



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

COORDINATING CENTRE: ECRM, Armenia

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REPORT ON THE RESULTS OBTAINED WITHIN THE COORDINATED  
PROJECTS FOR 2015

## ECRM, TESEC

### INTRODUCTION

#### **1. At performance of a present activity, determination of its venue, preliminary content, structure and expected outcomes, we proceeded from the below listed principles.**

**1.1.** The mechanisms of involving citizens (including the people with disabilities) into decision making, regards ensuring their protection, required protective measures, better informing and awareness raising about possible natural and technological disasters are closely interdependent and interconnected with the mechanisms, designed for organizing informing and awareness raising of a wider public about relevant aspects of the above problem .

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

**1.3.** Due to an array of particular problems being handicaps on the way towards informing, awareness raising and involving into decision making process, aimed at planning and preparing to disasters, different categories of population - representatives of a specific target groups of population, being most vulnerable from disasters (such as: children; people with disabilities; elderly; people, who fail to understand the language spoken in the country; migrants; refugees; shelter seekers; tourists; ethnical minorities 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, has also been in line with priorities of the EUR-OPA Agreement.

**1.4.** Some peculiarities of people, composing the above specific target groups of population (primarily the 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 “Manuals on preparedness and rules of behavior of people, composing these categories (a specific target groups) of population at particular natural and man-made disasters or the direct threat of their arising”, by given the specific characteristics 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 made 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, the actions, undertaken by authorities, as well as in the actions, performed by administration and personnel of the above “places of their prevailing residence”, the people, composing each particular specific target group (together with those, representing their interests or being

their guardians and trainers), must become themselves, at a certain stage, the participants in decision making, regards ensuring their protection, necessary protective measures, better informing and awareness raising about possible natural and technological disasters, the participants in detailed planning of measures, designed for preparation for a particular disaster and adequate actions in times of a disaster event, by given all “specific factors” that can impact their survival and life support in times of disaster. And primarily, they should, drawn on the mentioned “universal manuals”, become participants into the process of development of more detailed information-educational materials and relevant preventive and operative pre- and during plans of actions in emergency.

1.7. Bringing the individual plans for action in emergencies for representatives of the above specific target groups of population; action plans of establishments and institutions, where they work or study; alongside with plans of specialized education-rehabilitation institutions and other type of institutions, where representatives from some noted above groups of population (in particular people with disabilities, primarily children) are taken care of, in line with municipality's emergency plans, is crucial.

1.8. 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”, requires 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 along with administration and personnel of an establishment (organization) as participants in above processes.

2. Drawn on the above principle provisions, mentioned in section 1. (clauses 1.1.-1.8.), 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 a present rather large document, of methodological nature, composed from two interrelated sections, mentioned below:

***The “Proposals on better informing and awareness raising of a wide public about possible natural and man-made disasters and carrying out relevant protection measures in various regions of the country, by given different groups of population, being the most vulnerable from disasters, such as: children; people with disabilities; elderly; people, who fail to understand the language spoken in the country; migrants; refugees; shelter seekers; tourists; ethnical minorities and others”.***

***The “Proposals on involving citizens into a decision making, regards ensuring of their protection, required protection measures, better informing and awareness raising about possible natural and man-made disasters for various regions of the country, by given different groups of population, being the most vulnerable from disasters, such as: children; people with disabilities; elderly; people, who fail to understand the language spoken in the country; migrants; refugees; shelter seekers; tourists; ethnical minorities and others”.***

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

3. At the same time, ECRM within the framework of this activity, drawn on the above methodological provisions fulfilled 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”**.

**Although the given Manual**, even being targeted at providing information and awareness raising and taking into account the specifics of disabled people, especially the children with disabilities, **can be useful and of vital importance, but is regarded only as basic informational and teaching Manual assigned for the above category of people.**

It needs to be further developed and more concretized, by factoring the specifics of the institutions, where people with disabilities work, or study, the specialized education-rehabilitation and other type institutions, where the people, primarily children with disabilities are cared, as well as more particular specific characteristics typical of the people, composing this groups, being important in terms of organization and operating the process to reduce risks of likely natural and man-made disasters, decision making on safeguarding these groups of population, required protective measures, better informing and awareness raising, teaching and mastering adequate behavior skills.

One of the most important sections of the Manual is **“Planning for an earthquake”**.

This section highlights that **the key to coping all potential problems for people with disabilities**, that may arise in case possible natural and man-made disasters (in this case after a strong earthquake) **is to plan thoroughly for preparedness measures (for an earthquake) by given all the facts that can impact livelihood and life functions during a particular disaster.**

In case the people with disabilities are struck by disaster at home, there are given some particular recommendations on the development:

- A family plan.
- A neighborhood plan.

There are given some proposals on the development

- A plan for establishment, where people with disabilities work or an educational institution, where they study.

At the same time there are also given some **detailed proposals** on the development

- A Plan for a specialized education–rehabilitation institution, where the people with disabilities, especially children, are given care.

***The section incorporates methodological instructions and proposals aimed to develop a more detailed information- educational materials by given the specifics of a particular specialized education-rehabilitation and other type institutions, where the people with disabilities are taken care.***

It is crucial for agreeing the above plans, primarily action plans for specialized education-rehabilitation institutions, where the children with disabilities are provided care, with accident action plans of the adjacent enterprises, establishments, organizations, institutions to be provided adequate assistance, as well as **bringing these plans in line with municipality’s emergency plans.**

**The analyses** of specifics of particular “places of prevailing residence” for one of the most vulnerable groups of population (people with disabilities), together with analyses of specific peculiarities for the given group of population and identification of mechanisms, stipulated by this specifics, of involving the representatives of the given group, their family members, along with administration and personnel (teachers, physicians, including psychologists, rehabilitation nurseries) of an establishment (organization) 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 the Manual gives **examples of good practice** taking place in the **Greece, Czech Republic and Armenia** and directed at resolving the above essential objectives in the field of awareness raising and involving children, including children with disabilities, in disaster preparedness and response.

The Manual also highlights **the issues in the above field, which are still left to be done** (in particular it has been noted, that **the fulfilling these tasks the main challenge is to find the right way to rich children**), as well as presents **the concrete proposals aimed to resolve** some of the highlighted issues, in particular **concerning reaching the children through school teaching**.

