



consensus conference



## *Verona Charter*

8 - 9 november 2007

verona charter on the rescue of persons with disabilities in case of disasters



*In the context of the EC co-financed project*

## *Rescuing Injured Disabled Persons in case of Disasters: Civil Protection's Challenge in the Challenge*

*Project leader Claudio Detogni*



# ***Rescuing Injured Disabled Persons in case of Disasters: Civil Protection's Challenge in the Challenge***

*From the 1st of January 2006 to 31st of December 2007*

***Grant Agreement N. 07.030601/2005/423643/SUB/A5***



***European Commission  
DG Environment***





***Project Partners:***

***ULSS20 Verona (Italy) Leader***

***Codice Europa (Spain)***

***Hope Project (Ireland)***

***University of Pecs (Hungary)***

***Choros (Italy)***

***Slovenian Institute of Public Health***

***Supported by:***

***Italian National Dept. of Civil Protection***





### ***Objective of the Project:***

To identify and establish guidelines and recommendations on how to respond to the basic needs of persons with disabilities in case of disaster/emergency situations



## **Actions**

**1. Creation of a task force that has carried out a specific study gathering International and European experiences on the matter, literature,...**

**2. Creation of a network: each member of the taskforce has worked in a co-ordinated way with local stakeholders (Civil protections, Organisation of persons with disabilities, emergency systems, Fire Brigades,...) in order to gather the information**

**3. Preparation of the working documents (recommendations and guidelines)**

**4. Workshop: Consensus Conference**

**5. Dissemination of results and publication**



## Definition in the project

### Disability

Disability is defined as "the outcome or result of a complex relationship between an individual's health condition and personal factors, and of the external factors that represent the circumstances in which the individual lives" (**WHO - International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health, 2001**)

### Disaster

A disaster is a function of the risk process. It results from the combination of hazards, conditions of vulnerability and insufficient capacity or measures to reduce the potential negative consequences of risk" (**UN-ISDR – International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, 2004**)



## ***Project Results***

Literature review:

The majority of the information comes from:

- **International Organisations** (UN, WHO, UNICEF, ILO, World Bank, Red Cross,...)
- **North American production** in the field (Americans with Disability Action Plans, National Council on Disability, American Red Cross,...) especially after 11 September 2001 and 2005 Katrina
- **International Humanitarian Organisations** (Handicap International, Oxfam, Save The Children,...) active in Developing Countries (especially after the 2004 Tsunami)

Focusing on strategies on how to promote the safety of persons with disabilities, providing manuals, guidelines, recommendations.



## In Europe

(limited to RDD project involved countries)

The issue of the safety of persons with disabilities is mainly related to  
Workplace safety and evacuation in case of Fire

Italy:

- ✓ Dept of Fire Brigades: Guidelines for rescuers on how to rescue persons with disabilities in emergency situations
- ✓ Dept. of Civil Protection: Information Guide

Ireland:

- ✓ Office for Public Works: Website Information guide





## **Guidelines and Recommendations**

**organised according to the main temporal phases of a disaster:**

- 1. Prevention Phase (Disaster Preparedness)**
- 2. Acute Phase (Emergency Response/Relief)**
- 3. Recovery and Reconstruction Phase**



## 1. Disaster Preparedness (Prevention Phase)

- Emergency planning should involve all community members including persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups
- Coordination of sectors/Agencies
- Needs assessments (different kind of needs in relation to specific disabilities)
- Training
- Mapping
- Rescue (social) Networks
- Equipment/Tools
- Simulation Schemes should include persons with disabilities
- Accessibility in planning:
  - Awareness/Information strategies
  - Alert Systems
  - Communication Systems
  - Evacuation/transportation Systems
  - Shelters (facilities and Services)



## 2. Emergency Response/Relief (Acute Phase)

- Establishment of a multidisciplinary taskforce
- Identification of Persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups
- Inclusion of local organisations for persons with disabilities in rescue processes
- Rapid assessment forms
- Meet special needs : Accessibility in alert systems, rescue communications and transportation systems, in providing information facilities, services and assistance+
- Community Based Approach
- People with advocacy background as part of the team on the ground.



### 3. Recovery and Reconstruction Phase

- Development of potential opportunities (development of organisation for persons with disabilities, campaigns for accessibility and inclusion, development of long term policies for mainstreaming disability)
- Link Relief, Rehabilitation and development
- Active participation of organisations of persons with disabilities in planning
- Post disaster inclusive long term recovery and rehabilitation
- Inclusion of cross cutting issue (gender, poverty, environment, psychosocial issues...)
- Governments should promote accessibility in rebuilding measures
- Funds should be monitored to make sure that they are appropriately donated and utilized.



# **Consensus Conference 2007**

## **The Verona Charter**

**On the RESCUE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN CASE OF  
DISASTER**

**8, 9 November 2007**

**Verona-Italy**

**Hosted by the European co-financed project “Rescuing Injured Disabled  
Persons in case of Disasters: Civil Protection’s Challenge in the  
Challenge**



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**30 March 2007**



***UN Convention on the  
RIGHTS of PERSONS with DISABILITIES***

open for signature by States and regional integration organisation in the UN General Assembly Hall

*Art.11- Situation of risk and humanitarian emergency*

*States Parties shall take, (.....) all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situation of risk, including situation of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.*



4 September 2007



## *European Parliament Resolution on Natural Disasters*

*Art. 19 – Stresses the need to take special care in case of natural disasters of the **special needs of persons with disabilities** in all actions undertaken using the Civil Protection Mechanisms.*



## Disability Action Plan (2003-2010)

*The needs of persons with disabilities have to be taken into account in the design of all policies and measures, and that **action for disadvantaged people is not limited to those policies and measures which are specifically addressing their needs.***  
(European Commission, COM/2003/650),

EU strategy is built on three pillars:

- (1) **EU anti-discrimination** legislation and measures, which provide access to individual rights;
- (2) **eliminating barriers** in the environment that prevent disabled people from exercising their abilities;
- (3) **mainstreaming disability** issues in the broad range of Community policies which facilitate the active inclusion of people with disabilities

(European Commission, COM/2005/604)





## Aim of the Consensus Conference

- To discuss the **findings** of the **RDD** project
- To **agree upon guidelines** for the rescue of persons with disabilities in case of disasters as well as the elaboration of the **Verona Charter** which should contain general principles concerning the rescue of disabled persons in case of disaster.

P.s. The Charter would not intend to lay down new rights with legal value. The aim of the Charter will be to tie existing fundamental liberties and principles together and render them more visible to citizens and institutions



# **Methodology for the Implementation of the Consensus Conference**

Part 1: Introduction (Plenary)

Part 2: Working Group

Part 3: Plenary Session

Part 4: The Future of the Charter



## ***Flooding: Rapid Response and Simulation Schemes for safety of Disabled***

(1 December 2007 – 30 November 2008)

***Grant Agreement N. 07.030601/2006/448102/SUB/A3***

### ***Objectives:***

- To contribute to tackling the high incidence of casualties of disabled persons in the case of events of major river flooding
- To exchange experiences and best practices between EU Civil Protection structures on rapid response and simulation schemes in case of river floods insofar as regards disabled persons

***European Commission  
DG Environment***







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