulnerable groups, is a matter of community interest for 2023.***
- ▶ Besides the National Strategy of Seismic Risk Reduction, the project aims at a multiple impact and a cascade effect of “training of trainers” is quite expected for ECBR webinars.
- ▶ The gender equality and training a fair share of women, as well as disabled or vulnerable persons

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ACCORD EUR-OPA RISQUES MAJEURS



The disasters risk reduction and seismic risk mitigation can be addressed to protect citizens, in an inclusive society, with EUR-OPA countries and specialized centers partnership...

***Let's be resilient for the earthquake impact,
while let's be protected of SARS-CoV-2...!***

Take care!

Thank you!