**This Manual can be used as one of the basic information materials for development relevant preventive and operative plans of actions in emergencies for the particular institutions.**

- 1. THE PROPOSALS ON BETTER INFORMING AND AWARENESS RAISING OF A WIDE PUBLIC ABOUT POSSIBLE NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS AND CARRYING OUT RELEVANT PROTECTION MEASURES IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE COUNTRIES, INCLUDING EVACUATION, BY GIVEN DIFFERENT GROUPS OF POPULATION, BEING THE MOST VULNERABLE FROM DISASTERS, SUCH AS: CHILDREN; PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES; ELDERLY; PEOPLE, WHO FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN THE COUNTRY; MIGRANTS; REFUGEES; SHELTER SEEKERS; TOURISTS; ETHNICAL MINORITIES AND OTHERS.**

- 1.1. One of the most effective directions in better informing and awareness raising a wider public about likely technological and natural disasters and carrying out relevant protection measures in different regions of the country, by given the most vulnerable groups of the population is holding the regular National and Municipal Campaigns on informing and awareness raising all groups of population about disaster risks and the usage of early warning systems, whose messages should be opportune and clearly understood by all those at risk and should inform on what should be done when warned.**

The holding of regular campaigns on informing, awareness raising and warning all groups of population about disaster risks deems to be one of the most important priorities of the “Hyogo Framework for action 2005-2015: building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters”, that set of goals and priority actions to address urgent challenges of our time and launched historic efforts to strengthen the priorities of the international community.

***A very important and very valuable remains a rather detailed setting up of the goals and action priorities of the New Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the heightening of the priorities, being most important for the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement too.***

It should be noted that among the priorities of clause 1. ***“DR understanding”*** the priority mentioned in section 1. ***“Promotion of public awareness through «Campaigns»”*** is one of the major priorities for Disaster Risk Reduction.

At the same time, it should be noted, that the exceptionally important role of the preparedness and launching the regular National and Municipal «Campaigns» addresses not only the goal to promote public awareness, but it also is aimed at the execution in the best way possible of all interlinked significant components, composing a **united chain:**

***Informing***

***Awareness raising***

***Acquisition and consolidation of adequate behavior skills***

***Warning the population .***

Drawn on the above, the European Interregional Scientific and Educational Center on Major Risks Management (Yerevan, Armenia) under support of the Council of Europe’s European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement is elaborating a pilot project: “National and Municipal campaigns on informing, awareness raising and warning the population about emergencies”.

Within above pilot project there were created: **“The Methodology and Plan for action aiming to develop and hold National and Municipal Campaigns on informing, awareness raising and warning the population about emergencies”**.

The document quotes the short- and long- term Project’s goals; historical backgrounds; key elements; the four Project implementation related phases: planning, preparedness, implementation and assessment are conserved in detail.

One of the Project’s basic principles deals with responsibility of municipalities for dissemination of information and awareness raising all groups of the population about possible natural and man-made disasters to their inhabitants.

Support to and stimulation of municipalities in their efforts by National Governments is the next Project’s basic principle.

**The steps required to meet this goals are being quoted in depth in the Project.**

In order to come to more detailed disclosure of the basic principles, let us once again to summarize that:

**The main aim of the Project: “Information to the public about disaster risks” is to ensure awareness of every citizen of what should be beforehand done in case of a potential natural or man-made disaster and of what should be done in case of a real disaster or an impending disaster event.**

***This goal can be achieved only provided that the below favorable preconditions have been created:***

- informing and awareness raising of a wider public, including representatives of various categories (a specific target groups) of population, being most vulnerable from disasters, such as: children; people with disabilities; elderly; people, who fail to understand the language spoken in the country; ethnical minorities; tourists; immigrants; refugees and others about likely hazards of natural and man-made nature, endangering the places of their residence, the degree of vulnerability and level of risks that communities are exposed to and the likely disaster scenarios;
- informing and awareness raising all groups of population about preventive (carried out in advance) measures, aimed to reduce disaster risks (preparation for possible disasters), including at home; work; pre-school, school and other type educational institutions; “places of prevailing residence” of people, composing the above particular categories of population, including the specialized educational-rehabilitation institution and other type of institutions, where people with disabilities, primarily, children, are taken care of;
- informing and awareness raising the population about relevant protection measures, including evacuation, in different regions of the country, by given the specifics of various categories (a specific target groups) of population and the specifics of the “places of prevailing residence” of people, composing the above particular categories of population;
- involving citizens into decision making regards ensuring of their protection, required protective measures, better informing and awareness raising about possible natural and man-made disasters in various regions of the country by given the specifics of different categories (specific target groups) of population;
- early warning on an impending disaster event;
- training the population in the skills of adequate behavior when informed and warned on a potential threat (on an impending disaster event) and in the real emergency situation;
- bringing the individual plans for action in emergencies for people with disabilities; plans of establishments and institutions, where people with disabilities work or study; alongside with plans of specialized educational-rehabilitation institution and other type of institutions, where people with disabilities, primarily children, are taken care of, in line with municipality’s emergency plans.

By given the stated above, let us now consider in depth **the basic principles, underlying the provision of information to and awareness raising of the public about disaster risks.**

A responsibility for the provision of information to and awareness raising of the population about disaster risks lies, foremost, with governance bodies. Enterprises (organizations) and establishments must inform about possible risks, that may result of certain industrial activities. However it is governance bodies at all levels that must communicate this information to inhabitants.

(This is also in agreement with relevant European Union Directives. The guidelines are applicable, inter alia, to better informing people about risk related to nuclear power plants and to enterprises involved into production, using in production circles or storing hazardous substances).

- **The National Government** bears a responsibility for informing, awareness raising and warning the population about the large scale disaster risks.
- **Municipalities** are first to be in charge for communicating information and awareness raising on disaster risks their inhabitants, as well as they are in the same way responsible for intervention during disaster events.
- **The Project: “Information and awareness raising to the public about disaster risks ”** is called to provide an access to information for almost 100% of the citizens. This cannot be achieved solely through holding municipal or national “Campaigns”. A combination of municipal and national “Campaigns”, strengthening and supporting each other is crucial.

***Such a combination is also necessary for another reason.***

**For the sake of credibility**, information to and awareness raising of the public about risks of disasters should involve actual risk situations in the nearby vicinity. This cannot be done centrally and can only be achieved by means of municipal “Campaigns”. But to provide qualified risk analyses, to penetrate into a core of the problem, to get the message across clearly and to prepare required information materials, the engagement of relevant specialists and reach of the mass media, especially television is essential and that can be achieved only at a national level.

The National Government, in this case - the Ministry of Territorial Government and Emergency Situations, must consider itself responsible for stimulating and supporting the municipalities in their efforts to prepare and hold municipal “Campaigns” on informing, awareness raising and warning the population about emergencies.

Public informing and awareness raising should cover all possible types of risks. Thereby the effectiveness and efficiency to inform about risk are enhanced.

***The meeting of conditions, needed to achieve the main goal of the Project: “Information and awareness raising of the public about disaster risks” together with adherence to the basic principles, underlying the informing and awareness raising of the population about disaster risks, require taking of the below steps.***

#### **Establishing of an Information Center.**

A need for establishing the **Information Center** responsible for developing, publication and dissemination of materials and where the municipalities, other governance bodies, enterprises, establishments and all other layers of population can get answers to the questions, concerning the Project : “Information to the public about disaster risks”, including about national and local (municipal) “Campaigns” is recognized.

