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ORGANISATION OF RELIEF IN MAJOR NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS

***ACTIVITY REPORT 2005***



EUROPEAN INTERREGIONAL CENTER FOR TRAINING RESCUERS  
YEREVAN, ARMENIA

**ACTIVITY REPORT 2005**  
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B.1. Horizontal programmes

i. Training

ACTIVITY N 1

**TRAINING IN FIRST AID SKILLS WITH ASSISTANCE OF THE ARMENIAN  
RESCUERS-INSTRUCTORS TRAINED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE  
ARMENIAN–FRENCH JOINT PROJECT WITH INVOLVEMENT OF THE  
ECTR AND API.**

**In 2005 the ECTR continued its activities in the area of training in first aid skills basing on the European methodic, in particular:**

**1. In 2005 within the framework of the present Program, special attention was focused on the organization of training courses for training first aid specialists as well as for training monitors (second grade instructors) for outmost, isolated, mountainous, not easily accessible regions of the Republic, that in winter time and also in emergency situations are often found to be isolated from the relevant Republic regional centers.**

**The European Center for training rescuers together with the “Armenian Caritas” International Organization during 1-13 December 2005 organized a first aid course for the mountain, remote Amassia sub-region of the Shirak region in Armenia. After that, on 14-23 December 7 trainees from those who showed the best grades were trained at the monitor courses (the second grade instructors) and were awarded the Certificates of instructors in first aid.**

**2. In 2005 within the framework of the present Project, the training courses in first aid skills in emergencies and in other extreme situations, including every day life, as well as the training courses in rescue operations elements for military men of peacekeeping battalion subdivisions of the Republic of Armenia, leaving for Kosovo on March 2005 (the third subdivision) and on October 2005 (the fourth subdivision) to perform its mission as members of the United Nations’ Greek peacekeeping battalion, were conducted .**

**At the same time there were organized a series of lectures acknowledging them with the risks typical of Kosovo and geographic, climatic, historical, ethnical, social and political specific features of the region. The experience of the ECTR during 200-2001 while developing and implementing the international Program:” School of protection in Kosovo. Training programs for trainers” under the aegis of the Council of Europe’s EUR OPA Major Hazards Agreement and the UN “International organization for Migration grounded the running of these lectures.**

Within the framework of cooperation with the peacekeeping battalion on March 2005 (1-15) and on 26 September -17 October 2005, the ECTR carried out the training of personnel of the above mentioned subdivision in:

- first aid skills and basis of rescue operation basing on the European methodic resulting in awarding the European diploma;
- first aid skills administered by the use of improvised means; in case of applying of dressings, transportation of victims, convulsions and shock.

On March 17 from 35 trainees of the peacekeeping battalion attended the first aid course; 5 trainees attended a refresher first aid course and were awarded the European diploma of life saving aptitude; one trainee was awarded the Certificate of participation and the rest 12 trainees failed to pass an exam.

From 26 September -till 7 October 19 from 35 trainees of the peacekeeping battalion attended a first aid training course; 12 trainees attended a refresher first aid course and were awarded the European diploma of life saving aptitude. The rest 4 trainees failed to pass an exam.

3. From 21 June till 7 July 2005 16 Central Bank employees attended a first aid training course and succeeded in getting the European diploma of life saving aptitude.

#### **B. 1. Horizontal Programs.**

##### **i. Training**

#### **ACTIVITY N 2**

### **PREPARATION OF THE CORRESPONDING TRAINING COURSES AND TRAINING OF THE CONTINGENT OF PEACEKEEPING SUBDIVISIONS IN THE ELEMENTS OF ADEQUATE BEHAVIOR AND IN THE SKILLS OF SHOWING COMPREHENSIVE AID AT DEALING WITH THE CIVILIANS, BEARING IN MIND THE SITUATIONS TYPICAL OF THE ARMED CONFLICT ZONES.**

**(Basing on the corresponding subdivisions of the peacekeeping battalion of the Republic of Armenia that have to perform a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo as members of the Greek battalion of the United Nations Organization's peacekeeping forces).**

#### **ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN 2005.**

1. The Project's elaboration and introduction aiming to developing relevant courses and training module for peacekeeping subdivision contingent on adequate behavior and skills in providing comprehensive assistance at dealing with the civilians with taking into account the typical situations established in armed conflict zones, was launched still in 2004.

