



# INVOLVING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN DISASTER PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS, AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

COORDINATING CENTRE: ECRM, Armenia

PARTNER CENTRES: ECPFE, Greece, TESEC, Ukraine, CEMEC, San Marino

REPORT ON THE RESULTS OBTAINED WITHIN THE COORDINATED  
PROJECTS FOR 2014

## ECRM

**1.1.** Mechanisms of involving citizens (including the people with disabilities) into decision making, regards ensuring their protection, necessary protective measures, better informing about possible natural and technological disasters are closely mutual conditioned and interdependent with the mechanisms of organization of informing of wider public about relevant aspects of the above problem.

**1.2.** The problem can be resolved only within a framework of a broader project on preparedness and regular holding of national and municipal campaigns on informing and warning all groups of population about disaster risks, with mechanisms of ensuring participation (in this or other form) all groups of population in a decision making process, aimed at planning and preparing to disasters.

“A broader project”, suggested to be realized in 2015, is the modification and updating “The Methodology and Plan for actions aiming to develop and hold National and Municipal “Campaigns” on informing and warning the population about emergencies at central and municipal levels”.

The document will be deepened and made broader by given a large number of proposals and mechanisms on ensuring equal opportunities in the above area for specific target groups of population (including the people with disabilities), being mostly vulnerable to possible natural and technological disasters.

**2.** At performance of present activity, determination of its venue, preliminary context , structure and expected outcomes we proceeded from the below principle provisions .

**2.1.** Mechanisms of involving citizens (including the people with disabilities) into decision making, regards ensuring their protection, necessary protective measures, better informing about possible natural and technological disasters are closely mutual conditioned and interdependent with the mechanisms of organization of informing of wider public about relevant aspects of the above problem.

**1.2.** The problem can be resolved only within a framework of a broader project on preparedness and regular holding of national and municipal campaigns on informing and warning all groups of population about disaster risks, with mechanisms of ensuring participation (in this or other form) all groups of population in a decision making process, aimed at planning and preparing to disasters.

**1.3.** Due to an array of particular problems being handicaps on the way towards informing and involving into decision making process, aimed at planning and preparing to disasters, different categories of population - representatives of specific target groups of population (such as: children; people with disabilities; elderly; people, who fail to understand the language; ethnical minorities; tourists; immigrants; refugees and others), there is a need to develop and identify general methodological approaches and the ways of resolving the stated goals and implementing measures, aimed at their resolving. A universal approach, set forth in this section to resolve the problem, is also dictated by existing priorities in the EUR- OPA Agreement activity.

**1.4.** Some specific peculiarities of people, composing the above specific target groups of population (primarily people with disabilities) and their greater extend of vulnerability from possible natural and man- made disasters due to these peculiarities, dictated an urgent necessity to create for them a universal “ Manual on preparedness and rules

of behavior of people composing this particular category (specific target group) of population at particular disasters, by given their specifics, characteristic of each particular group.

**1.5.** However, the above universal “Manuals” at all their informational and specific features taken into account as a whole of people, composing the above target group of population, can serve though useful, extremely necessary, but only basic information and educational materials, assigned for the above categories of population.

They need to be more and better developed and make more detailed, by given the specifics of concrete “places of prevailing residence” of people, composing the above particular categories of population, such as work (establishment, organization); relevant educational institution; home; specialized educational- rehabilitation institution and others.

**1.6.** In order to possess more self-insurance in their actions, actions undertaken by authorities, as well as in actions, performed by administration and personnel of the above “places of their prevailing residence”, the people composing each particular specific target group of population (together with those, representing their interests or being their guardians and trainers) must become themselves at a certain stage the participants of the decision making, regards ensuring their protection, necessary protective measures, better informing about possible natural and technological disasters, the participants of detailed planning of measures, aimed to prepare for a particular disaster and adequate actions in times of a disaster by given all “specific factors” that can impact their survival and life activity in times of disaster. And primarily they should become participants into the process of development, based on the mentioned “universal manuals”, of more detailed information-educational materials and relevant preventive and operative plans of actions in emergencies.

**1.7.** Identification of practicing some methodological approaches and understanding of the ways, envisaged in designing of more detailed information-educational materials and thoroughly worked out plans of above protection measures, based on the above universal “Manuals”, require consideration of and analyzing in the above aspect the specifics of each particular “place (the establishment or organization) of a prevailing residence” for the mentioned groups of population and the mechanisms, stipulated by this specifics, of involving the representatives of the given group of people along with an establishment (organization) administration and personnel as participants in above processes.

**2.** Drawn on the above principle provisions, mentioned in section 1. (clauses 1.1.-1.7.) ECRM (Yerevan, Armenia) within the framework of the paper: “Involving people with disabilities in disaster planning and preparedness as an integral part of disaster preparedness and response”, created in 2014 a rather large document, bearing a methodological nature (more than 30 pages), composed from two interrelated sections, mentioned below.

“Proposals on better informing of a wide public about possible natural and man-made disasters and carrying out relevant protective measures in diverse regions of the country, by given different categories of population, prone to be most vulnerable to disasters, such as: children; people with disabilities; elderly; people, who fail to understand the language; ethnical minorities; tourists; immigrants; refugees and others”.

“Proposals on involving citizens into a decision making process, regards ensuring of their protection, required protective measures, better informing about possible natural and man-made disasters for various regions of the country, by given different categories of population, being most vulnerable to disasters, such as: children; people with disabilities; elderly; people, who fail to understand the language; ethnical minorities; tourists; immigrants; refugees and other.”

A brief resume of proposals, being considered in detail and thoroughly substantiated in the above sections, is enclosed to each of the sections.

Clause 1.7. of this document analyses of specifics of particular “places of prevailing residence” for most vulnerable groups of population together with analyses of a specific peculiarities for the given group of population and identification of mechanisms, stipulated by this specifics, of involving the representatives of the given group of people along with an establishment (organization) administration and personnel as participants in above processes, are made on an example of a concrete education – rehabilitation establishment for taking care of children with disabilities, namely “The Republican Children’s Rehabilitation Centre” (Yerevan, Armenia).

At the same time, within the framework of this activity ECRM, drawn on the above methodological provisions, developed in 2014, implements more deep and specified development of a pilot project of a universal “Manual on preparedness and rules of behavior for people with disabilities, especially children, when an earthquake is real or seems imminent”.

## **ECPFE**

A committee of ECPFE staff has been deployed, in order to produce a leaflet concerning guidelines for individuals with mobile impairments, in Greek and in English.

The innovation of this leaflet is that includes Earthquake protection measures (before, during and after of Earthquake) separate for the individuals as well as for their caregivers.

This production is at the final stage.