Necessary information could be reached through the mass media. At the same time it appears necessary to publish a special “**News bulletin**», containing up-to-date information concerning the Project: “Information and awareness raising to the public about disaster risks”, as well as conducting national and municipal “Campaigns”.

This “Bulletin” is meant for local authorities, information officers, rescue team commanders, representatives of governance bodies, engaged into disaster relief. It should appear with a particular circulation 2-4 times annually.

Apart from a special “News bulletin” a **Reference Book** **“Information and awareness raising to the public about disaster risks”**, is necessary to publish. The first part of the Book should contain information on the disaster preventive phase, providing knowledge on available risks and about

what should be done in case of a potential threat (in case of an impending disaster). The second part of the Reference Book should be devoted to information on the disaster acute phase (a real emergency situation) and about how to adequately proceed in this situation. The third, and the last, part of the Reference Book should contain information on the recovery phase - the period of time lasting first several days following the disaster.

Corresponding structures, operating in different countries within one system for organization – technical provision of development and implementation of these or those aspects of the project: “Information and awareness raising to the public about disaster risks”, by taken into account some particular transformations, could be in charge of these functions as above “Information Centre”, functioning in the preventive phase, as well as to serve a basis for deployment of the “National Information Centre” to coordinate information disseminated to the population in an acute disaster phase.

**1.2. Similarly, the Project: “Information and awareness raising to the public about disaster risks” envisages preparation of relevant information materials, assigned to all groups of population (including population of the municipalities at special risks, as well as to the most vulnerable groups of population), to be used while holding the both: national and municipal “Campaigns”.**

**1.2.1. Within the above Project are being designing some pilot Projects of brief and more detailed “basic” (national) information materials for door-to-door distribution, attached by information about typical (most probable for this particular country and potentially devastating) natural and man-made disasters, the ways and tools on warning the population about disasters, attached by instructions about primarily actions, when warned about imminent threat or in case of a real disaster event, if it has occurred.**

**There were designed the pilot projects of the next basic (national) information materials for door-to-door distribution:**

- an “Information Leaflet: What to do first”,
- a short Brochure: “Brief information for the population what to do first when warned on an imminent disaster”,
- a more detailed Brochure: “The priorities for action to be undertaken by population when warned on an imminent disaster or in case of disasters likely to occur in Armenia”.

The short Brochure should be universal and applicable to any region of Armenia, as well as to any concerned country. The more detailed Brochure should contain, inter alia, the priorities for action are to be undertaken by the populations at a threat of an imminent particular natural or man-made disasters (impending disasters). It can serve a basis for the development of more concrete regional brochures as well as it can be used within national brochures being developed by other concerned countries.

**1.2.2. In Armenia like in other countries, where the municipalities at special risks are available, located in different regions of the country, for which, apart from brief and more detailed basic (national) information materials attached with instruction to be distributed in each family, there is also a need to create additional more detailed information Modules, by given the specifics of a particular increased risk.**

For the municipalities at special risks, located in different regions of the country, there were created preliminary, additional, more detailed Information Modules, including the one for municipalities **at probable radiological risk**; another for the municipalities, in whose territories some **hazardous substances** are being produced, used or stored, and the third one for the municipalities, situated in **flood prone vicinities** (with reservoirs, adjacent to an inundation area).

By factoring a higher exposure of the Armenian terrain to **higher seismic risk**, within this Project, apart from the above three additional Information Modules, there was also created as approximated: “A Manual for the population on how to act when a strong earthquake is real or seems imminent (the priorities for action to be undertaken by the population)”.

The listed **additional Information Modules for the municipalities at special risks provides more detailed information** in comparison to the general “basic” information materials about: availability of specific hazards of natural, man-made and other nature, endangering the communities; the degree of vulnerability and level of **risks, that communities are exposed to**; likely specific disasters scenarios; means and tools employed to warn the population about a disaster; how to be prepared beforehand for a likely disaster and to act adequately in times of a specific disaster; how to respond when warned about an impending threat of disaster (in the preventive phase) and in circumstances, when a disaster is real - the actual disaster situation (the acute phase), as well as behavior rules in the recovery phase.

**The municipalities at special risks can use the above “additional” Information Modules in order to enrich their “basic” (national) information materials; moreover, through enlarging them by given the specifics of a particular region and, if necessary, by taking into account the peculiarities, typical of the territory of a particular municipality, can make them to be more concretized.**

**1.2.3. As it has already been mentioned above the Project makes provision for preparation of additional information materials, assigned for different categories of population (specific target groups).**

**The below given are the categories of population (specific target groups), being most vulnerable to disasters, whose informing should be of particular attention:**

- children, including students and their parents, administration of pre-school and school establishments and teachers;
- handicapped people (the people with disabilities), including children, who are taken care in specialized education-rehabilitation institutions; elderly people; patients of stationary medical establishments;
- foreign speaking inhabitants, in particular, employees of foreign embassies, international establishments, firms, other commercial and noncommercial structures sited in the territory of the country; migrants, refugees, shelter seekers and tourists;
- a special target group incorporates the population of separate rural communities composed of representatives of national minorities.

The mentioned brief and more detailed basic (national) information materials, as well as additional information materials for the population of municipalities at special risks are assigned for the distribution in each family, and

thereby can be used for informing, awareness raising and warning of people, composing the above categories of population (specific target groups).

**However, some specific peculiarities of people, composing the above specific target groups (primarily people with disabilities) and their greater extent of vulnerability from possible natural and man-made disasters due to these peculiarities, dictate an urgent necessity to create for them some particular additional information materials to be disseminated through holding national, as well as municipal “Campaigns”, by given the specific characteristics of each particular group.**

The above additional information materials assigned for particular categories of people should be prepared as pilot projects of the universal **“Manuals on preparedness and rules of behavior of people, composing this particular category (a specific target group), at particular natural and man-made disasters, or at their imminent threat”**, by given their specific characteristics of each concrete group.

***As an initial step in the above venue, the European Interregional Scientific and Educational Center on Major Risks Management (Yerevan, Armenia) under support of the Council of Europe’s European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement elaborated a pilot project: “The Manual on preparedness and rules of behavior for people with disabilities, especially children, when an earthquake is real or seems imminent” (the priorities for action).***

The “Manual” has been elaborated primarily, for the representatives of the most vulnerable from likely natural and man-made disasters groups of population, composing the specific target group, namely to the people with disabilities, including children.