In 2005 for the Project goals to be fairly detailed, the activities aiming to give supplementary grounds for the need to develop and introduce the Project were fulfilled.

In particular, in connection with certain specifics in running studies with peacekeeping subdivision personnel staff in 2005 the Program on developing training manual for training peacekeepers was developed.

## **2. Taking into consideration:**

- **That the relevant subdivisions of the peacekeeping battalion of the Republic of Armenia had to leave for Kosovo in March and October 2005 to perform a peacekeeping mission as members of the Greek battalion of the UNO's peacekeeping forces;**
- **And the expertise, gained by the European Center for training rescuers (the ECTR, Yerevan) in 2000-2001 through development and realization of the International Program "School of civil protection in Kosovo. Training program for trainers" under the aegis of the Council of Europe's EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement and the UN International Organization for Migration**

**The European Center within the framework of cooperation with the peacekeeping battalion in 1-15 March, 2005 (third subdivision) and September 26–October 17, 2005 (forth subdivision), carried out the training of personnel of the above-mentioned subdivisions in the following four directions:**

**2.1 a) Acknowledgement with geographical, climatic, historical, ethnical, social and political specific features of Kosovo, along with the risks typical of this region**

**b) International signals used in search-rescue operations (the signals sent from the underground, informing about a process of search-rescue operations and a state of victims as well as the signals to control a helicopter and observe safety rules in times a helicopter is taking off or landing and etc.**

**2.2 a) First aid administered by the use of improvised means: dressings and transportation of victims, in cases of convulsions, shock.**

**b) Safety and survival in various extreme situations (in the armed conflict zones included).**

**2.3 Training in the skills of showing first aid and the basis of rescue operations with the use of update European methodic and awarding of the European diplomas.**

B.1 Horizontal programs

iv. Comparative study of the legislation

ACTIVITY N 3

**HARMONIZATION OF THE LEGISLATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
(THE SECONDARY LEGISLATION),  
MEMBER – STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPUBLIC OF  
ARMENIA IN THE AREA OF CIVIL PROTECTION, PREVENTION OF EMERGENCIES  
AND THEIR RESPONSE.**

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSES OF THE LEGISLATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
(THE SECONDARY LEGISLATION) AND THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA IN THE  
FIELD OF CIVIL PROTECTION.  
(ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN 2005)**

1. In 2005 within a framework of the National Program of harmonization the Legislation of the European Union and the Republic of Armenia closer together, the European Interregional Center for training rescuers analyzed the secondary Legislation of the European Union in the fields of civil protection and sustainable development and the relevant Legislation of the Republic of Armenia. Below cited are some summarized outcomes of Legislation analyzes in the field of civil protection.

In 2005 basing on the outcomes of analyzes, some summarized proposals aiming to improve and amend in 2006-2008 the existing Laws of the Republic of Armenia in the given area along with the proposals for developing innovative Acts were elaborated.

2. The Legislation of the Republic of Armenia in the field of civil protection (the protection of the populations, territories, material values and heritage of the country from emergencies) was only partly brought into line with the European Union Legislation.

The existing incompatibilities in the Legislation of the Republic of Armenia in the above area are mainly stipulated by the fact that the Legislation of the European Union as well as some individual actions undertaken by the member-states are grounded on the Principles, relevant fairly detailed, jointly submitted in legislative Acts and coherently implement.

All together, irrespective of a circumstance that some principles' elements or the individual principles in general to this or that extent have been translated into individual legislative Acts of the Republic of Armenia subject to comparative analyses, no one legislative document of the Republic of Armenia has a potential to submitting theses Principles jointly as a significant basis for interlinked and unbroken actions undertaken by the country, aiming to reduce disaster risks.

