

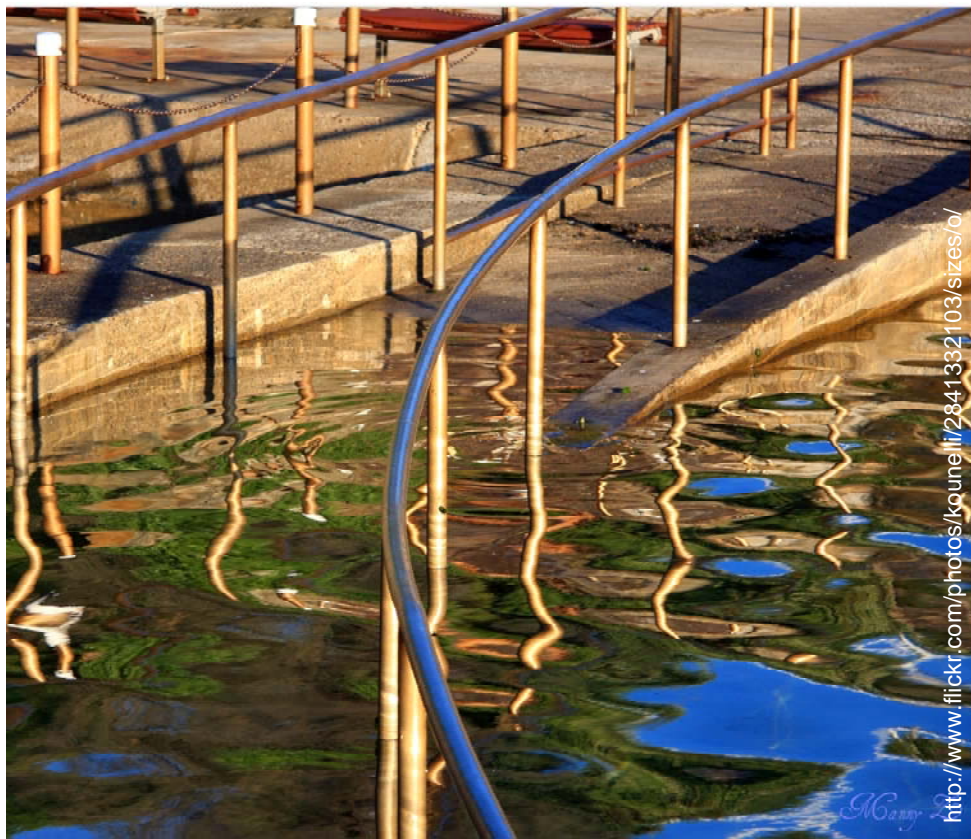
SPECIAL ISSUE

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EUROPEAN  
DISASTER  
DISABILITY  
NETWORK

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SPECIAL ISSUE



Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the EDDN Newsletter, a service of the European Disaster Disability Network to inform you about relevant topics on disaster and disability.

### HIGHLIGHT

23-24-25 February 2009

### Final Conference of FSD

(Flooding: Rapid Response & Simulation Schemes for Safety of Disabled).

Grant Agreement N° 07.030601/2006/448102/SUB/A3

This special issue of the EDDN Newsletter focuses on the final FSD conference to be held on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of February 2009 in Verona. This workshop will provide an opportunity for key stakeholders from fields related both to disability and to disaster to review the activities carried out in the context of the FSD project and to discuss and eventually endorse the findings.

The FSD project is co-financed under the Community Action Programme in the field of Civil Protection. Its primary aim is the exchange of experience and best practice on rapid response and simulation schemes in case of river floods as regards persons with disabilities.

The project has been implemented by a team of European partners from Italy, Spain, Ireland and Hungary and is being led by the Italian Local Health Authority Ulss20 Verona in collaboration with the Italian National Department for Civil Protection and local and national associations representing person with disability.

### Join us!

Limited funds are available to cover the costs of participation in the final FSD workshop (travel and accommodation) for representatives from both emergency and disability fields. Those persons who are interested should send a letter of application by email to Ms Paola Paon (ppaon@ulss20.verona.it) with a short description of their organisation (legal status, activities), the position of the applicant in the organisation (e.g. manager, technical officer etc.) and a description of how their participation could be of benefit to the event.