***(The analyses in depth of the given “Manual”, about which we are going to speak later, are given in sections 1.2.4. and 1.2.5. of this paper).***

**The Universal Manuals** can serve as useful and necessary information–educational materials, aimed at awareness raising and increasing preparedness to particular natural or man-made disasters of people, composing this or that category (a specific target group) in **“places of prevailing residence”, such as: work (establishment, organization); relevant educational institution; home; specialized education-rehabilitation institution and others.**

The studying of these Manuals by administration and personnel of an institution, where the people, composing this or that category (a specific target group), work; educational institutions, where they study; specialized education-rehabilitation or other type institutions, where they are given care; carrying out preventive measures, recommended by these Manuals, aimed to reduce on good time risk, that they can encounter and to improve safety of the establishment; bringing the message, carried out by these Manuals, to representatives of each particular category of population (a specific target group); acquisition of skills by them to act adequately in case of likely natural or man-made disasters or at their imminent threat will cultivate in all those, involved into a rehabilitation process, a feeling of assurance in undertaken actions.

**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 informational and educational materials**, assigned for the above categories of population.

**They need to be more and better developed and become more detailed, by given the specifics of above “places of prevailing residence” of people, alongside by given of more**

“individual” specific peculiarities intrinsic in people, composing this category, **being important from points** of organizational and operational processes, aimed to reduce risk of possible natural and man-made disasters, decision making in reference to provision of safety to the given group of population; required protection measures; better informing, awareness raising, training and mustering of adequate behavior skills in case of a particular disaster event .

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

**Identification of practicing some methodological approaches and understanding of the ways**, based on the above universal “Manuals on preparation and rules of behavior of people, composing some particular categories (specific target groups), in case of concrete natural and man-made disasters or at their imminent threat”, of **designing more detailed information-educational materials and thoroughly worked out plans of protection measures**, (by factoring the specifics of a particular “place of a prevailing residence”), requires consideration of and analyzing in the above aspect **the specifics of each particular place** (establishment, organization) of prevailing residence for the given group and **the mechanisms**, stipulated by this specifics, **of involving the representatives of the given group of population, along with administration and personnel of the establishment) as participants** in the above processes.

**Below briefly given are some aspects of above analyses** (see section 1.2.3. of the given paper) within the developed pilot Project (see section 1.2.3.): **“A Manual on preparedness and rules of behavior for the people with disabilities, especially children, when an earthquake is real or seems imminent (the priorities for action )”**, drawn on a particular **example** of the **“Republican Children’s Rehabilitation Centre” in the Yerevan city, Armenia.**

The “Manual” is designed for people with disabilities (for those who have impaired mobility; who are deaf or have impaired hearing; who are blind or have impaired vision, for people with cognitive impairments), for their close-ones and those who administer care to them at home; for administration and personnel of establishments, where people with disabilities work or institutions where they study; for administration, teachers; physicians, for all other care providers to disabled people, especially children with disabilities, treated in specialized education–rehabilitation and other institutions.

One of the most important sections of the Manual is **“PLANNING FOR AN EARTHQUAKE”**.

This section highlights that **the key to coping all potential problems for people with disabilities**, that may arise in case possible natural and man-made disasters (in this case after a strong earthquake), **is to plan thoroughly for preparedness measures for a disaster (for an earthquake), by given all the facts, that can impact livelihood and their life functions during a particular disaster.**

In case the people with disabilities are struck by disaster at home, there are given some particular recommendations on the development :

- A family plan.
- A neighborhood plan.

There are given some proposals on the development

- A plan for establishment, where people with disabilities work or an educational institution where they study.

At the same time there are also given some **detailed proposals** on the development

- A Plan for a specialized institution where the people with disabilities, especially children, are given care.

***The section incorporates methodological instructions and proposals aimed to develop a more detailed information-educational materials by given the specifics of a particular specialized education-rehabilitation and other type institutions, where the people with disabilities are given care.***

**1.2.5. Identification of practicing some methodological approaches** during the process of designing of above more detailed information-educational materials and thoroughly planned out protection measures, **a detailed analyses of the specifics of each particular specialized education-rehabilitation institution, where the children with disabilities are taken care** was made.

**The analyses was aimed at revealing some concrete (specific) factors intrinsic in this particular establishment, called to promote including administration and personnel, the children themselves and their family members into decision making, regards ensuring their protection, required protection measures and better informing about man-made and natural disasters.**

As it has been mentioned above in section 1.2.4., as an establishment, that meets the above criteria in the best way, was chosen **“The Republican Children’s Rehabilitation Centre” (Yerevan, Armenia).**

By analyzing information, concerning the specifics of the Republican Children’s Rehabilitation Centre in Yerevan, **it is necessary first of all to notice some essential performances intrinsic in the Centre and called to promote** maximum effectiveness to the development of more detailed information–educational materials, assigned for the specialized educational and other type institutions on administering care to the children with disabilities, thoroughly planning protection measures, as well as **identification of ways and mechanisms of including institution administration and personnel, the children themselves and their family members as participants into decision making, regards ensuring their protection, required protection measures and better informing about possible natural and man-made disasters.**

First of all, it is related to giving the rehabilitation treatment to the children in the Centre **basin** on a **“team method” approach**.

**The availability of an individual rehabilitation team for each child**, composed from teachers, highly professional physicians varying in specialization (including psychologists) and others, together with involvement of a child and his family members, which is crucial, **will allow for effective resolving several essential goals** targeted at the observance of the rights of the children with disabilities and the provision of equal opportunities for meeting their demands in the field of disaster risk reduction.

This will enable **to bring the children** with disabilities and their family members, as well as administration, teachers, physicians and all those, who provide care to the disabled children in a specialized educational and other types institutions, **to the emergency management table** with the relief managers, rescuers - first responders to introduce the two sides to each other.

**Knowledge of team work** on rehabilitation of children with disabilities and on integration of them into a society, developed and used in the Centre, will, in many respects, **promote the preparation** of children to act adequately in an emergency **by cultivating in them more assurance** in their potential to react adequately and will provide better opportunities to a specialized institution's personnel to assist timely and qualified the children should a disaster strike.

**The professional composition of a team, staffed with diverse profile specialists will encourage:**

- successful development of **more detailed information materials being created drawn on a Manual under consideration, by given the specifics of both: the institution and the cared children; the detailed planning of the protective measures.**
- **acquisition and improvement of knowledge** on preventive risk reduction and mastering of adequate behavior skills in case of a disaster **by all team members**, including in a specialized institution **of a prevailing residence of children** (by factoring that the children are given round the clock in-patient, day in-patient and out-patient treatment, as well as by considering the typical performances of buildings and constructions, where these children live, study, being treated and given treatment procedures: a main building and some cottage -type small sized buildings and etc.).

**Several facts play significant role** in dissemination of the above knowledge and skills, their improvement and experience exchange, addressing this venue: one is that the “Republican Children's Rehabilitation Center” provides some scientific-methodological support to other relevant children's institutions being active in Armenia; it is also involved into implementation of joint education-treating programs with relevant rehabilitation centres and institutions from Switzerland, France, Poland, Germany, the USA, as well as the Centre also offers rehabilitation courses to the children from Georgia, Russia and Ukraine.