The above Principles cover:

- consideration of ensuring the protection of the populations, territories, material values and heritage as an integral tool in pursuing the nation policy. Mainstreaming civil protection goals as well as disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management into the national planning and sustainable development Programs;
- prevention (reduction) of possible losses and risks caused by natural and man-made disasters putting the property of the citizens (individuals and a state) and the surrounding environment at risk;
- provision by the relevant sections of the national and local municipal budgets of the resources required to disaster risk management and disaster reduction;
- revealing, assessment and monitoring of disaster risks, identification and analyses of causes triggering these disasters, dissemination and introduction of knowledge and skills enabling establishment of a culture of a reduction in disaster risks and sustainable development;
- updating means and methods of prediction and technical facilities and practices of emergency response;
- improving preparedness of all individuals involved into civil protection actions (measures) (the protection of the populations, territories, material and cultural-historical heritage of the country against emergencies);
- informing, training and warning the public, holding regular Campaigns on informing all segments of the populations, setting up and employing early warning systems, whose message should be opportune and clearly cut for those at risk and should indicate how to proceed after being warned;
- enabling participate the communities into actions referred to disaster risk reduction, improved preparedness to hazards and development of effective disaster response systems;
- establishing regional cooperation links aiming to reduce trans boundary disaster risks.

**3.** The following basic legislative Acts regulate particular elements of the mentioned problems as well as separate problems in general present in the Republic of Armenia:

The Law of the Republic of Armenia (RA) “On protection of the populations in emergencies”, the Law of RA “On civil protection”, the Law of RA “On rescuer forces and a statute of a rescuer”, the Law of RA “On Seismic protection”, the Regulation of the Government of RA” On adoption of the Charter on issuing a certificate of safety in a production (industrial) installation of RA” and other normative Acts that, nevertheless, make no provision in full for legislative requirements of the European Union.

**4.** This refers to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “ On the protection of the populations in emergencies” which being a comprehensive Law of the Republic of Armenia in the given area nevertheless does not include the above Principles jointly and in full.



In particular, it is connected to a lack of the most important Principle, concerning “Consideration of ensuring the protection of the populations, territories, material values and heritage of the country as an integral tool in pursuing the national policy”; as well as to a lack of the principle regards “Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management goals into the national planning and sustainable development Programs” or it is connected to incomplete regulation of the relationships linked to the translation of the Principle associated with “Enabling participate the communities in processes referred to disaster risk reduction, improved preparedness to hazards and development of effective disaster response systems”, which has a key meaning for the given field of the European Union Legislation or it is connected to a lack of other principles or their individual elements.

Although the incompatibilities in the European Union Legislation are not so much due to a failure for the above principles to be included into the Law jointly and in full, but rather are linked to a title of the Law itself. In the title of the Law the words “in emergencies” (apart from the words “from emergencies”) immediately focus and highlight the significance of the operative actions, although the “preventive part” starting with revealing and assessing risks till their liquidation or reduction remains to have more consideration in the above area.

Basing on the outcomes of the comparative analyses it is necessary to notice that the Republic of Armenia fails to have a common basic legal Act in the field of civil protection that could include jointly the above principles underlying the interlinked common overall Legislation in the given field along with its multi legal Acts.

The following missing can be deemed another barrier towards perfecting the Legislation of the Republic of Armenia: Cause d) of Article 3 in the above Law touches upon a concept in passing :” a system for protection of the populations”, although further no one legislative Act referred to developing and establishing the relationships and implementing activities of this system has been passed.

In this way, the Law of the Republic of Armenia” On the protection of the populations, territories material values and heritage from emergencies” as a common basic legal Act will be called to substitute the currently existing Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the protection of the populations in emergencies”.

**5.** As for operative actions, than the Legislation of the Republic of Armenia makes no provision for mechanisms of enhancing effectiveness of the international co-operation at major disasters in and off the territorial areas of the Republic of Armenia.

**6.** Basing on the outcomes of comparative analyses it is necessary to notice that norms, mechanisms and concepts under interlinked legislative and regulatory documents of the Republic of Armenia referring to the prevention of major disasters in industrial installations involved into production and maintenance of hazardous substances as well as the mitigation of the impact of theses disasters on the populations and the surrounding environment, only partly conform to the relevant provisions of the European Union legislative documents, subject to comparative analyses. At the same time the Legislation of the Republic of Armenia lacks a number of significant norms and mechanisms included into the European Union comprehensive legislative documents addressing this area.

In particular, the Legislation of the Republic of Armenia makes no provision for control functions aiming to performing measures fixed by certificates of safety rules. It also lacks norms on “The need for an operator in a hazardous installation to report any time to the empowered body the evidences proving that all the measures fixed by the certificate of safety rules have been carried out”, in compliance with a “Program of inspector’s examinations” that is important in the relevant European Union legislation .

