



*European Center for Forest Fires*



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
Ministry for Climate Crisis  
and Civil Protection



Council of Europe  
Conseil de l'Europe

# **80th Joint Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and Directors of Specialised Centres**

**6-7 November 2023  
Room G04, Agora Building**

## **ECFF presentation of Projects & Activities 2023**

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ECFF Director**  
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## 1. ECFF project proposal for 2022-2023

- **Title:** “Inclusion of Vulnerable groups in Disaster Preparedness and Response for coping with emerging risks: Evacuation exercise including persons with disabilities”
- **Coordinating Center:** ECFF, **Partner:** ECPFE
- **Expected Results-Impact 2022-2023**
  - *Foster networking among academics, scientists, operational people, experts and persons with disabilities*
  - *Exchange knowledge and hands on experience in rescuing people with impairments.*
  - *Empower community engagement is the disaster management cycle for strengthening disaster resilience*
  - *Create a network of people and organizations that share the same interest on emergency response for persons with disabilities*
  - *Prepare targeted response plans and implement inclusive evacuation exercises*
  - *Promote inclusive active citizens’ role in emergency preparedness and response –person-centred approach and local participation for effective disaster risk management*



- ECFF Activities 2022**

## “Workshop on inclusion of persons with disabilities in Disaster Preparedness & Response”



**“WE LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND”**



8-11-2022, Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection,  
Athens, Greece



- ECFF Activities 2023**

## “Organization and execution of an Evacuation Exercise including Persons with Disabilities”

		
Hellenic Ministry for Climate Crisis & Civil Protection/ General Secretariat for Civil Protection	Council of Europe/ European Center for Forest Fires	National Confederation of Disabled People Greece/ Institute of the National Association of People with Disabilities& Chronic Diseases

ECFF organized this activity together with the Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, with the contribution of:

- The National Confederation of Disabled People – NCDP/ Institute of National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities & Chronic Diseases (INESAmeA)
- The Hellenic Fire-Brigade
- The National Centre of Emergency Care
- ECPFE





- **“Organization and execution of an Evacuation Exercise including People with Disabilities”**

- WHEN:  
**26/10/2023**

- WHERE:

**Building of the National Confederation of Disabled People - NCDP**

El. Venizelou 236, 16341 Ilioupoli, Athens,  
Greece



- WHAT:

- ✓ **Table-Top Exercise** including an earthquake scenario that initiates a fire incident
- ✓ **Role-playing with participation of people with disabilities**





- Highlights from the Evacuation Exercise



Table Top Evacuation Exercise with participation of disabled people at the NCDP building Athens, Greece, 26/10/2023



Role playing of persons with disabilities during the exercise





- Highlights from the Evacuation Exercise



✓ Guiding techniques for persons with visual disability were presented.





- **Highlights from the Evacuation Exercise**



- ✓ A power evacuation chair was demonstrated for the easy and quick transport of persons with mobility problems







- Among the Objectives of the Evacuation Exercise were to:
  - ✓ Highlight the importance of **participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations**, both in the initial design and in the implementation phases of evacuation exercises
  - ✓ Underline the necessity of preparing **Building Evacuation plans** with inclusive criteria
  - ✓ **Enhance awareness and training of the involved parties** including the vulnerable groups and possibly their **caregivers or their personal assistants**
  - ✓ **Practice the interoperability of means and actors** and identification of possible **gaps**
  - ✓ **Provide with suggestions on how to prepare similar exercises including people with disabilities, based on the lessons learned**



## • Draft outputs and Lessons Learned

- We need to emphasize on the **Universal Design in DRR** otherwise the solutions and final outputs may not be compatible with PWD real needs.
- **The one-solution fits all model cannot be applied** in the case of persons with disabilities; every type of impairment should be treated separately
- **Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) are needed** that should be activated and tested regularly with the participation of all the involved parties (especially for the communities **nearby disaster prone areas**, e.g. the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)).
- **The training of the rescuers on how to manage persons with different kinds of disability** is vital in terms of reducing the time needed for the search and rescue operations.
- **The role of the caregivers or the personal assistants** of the persons with disabilities, including also the assistance dogs under specific circumstances, can be a key element for facilitating the rescuers' job.
- **Accessible emergency messages and universal early warning systems**, as well as **accessible buildings and refuge areas** are crucial to secure disaster resilience for all.



## 2. ECFF project proposal for 2022-2023

- **Title:** *“POPIRiM. Population involvement on risk management and mitigation - Testing in small communities”*
- **Coordinating Center:** CERU, **Partner:** ECFF

**Activity:** Providing with protection guidelines and/or informative material for inclusive public awareness in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Civil Protection, Hellenic Ministry for Civil Protection

**Deliverable:** Accessible videos for raising public awareness against certain hazards and risks and for enhancing inclusive disaster preparedness



## 3. Dissemination Activities

Participation of the ECFF EUR-OPA Center at the **8th International Wildland Fire Conference in Porto, Portugal, on 16-19 May**



**“Inclusive Community Engagement in Disaster Preparedness and Response focusing on Wildfires and the generated Smoke: Best Practices and Lessons Learned”, presented by S.Karma**







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**Thank you for your Attention**