**Eventually, the functioning in the Centre of an integration kinder garden**, that brings children with disabilities together with their physically healthy class mates, can be viewed as a sound proof of the existence of some interesting perspectives in development and application of new methods on successful training to elements of disaster preparedness and adequate response skills in case of an emergency.

**1.2.6. By summing up one can notice, that the creation**, drawn on above universal “Manual” **of more detailed information-educational materials**, assigned for specialized educational and other types institutions, where the children with disabilities are given care (by factoring the specifics of a particular institution), while designing toughly planned protection measures in case of a disaster event, **as well as in order to identify the ways and mechanisms of involving** establishment administration and personnel, the children themselves and their family members **into decision making**, regards undertaking necessary measures on ensuring their protection and better informing **requires the factoring of:**

- The basic venues of activities performed by such specialized institutions.
- Knowledge of contingent of the cared children; their mastering of skills in every day live and a kind of social-psychological work delivered to them; basic principle and approaches applied to rehabilitate these children with an aim to prepare them to act independently in every day circumstances.
- Composition and qualification of rehabilitation team assembled for each child: physicians (including psychologist), teachers, rehabilitation nurseries.
- An extent and a form of the engagement of parents and family members of the treated children into the rehabilitation team.
- Basic construction performances of a specialized establishment, where these children live, are taught and given rehabilitation courses.
- Practice of giving integrated teaching and rehabilitation courses. when the treated disabled children study and have an access to the institutional facilities together with their healthy class mates (for instance, an integration kinder garden model).
- Type of a given care, applied rehabilitation and teaching methods: round - the - clock in - patient, day in - patient and out - patient treatment options.
- Availability of plans of specialized institution on interaction with enterprises, organizations, academic institutions etc., located in the close proximity regards the likelihood of showing prime assistance to the most vulnerable children (children with disabilities) in case of a disaster.

It has already been mentioned above in a section: **“Planning for an earthquake”** of this “Manual” in parallel with detailed proposals on developing “A Plan for specialized education -rehabilitation institution, where the children with disabilities are given care” are also given recommendations on developing “A family plan”, “A neighborhood plan”, “A plan for establishment, where people with disabilities work or an educational institution, where they study”.

**It is crucial to bring these plans**, primarily “A Plan for specialized education -rehabilitation institution, where the children with disabilities are given care”, **in line with emergency plans of the closest neighbors** (enterprises, establishments, organizations, higher educational institutions and etc.) to receive adequate assistance, as well as **to match these plans with those of the municipality protection plans, including evacuation**, designed for different regions in the country, by given specifics and the needs of the vulnerable groups of the population, such as: children; people with disabilities; elderly persons; the people who fail to understand the language spoken in the country; refugees; migrants; shelter seekers; tourists; ethnic minorities and others.

**1.3. By summing up proposals, given in section 1. (subsections 1.1. and 1.2.) of this paper, aimed at better informing and awareness raising of a wider public** about possible natural and man-made disasters and carrying out relevant protection measures, including evacuation, designed for different regions of the country, by given different categories (specific target groups) of population, being the most vulnerable from possible disasters, such as: children; people with disabilities; elderly persons; the people who fail to understand the language spoken in the country; refugees; migrants; shelter seekers; tourists; ethnic minorities and others, **it is necessary to note the following:**

**1.3.1.** One of the most effective directions in better informing and awareness raising a wider public about likely technological and natural disasters and carrying out relevant protection measures in different regions of the country, by given the most vulnerable groups of the population, is **holding the regular national and municipal campaigns on informing all groups of population about disaster risks.**

**1.3.2.** Development of “The Methodology and Plan for action aiming to develop and hold national and municipal “Campaigns” on informing, awareness raising and warning the population about emergencies” serves the basis for organization and holding of regular national and municipal campaigns.

**1.3.3. The main aim of the Project: “Informing and awareness raising of the public about disaster risks” is to ensure awareness of every citizen of what should be beforehand done** in case of a potential natural or man-made disaster **and of what should be done in case** of an impending disaster event.

***The main aim of the Project can be achieved solely if particular conditions on awareness raising of the population (considered in depth in subsection 1.1.) have been created.***

**1.3.4. The basic principles,** underlying the provision of information to the public about disaster risks should be adhered.

The Project “**Informing and awareness raising of the public about disaster risks**” is called to provide an access to information for almost 100% of the citizens.

For the sake of credibility, information to the public about risks of disasters should involve real risk situations in the nearby vicinity. This can be achieved by means of holding Municipal “Campaigns”.

At the same time provision of qualified risk analyses, penetration into a core of the matter require the engagement of relevant specialists and reach of the mass media, that can be achieved more effectively only at a National level, by means of holding National “Campaigns”.

**A combination of Municipal and National “Campaigns”, strengthening and supporting each other is crucial.**

**1.3.5. The meeting of conditions, needed to achieve the main goal of the Project: “Informing and awareness raising of the public about disaster risks”, together with adherence to the basic principles,** underlying the informing of the population about disaster risks, **require taking particular organization steps (given in details in section 1.1.).**

**1.3.6.** The Project: “Informing and awareness raising of the public about disaster risks” **envisages preparation of relevant information materials, assigned to all groups of population** (including population of the municipalities

at special risks, as well as the most vulnerable groups of population) to be used while holding the both: National and Municipal “Campaigns”.

There should be created (here and further: already created pilot projects) brief and more detailed **“basic” (national) information materials, attached with instructions for door-to-door distribution**, containing information about typical (most probable for this particular country in general and being potentially most devastating) natural and man-made disasters, about ways and means on warning population about disasters, attached with instructions about priority actions, when warned about an imminent threat and in case of a particular disaster event, if it has already occurred.

**1.3.7. For the municipalities at special risks**, located in different regions of the country apart from brief and more detailed basic (national) information materials, attached with instructions for door-to-door distribution, **it is necessary to create additional more detailed information Modules, by factoring the specific of the real increased risks.**

It deems expedient to create the following information Modules: the one for municipalities **at probable radiological risk**; another for the municipalities in whose territories some **hazardous substances** are being produced, used or stored, and the third one for the municipalities, situated in **flood prone vicinities** (with reservoirs adjacent to an inundation area).

By factoring a higher exposure of the terrain of this or that **country to highly seismic risk**, it is necessary to create also: **“A Manual for the population on how to act when an earthquake is real or seems imminent”**.

The listed **additional information Modules for municipalities at special risks should provide more detailed information** in comparison to the general “basic” information materials about: availability of specific hazards of natural, man-made and other nature, endangering the places of residence, the degree of vulnerability and the level of risks, that **communities** are exposed to; likely specific disasters scenarios; means and tools, employed to warn the population about a disaster; how to be prepared beforehand for a likely disaster and to act adequately in times of a specific disaster; how to respond when warned about an impending threat of disaster (in the preventive phase) and in circumstances when a disaster is real - the actual disaster situation (the acute phase), as well as behavior rules in the recovery phase.

