

Renovation of EUR-OPA is the our future

EUR-OPA was created 35 years ago to combine the experience of many countries to better protect people from natural and technological disasters. Much has changed in Europe in 35 years, but it is still very important to join forces to better protect people from natural and technological disasters. Also many changes in EUR-OPA Italy, France, Spain, Belgium, Turkey are out.

The basis of collaboration must be updated, but it is very important to have a tool in the European region for cooperation between EU countries and non-EU countries such as Algeria, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and others in this region.

During these 35 years, many important projects have been implemented, one of the most significant is assistance in ending the war in Kosovo.

Why was it successful?

1. It has been supported by the UN and Council of Europe, many countries have been involved, and it was a resonant and visible project.

2. Many of our scientific centers participated in the project, including the French center, Armenian, Bulgarian, Morocco, North Macedonia, Ukrainian and others.

3. It has good funding

What lessons could be learned from that project?

1. We have to work on a project basis. The projects have to have a clear aim, like to stop the war in Kosovo.
2. It has to have a clear mechanism of the action, like to create a Civil Defense structure by teaching the former military groups.

Very important, that founders of EUR-OPA are directly persons, responsible for protection of people from disasters and results of the collaboration are at once implemented in their countries.

The key to effective cooperation is a clear goal and mechanism. We had many discussions about goals and mechanisms, now we have experience, which has to be implemented.

The main idea of the renovation is to work on a project basis, countries should know what they are paying money for.

As a pilot project to renovate EUR-OPA could become a joint assistance project for Ukraine.

This is one of the high priorities for the whole world. The Ukraine not only fighting for its independence, but also defending the values of civilize society.

The real goal of this project is to help Ukraine to better protect people against a very possible nuclear accident at the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant by strengthen the capabilities of Ukraine to better protect the population from nuclear hazards. The main mechanism is education and training. Chernobyl demonstrated the importance of awareness of the people.

Another project could be BeSafeNet which is very successful so far. More than 350 teams, 1350 students from 10 countries of the world took part in the last Olympiad in 2023.

There are many Partially open agreements in the Council of Europe, but only EUR-OPA has an International network of scientific centers. It is a very powerful tool for International cooperation, centers received experience for effective long-term cooperation.

Thank you!