### EMERGENCY NEWS

January 2009

### Floods in Fiji: Pacific island nation declares state of emergency

Days of torrential rains have flooded the towns of Nadi, Ba, Sigatoka and Labasa and have devastated the west coast of Fiji's many rural villages on Viti Levu.

The flooding washed away bridges and roads, cutting power and damaging the sugar farms. Sugar is Fiji's second major industry following tourism and the sugar farms have been devastated by the flooding with damages estimated to be tens of millions of dollars. The death toll from the floods is now 11 (including three children) and 9,000 people have abandoned their homes and are sheltering in 131 evacuation centres.

Final Conference FSD

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2009, Verona

## FSD Project Leader: Azienda ULSS20 Verona

Azienda ULSS20 Verona (Veneto Region) is an Italian Local Public Health Authority responsible for providing health care and social services to inhabitants of the Verona Province (catchment area: 450,000 approx.).

The International Relations Office (URI) is a specialised department of Azienda ULSS 20 Verona which responds directly to the Director General. The URI runs several European Commission co-financed projects in the health and social sectors (15 in total of which 4 as leader).

Ulss20 Verona was leader also of the predecessor to FSD, namely RDD (Rescuing Persons with Disability in case of Disaster), also financed under the Community Civil Protection Instrument, which provided the frame for the drafting and elaboration of the Verona Charter on the Rescue of Persons with Disability in case of Disaster.

## Upcoming events

### Thursday, 5 February 2009, Brussels, Belgium

On 5 February 2009, the Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission (Civil Protection Unit) will hold an Information Day in Brussels (Belgium) on "How to prepare proposals under the Civil Protection Financial Instrument".

The Information Day is intended for representatives of all the relevant stakeholders in the field of civil protection (national administrations, regional and local authorities, private sector, non-governmental organizations, etc.).

For more information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/civil/infoday\\_2009.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/civil/infoday_2009.htm)

## UN Enable

**The United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.**

Web: <http://www.un.org/disabilities>

## Verona Charter

**Update on the Verona Charter on the rescue of persons with disabilities in case of disaster.**

Web: <http://internazionali.ulss20.verona.it>

## CONTACT

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## FSD Project Partners

A team of European partners have been actively involved in the implementation of the FSD project as follows:

### AUSL Ferrara

The Ferrara Local Health Authority (AUSL) located in the North East of Italy is responsible for providing health care to a population of approximately 350.000 people, of which an estimated 13% have some form of disability and 25,3% are 65 years or older. For this project, AUSL Ferrara has put into place an ad hoc structure encompassing the Municipality of Ferrara, provincial civil protection, social services and emergency services.

[www.ausl.fe.it](http://www.ausl.fe.it)

### The Hope Project

The Hope Project is an Irish non-governmental organisation providing assistance to people struggling with a disability and to their families. It also aims to inform government and society about the needs of the disabled and their families.

[www.hopeproject.ie](http://www.hopeproject.ie)

### Códice Europa

Códice Europa is a non-governmental organisation located in Cantabria, Spain, that aims to provide assistance, orientation, training, increase awareness, and create services which help support those groups of population which are subject to social exclusion for different reasons. They have considerable experience in working with public administrations to ensure mainstreaming of gender and disability in the drafting of policies and measures.

[www.codicecantabria.com](http://www.codicecantabria.com)

### Disaster Management and Civil Protection Association of Region Miskolc

This Hungarian association, which carries out a public benefit activity of high priority, participates in the preparation for civil protection, disaster relief and other humanitarian protection tasks, as well as in the organization of protection of the population of the Region, with the aim to make the inhabitants able to protect their own life and that of their families and fellow-men and also their property, and to rescue and assist the population in the event of natural and man-made disasters, elemental calamities, and armed conflicts.



This newsletter is published by ULSS 20 Verona in the framework of the European Disaster Disability Network.

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