**1.3.8.** Some specific peculiarities of people, composing a particular category (a specific target groups) of population, and their greater extend of vulnerability from possible natural and man-made disasters due to these peculiarities ***dictate an urgent necessity to create for them some particular additional information-educational materials, by given the specific characteristics of each particular category and the specifics of concrete “places of prevailing residence” of people:*** at work (in establishments organizations), in relevant educational institutions, at home, in specialized education-rehabilitation institution, etc.

The above additional information materials, assigned for a particular group of population, should be developed in a form of pilot projects of universal “Manuals for preparedness and rules of behavior of people, composing a particular category (a specific target group), in case of natural and man-made disasters or in case of an imminent threat, by factoring specific peculiarities intrinsic in each target group.

**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 become more detailed, by given the specifics** of above **“places of prevailing residence”** of people, alongside by given of more “individual” specific peculiarities intrinsic in people, **composing this category, being important from points** of organizational and operational processes, aimed to reduce risk of possible natural and man-made disasters, decision making in reference to provision of safety to the given group of population; required protection measures; better informing; training and mustering of adequate behavior skills in case of a particular disaster event.

**1.3.9. In order to possess more self-assurance 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 (together with those, representing their interests or being their guardians and trainers) **must themselves become the participants in the decision making**, regards ensuring their protection, necessary protection measures, better informing about possible natural and technological disasters, must become the participants in detailed planning of measures, aimed to prepare for a particular disaster event and to take adequate actions in times of a disaster, by given all “specific factors” that can impact their survival and life support in times of disaster.

***And primarily, they should become, based on the mentioned “universal manuals”, the participants into the development process of more detailed information-educational materials and relevant preventive and operative plans of actions in emergencies.***

Identification of practicing some approaches and ways, aimed to implement the above stated requires **consideration of and analyzing** in the above aspect the specifics of each particular **“place of a prevailing residence”** (the establishment or organization) 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.

**Section 1.2.4. of this paper gives briefly some aspects of above analyses** within the developed pilot Project: “A Manual on preparedness and rules of behavior for the people with disabilities, especially children, when an earthquake is real or seems imminent” (stated in section 1.2.3.), **drawn on a particular example of the “Republican Children’s Rehabilitation Centre” in the Yerevan city, Armenia.**

The Pilot Project has been developed by the European Interregional Scientific and Educational Centre on Major Risk Management (Yerevan, Armenia) under support of the Council of Europe’s European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement.

**The analyses outcomes revealed some particular (specific) performances, intrinsic in this establishment,** called to **promote involving** the institution administration and personnel, the children themselves and their family members as participants **into decision making**, regards ensuring their protection, required protection measures and better informing about possible natural and man-made disasters.

**The analyses outcomes are briefly given in the summary of this paper (section 1.2.6)**

**2. PROPOSALS ON INVOLVING CITIZENS INTO DECISION MAKING, REGARDS ENSURING THEIR PROTECTION, REQUIRED PROTECTION MEASURES, BETTER INFORMING AND AWARENESS RAISING ABOUT POSSIBLE NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY, BY GIVEN DIFFERENT GROUPS OF POPULATION, BEING THE MOST VULNERABLE FROM DISASTERS, SUCH AS: CHILDREN; PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES; ELDERLY; PEOPLE, WHO FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN THE COUNTRY; MIGRANTS; REFUGEES; SHELTER SEEKERS; TOURISTS; ETHNICAL MINORITIES AND OTHERS.**

The Proposals on involving people into decision making, regards ensuring their protection against emergencies is partially given in section 9. of this paper within framework of the proposals on better informing and awareness raising of a wider public about relevant aspects of the mentioned issue due to their close interdependence and interconnection.

Below considered are in depth some **“universal” proposals** on involving into decision making, regards ensuring their protection against possible natural and man-made disasters **all categories of population** (section 2.1.1.), together with the **“specific” proposals**, regards involving into decision making different categories of population (**specific target groups**), identified in section 1.2.3. as **being most vulnerable to disasters**, including the people with disabilities, especially children, as the most vulnerable group ( section 2.2.).

## **2.1. THE “UNIVERSAL” PROPOSALS**

***on involving a wider public (all groups of population) into decision making, regards protection of the population against likely natural and man-made disasters.***

In section 1.1. of this paper notes, that “one of the more effective directions in better informing of a wider public about likely technological and natural disasters and carrying out relevant protection measures in different regions of the country, by given the most vulnerable groups of the population, - is holding the regular national and municipal campaigns on informing, awareness raising and warning all groups of population about disaster risks”.

There has also been mentioned, that in the developed pilot Project: “Information to and awareness raising of the public about disaster risks” (“The Methodology and Plan for action aiming to develop and hold national and municipal “Campaigns” on informing, awareness raising and warning the population about emergencies”) among other basic Project sections are given in details all four Project implementation phases: ***planning, preparation, implementation and evaluation.***

**The realization process for each of the above phases of the project under implementation supposes, in this or that form, involving all groups of population into decision making, regards ensuring protection of population, required protection measures and better informing against possible natural and man-made disasters.**

***In order to identify this or that forms of involving a wider public (all groups of population) into decision making, it is enough to give brief contents of all four Project phases, by putting in “italics”, supposing particular (“universal”) forms of involving citizens into decision making.***

***Phase 1: Planning.***

- Study tour (acquaintance with the experience gained by the Netherlands, Germany, the Czech Republic, as well as with the experience of the states - members of the Council of Europe's EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, the European Union and other countries).
- Analyses of a state of the National System on informing, awareness raising and warning the population.
- Developing methodological papers aiming to prepare and hold national and municipal "Campaigns".
- Draft Policy-plan for course identification.
- Consultations with representatives of appropriate ministries about their goals.
- Consultations with representatives of the regions, provision of information for the governors and mayors.
- **Consultations for non-governmental organizations.**
- **Review of the "Self-protection" project in schools and other educational establishments (survey of activities, fulfilled by school administration, teachers, students and their parents).**
- **Review of the projects on "Protection of the different categories (specific targeted groups) of population", in particular the projects on "Protection of the most vulnerable people: children, elderly, people with disabilities (including physically handicapped children with impaired mobility and having impaired hearing or vision, children with cognitive impairment, located in specialized educational institutions), all those, who fail to understand the language spoken in the country; migrants, refugees, shelter seekers, tourists, ethnical minorities and others)".**
- **Review of the draft Plans of actions (individual plans, family plans, establishment plans and etc.,) by factoring the specifics of the regions, municipalities at especial risks and relevant groups of population.**
- Plenary-discussion.
- Pilot Researches. Preliminary plan development.
- Integration of efforts made by particular regions and municipalities.
- **Investigation of the people's feedback to these plans.**
- **The mass media studies.**
- Local enterprises' abilities study.
- **Final plan preparation to determine the certain course.**
- Review and confirmation of the plan from the Government.

