Latvian Presidency in the Council of the European Union

PRIORITY TOPIC IN CIVIL PROTECTION

THE TRIO PRESIDENCY

2014
Jul–Dec  Italy

2015
Jan–Jun  Latvia
Jul–Dec  Luxembourg
The needs of persons with disabilities (PwD) throughout disaster management cycle

Objectives: TO IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE GAPS in relations between needs of PwD and existing disaster management cycle AND TO CREATE INCENTIVES for new political commitments and proposals and TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE AND CROSS-CUTTING NATURE OF THE ISSUE that may be addressed at national, regional or EU level.
1. Workshop, 12-13 January 2015, Riga + poster session and live stream

2. Participants – experts from MS, Asia, America, COM, CGS, UNISDR, EENA, EDF, Council of Europe, NGOs, other stakeholders

2. Council Conclusions (Council working group of civil protection - PROCIV)

3. Other meetings, conferences, foras related to PwD topic
PRELIMINARY AGENDA

PANEL DISCUSSION I
NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
THROUGHOUT THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT CYCLE

PANEL DISCUSSION II
BEST PRACTICES IN CIVIL PROTECTION REGARDING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

PANEL DISCUSSION III
INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND TECHNOLOGIES IN CIVIL PROTECTION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

WORKSHOP
The importance of priority topic

Priority will compliment other political initiatives and their implementation (Int’ I, EU, national level):

- **UN Convention on the Rights of PwD:**
  - to ensure the equality of opportunity etc. (access to emergency services)
  - to ensure the protection and safety of PwD in situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disaster

- **EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020:**
  - MS, COM promote the rights of people with disabilities in their external action, including accessibility, in the area of emergency and humanitarian aid
The importance of priority topic

The new CP legislation in the EU:
- *Increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters*

”Digital agenda for Europe”
- *Implement provisions on disability (promoting e-accessibility)*

Universal Service Directive:
- *to ensure the accessibility of emergency service*

* No. of countries where access to emergency services is provided by alternative communication modes (n=31)

*Source: Study and assessing and promoting E-accessibility, EC, 2013*
The importance of priority topic

- **UNISDR Survey «Living with Disability and Disasters»:**
  - Disproportionate number of PwD suffer and die in disasters because their needs are ignored and neglected by the planning process - disability perspectives and concerns should be included in the new DRR agenda, post-HFA

- **COM Communication on the post-2015 HFA: Managing risks to achieve resilience and related Council Conclusions:**
  - New principles were proposed, inter alia, empowering vulnerable groups
Thank you for your attention!