***Phase 2: Preparation.***

- Preparations of educational and testing materials (brochures, advertisements, TV and Internet head-pieces and etc.). Each region of the country is to be provided with its **regional Manual**, incorporating all information on typical risks available in the region and about what is to be done in case of a specific disaster. **Each family must have this Manual.**

Preparation of additional information modules for the municipalities at special risks and **for the most vulnerable categories (specific targeted groups) of population** to possible natural and man-made disasters. Co-ordination of this process.

**Ongoing feedback from the public, investigation of their opinion, explanatory work.**

- Preparing material-technical base.
- Preparing media.
- Preparing surveys.
- Notification intermediaries.

**Phase 3: Execution.**

- Press conference. Advertisement of goals of the “Campaign”, mechanisms of its fulfillment, **briefing with the representatives of the mass media, local governance bodies and people.**
- Sending of a message **addressing the entire population** (house by house, on the radio, by TV and Internet, etc.).
- **Answering questions.**
- Reviews.

**Phase 4: Evaluation of the Campaign.**

- **Surveys.** How did people study new skills in proceeding in emergency situations, what do they think about it? How successful was the material advertised by TV, radio, the press and the Internet. What is the easiest way to study the material: through brochures, the press, TV, the radio or the Internet? **How do their individual action plans (on preparation to disaster and carrying out operative adequate measures when warning about approaching disaster and in case of a real disaster) match the institutional and municipality action plans?**
- Report about how effective the Campaign has proven to be.
- Recommendations for recurrent “Campaigns”.

## 2.2. THE “SPECIFIC” PROPOSALS

**on involving specific target groups of population into decision making,**

regards protection of the population against likely natural and man-made disasters.

In addition to the previous section of this paper, where the “**universal**” proposals, regards **involving a wider public (all groups of population)** into decision making about protection of people against emergencies, this section considers “**Specific proposals**” concerning involving different categories of population – representatives of a **specific target groups** (such as: children; people with disabilities; elderly; people, who fail to understand the language spoken in the country; migrants; refugees; shelter seekers; tourists; ethnical minorities and others) **into decision making**, regards ensuring of their protection, required protection measures, better informing about possible natural and man-made disasters in various regions of the country,

**2.2.1.** Section 1.2.3 of this paper lists in depth different categories of population classified according to the four a specific target groups, being most vulnerable to possible natural and man-made disasters (including the people with disabilities and children), whose informing and protection should be especially addressed.

Due to an array of particular problems merely related to specific peculiarities, intrinsic in people - representatives of a specific target groups (including the people with disabilities), partially ***handicapped in being provided an access to education, informing, awareness raising and warning and relevant public services in regard to the observance of their rights and equitable access to meeting their needs in the field of disaster risk reduction and reducing vulnerability, the protection of life and health, the administration of first aid and first psychological intervention and first- and self- aid training in emergencies.***

**Ensuring the provision of equal opportunities in the above area to the people - representatives of a specific target groups of population, being most vulnerable from disasters (including the people with disabilities of all age) requires in line with resolving legislative and other strategic goals also meeting the below three essential objectives:**

- to educate emergency and relief managers and workers about the special and heterogeneous needs of the people – representatives of specific targeted groups of population, including the people with disabilities (through preparation and publication of correspondent information materials);
- to bring the people - representatives of particular specific target groups (in case with people with disabilities - also administration, teachers, medical personnel of a specialized education–rehabilitation and other establishments, providing care to them) to the emergency management table with the first responders to introduce the two sides to each other:
- to educate first responders to work adequately with representatives of particular specific target groups (primarily, the people with disabilities), to ensure adequate preparedness and to equip rescuers and related to them personnel, servicing search and rescue of people of the mentioned groups (primarily, the people with disabilities) and show them first aid and first psychological assistance;
- to make people - representatives of particular specific target groups (primarily, the people with disabilities and their family members) active participate in disaster planning and preparedness, by factoring their

specific, teach them how to survive in emergencies , encourage them to cultivate creative skills, first - and self -aid skills included;

- for the people - representatives of particular specific target groups of population (primarily for the people with disabilities) to insure equal rights and enhanced education and preparedness, the development of relevant information materials assigned to them and their training should be implemented through regularly organizing and holding national and municipal Campaigns on informing, awareness raising and warning the population about emergencies.

As it has already been mentioned above, in this subsection 2.2.1. are being considered in details three essential goals, which resolution is aimed at the provision of equal opportunities for the people with disabilities in the field of disaster risk reduction and reducing vulnerability.

To this end it is necessary to mention, that the relevant services of the Czech Republic developed the methodological and informational-teaching materials, ensuring the provision of legal norms that would enable the resolution of the first two from the mentioned goals and acquired valuable experience in practical application of these methodological materials and organization of teaching processes for the first responders, as well as establishment of communication links with people with disabilities.

The brief information about it, including the challenges existing in the addressed area and the possible ways to resolve them, can be found in subsection 5.1. **“Some possible ways for providing equal opportunities in the field of disaster risk reduction and reducing vulnerability for the people with disabilities” (Valuable experience of the Czech Republic)** of the “Manual on preparedness and rules of behavior for the people with disabilities, especially children, when an earthquake is real or seems imminent (the priorities for action)”.

**2.2.2.** The analyses of goals, considered in section 2.2.1. of this paper, **including the analyses of goals, aimed to ensure involving representatives of particular specific groups of population, being the most vulnerable from disasters, into decision making**, regards ensuring their protection, required protection measures and better informing and awareness raising about possible natural and man-made disasters, as well as the analyses of the contents of sections 1.2.3. and 1.2.6. from points of resolving the above goals, **dictate an urgent necessity** for revealing not only some particular (specific) performances intrinsic in each target group, but also specific peculiarities of concrete “places of their prevailing residence”: at work (establishments, organizations), relevant educational institutions, specialized education-rehabilitation institutions, at home and etc..

***The resolution of the above goals can be achieved through taking several steps.***

**1. As an initial step** some additional information materials, assigned for a specific target groups of population, as pilot projects of **universal “Manuals on preparedness and rules of behavior” for people, composing a particular category (a specific target group) in case of arisen of natural and man-made disasters or at their imminent threat**”, needs to be developed, primarily within National and Municipal Campaigns on informing, awareness raising and warning the population about emergencies, **by given the specific peculiarities intrinsic in each target group.**

Section 1.2.3. of this paper reveals **the importance of studying** these universal “Manuals” by administration and personnel of an institutions (establishments), where the people, composing this or that category (a specific target group) of population, work; educational institutions, where they study; specialized education-rehabilitation or other type institutions, where they are given care; **the carrying out recommended preventive measures**, aimed to

reduce, on good time, risks, that they can encounter, and to improve safety of the establishment; **bringing the messages**, carried out by these “Manuals”, to representatives of each particular specific target group of population; **acquisition of skills by them to act adequately** in case of likely natural or man-made disasters or at their imminent threat .

There also has been mentioned, that 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 (groups) of population.

**They need to be more and better developed and become more detailed, by given the specifics peculiarities of above concrete “places of prevailing residence” of people**, alongside by given of more “individual” specific peculiarities, intrinsic in people, composing this category (group) of population, being important from points of organization and operation processes, aimed to reduce risk of possible natural and man-made disasters; decision making in reference to ensuring safety to the given group of population; required protection measures; better informing; awareness raising, training and mustering of adequate behavior skills in case of a particular disaster event.

2. The creation, drawn on these universal “Manuals” (according to the methodological instructions attached), of more detailed information-educational materials and thoroughly worked out plans of protection measures, by given the specifics of concrete “places of prevailing residence” of people, composing these specific target groups of population, being the most vulnerable from disasters, should be implemented **as a second step** in resolving of the above goal.

**This step should be preceded**, at least, by **thorough analyses and identification of the specific peculiarities intrinsic in each concrete “place of prevailing residence” of people**, composing a particular specific group, as well as - as it has been mentioned above - of more “individual” specific peculiarities, characteristic of people of the given group.

However, **the above measures**, envisaged to be performed as the second step, **together with** stipulated by them and interconnected **analyses and identification of above specific peculiarities, cannot be carried out effectively without reaching in the above processes as representatives of concrete specific target groups**, alongside with administration and personnel of a particular establishment of their “places of prevailing residence”.

**In its turn, the analyses is targeted at identification of concrete (specific) factors, intrinsic in this institution, called to promote the involvement** of institution administration and personnel and the people - representatives of particular categories (a specific target groups) of population, whose “place of prevailing residence” is this institution, under consideration as participants **into decision making** regards ensuring their safety, required protection measures and better informing about possible natural and man-made disasters.

**2.2.3. Identification of practicing some methodological approaches and understanding of the ways, for resolving the goals**, formulated in section 2.3. of this paper, and **carrying out the measures, aimed to resolve of the set goals in the framework of the 1-st and 2-d steps**, require to consider of briefly cited in sections 1.2.4. and 1.2.5. of this paper, **some aspects of analyses of specific peculiarities, intrinsic in this specialized education–rehabilitation institution on providing care to the children with disabilities, as one of the most vulnerable categories of population (a specific target groups)**, to possible natural and man-made disasters.

The analyses, as it has been mentioned in sections 1.2.3. and 1.2.4. of this paper, is given within the developed pilot Project: “A Manual on preparedness and rules of behavior for the people with disabilities, especially children, when an earthquake is real or seems imminent (the priorities for action)”, drawn on a particular *example* of the “*Republican Children’s Rehabilitation Centre*” in the Yerevan city, Armenia.

**The above analyses**, applicable to this particular institution, in parallel with promotion to resolving other goals, considered in section 2.2.1., **was also aimed at identification of particular specific factors, called to involve administration and personnel:** teachers, physicians, psychologists and others, **together with involvement of a children and their family members, as a unique rehabilitation team members, into decision making**, regards ensuring their safety, required protection measures and better informing about possible natural and man-made disasters.

**2.3. By summering up the proposals, given in section 2. of this paper, aimed at involving citizens as participants into decision making**, regards ensuring their safety, required protection measures and better informing about possible natural and man-made disasters in different regions of the country, by given different categories (a specific target groups) of population, being the most vulnerable from possible disasters, such as: children; people with disabilities; the elderly; the people, who fail to understand the language spoken in the country; migrants; refugees; shelter seekers; tourists; ethnic minorities and others, **it is necessary to note the following:**

**2.3.1.** The mechanisms of involving citizens as participants into decision making regards ensuring their safety, required protection measures and better informing and awareness raising about possible natural and man-made disasters, are closely interdependent and interconnected with the mechanisms, designed for organization process of informing a wider public about relevant aspects of the mentioned issue.

**2.3.2.** Section 2. cites a two type proposals: the “**universal” proposals**” (section 2.1.) ***on involving a wider public (all categories of population) into decision making*** regards ensuring their protection against possible natural and man-made disasters and the “**specific” proposals** (section 2.2.) regards ***involving*** into decision making ***representatives of a specific target groups*** of population, being most vulnerable from possible disasters, identified in the beginning of the section 2.3..

**2.3.3.** The mechanisms and the ways of involving **a wider public (all groups of population)** into decision making, regards the listed above aspects of the protection of the population from emergencies - the “**universal” proposals**”- are put in “italics” within four phases for implementation of the pilot project: “Informing and awareness raising of the public about disaster risks” (“The Methodology and Plan for actions aiming to develop and hold national and municipal “Campaigns” on informing and warning the population at central and municipal levels about emergencies “), briefly cited in section 2.1. of present paper.

**The realization process of each from four project implementation phases:** planning, preparation, implementation and evaluation **supposes**, in this or that form, **involving of all groups of population into decision making**, regards ensuring protection of population, required protection measures and better informing against possible natural and man-made disasters in different regions of the country.

**2.3.4** The proposals, regards **involving different categories of population – representatives of a specific target groups**, being most vulnerable from disasters (identified in the beginning of the section 2.3.), into decision

making, regards the listed above aspects of the protection of the population from emergencies - are given in section 2.2. (**the “specific” proposals**).

Due to specific peculiarities, intrinsic in people - representatives of a specific target groups of population (including the people with disabilities), being most vulnerable to disasters, **it is supposed**, by resolving some legislative and other strategic goals, also to **ensure resolving of three significant set in details goals, aimed at protection against emergencies, as well as at including them into decision making process** (section 2.2.1.).

**At the same time, it has been noted** (section 2.2.2.), **that the set forth goals can be resolved in several stages (steps)**. The contents of the above steps have also been briefly disclosed.

**In order to identify some methodological approaches, understand the ways of resolving of the set goals and carry out measures, aimed to resolve of these goals**, in the frameworks of the 1-st and 2-d steps (section 2.2.3.) **some aspects of analyses of specific peculiarities**, intrinsic in this specialized education–rehabilitation institution on providing care to the children with disabilities, as one of the most vulnerable categories (a specific target group) of population for possible natural and man-made disaster, **are given**.

**The above analyses** (drawn on a particular example of the “*Republican Children’s Rehabilitation Centre*” in the Yerevan city, Armenia) in parallel with promotion to resolving other goals, considered section 2.2.1., **also allow for identifying some particular specific factors, typical of this institution, called to involve** administration and personnel: teachers, physicians, psychologists and others together with involvement of children and their family members (as a unique rehabilitation team members) **into decision making**, regards ensuring their safety, required protection measures and better informing about possible natural and man-made disasters.