7. The Legislation of the Republic of Armenia makes no provision for relevant normative Acts referring to improving scientific-research activities in the fields of civil protection and disaster risk reduction as well as developing and updating training (educational) networks regards above problems at all levels: local, regional and national.

8. A normative Act referring to rendering special assistance in the field of civil protection to the isolated and hard- to- reach areas of the Republic of Armenia is also missing.

9. Within the Program framework it is envisaged till 2009 to complete the rapprochement of the main part of the Legislation in the field of civil protection.

B.1. Horizontal programmes

**ii. Communication, information and awareness-raising**

#### ACTIVITY N 4

**THE CAMPAIGN ON WARNING AND INFORMING  
THE POPULATIONS IN EMERGENCIES  
AT CENTRAL AND MUNICIPAL LEVELS:  
A BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL WARNING SYSTEM FOR THE  
SOUTHERN CAUCASUS COUNTRIES AND NEIGHBORING STATES IN TRANS  
BOUNDARY EMERGENCIES.**

#### **ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN 2005.**

The detailed report of activities fulfilled in 2005 by the European Interregional Center for training rescuers within the frameworks of the Program was submitted to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe’s EUR OPA Major Hazards Agreement On December 10, 2005 ( in compliance with Annex 1 of the Plan of activities to the Administrative Agreement).

However, according to the Plan in 2005 it was envisaged only to fulfill the corresponding Clauses (partially) of Phase 1: “Planning”, nevertheless during performing of the Plan it became clear that already in 2005 it would be expedient to develop an information kit planned to be implemented in Phase 2: “Preparedness” as well as the need to develop rather detailed, comprehensive methodic aiming to prepare and hold the national and municipal “Campaigns” that the Plan had not make provision for, was recognized.

**Below cited are the brief description of the activities performed within the framework of the Program in 2005**

**1.** According to Annex 1 of the Plan of activities to the Administrative Arrangement in 2005 (September-10 October) it has been supposed to fulfill (partially) only Phase 1-“Planning” envisaged to be fulfilled as minimum in a year term.

**1.1.** These activities have been carried out by the European Interregional Center for training rescuers jointly with the Information Center” Emergency channel” operating under the aegis of the Emergency Management Administration.

The “Emergency Channel” includes the following forming structures:

- “Emergency Channel” Information Agency
- “Emergency Channel” Internet site
- “Emergency Channel” TV and Radio broadcasting Company
- “Emergency Newspaper”.

The Information Center should operate in a preventive disaster phase and should serve a basis for deploying “National center on informing the populations” being functional in an acute disaster phase.

A Program of setting up the National Center passed an international expertise. Basing on a tripartite Arrangement between the Emergency Management Administration under the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the US Development Agency and the representative office of the United Nations Organization in Armenia, that promoted financing of construction -repairing work and equipping the new premises of the Information Center “Emergency Channel” enhancing thereby the Program effectiveness .

**1.2.** Pursuing the Plan of activities, we in 2005 have been involved first in analyzing, partially publishing in the Republic periodic the material regards the problems of warning and informing the populations about which section 7 of the present “Methodic” quotes in depth. The translations have been made basing on the documents of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe Japan, International Strategy on Disaster Reduction, as well as materials highlighting the expertise acquired by such countries as: the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Germany, Canada and some others.

**1.3.** Within development of the material for the second Plan clause: “Draft policy Plan for course identification “as well as during consultations with the Emergency Management Administration and other ministries and departments it has been revealed that it is the Draft Plan that needs to be further polished. It has been also highlighted that the methodic of developing and holding of such a Campaign” needs to be elaborated. Taking into account the significance of the problem, we have managed in such a short period of time to elaborate rather detailed, comprehensive and vast (covering some tens of pages) document:

“Methodic and Plan for actions aiming to developing and holding national and municipal “Campaigns” on warning and informing the populations about emergencies”. This document merits a special attention due to its universal nature. It provides the answers to many questions dealing with ensuring developing and holding national and municipal “Campaigns”; with taking into account international experience in arranging events envisaged by the Project ”Informing the populations about disasters”. It also incorporates a specific of developing and holding such national and municipal “Campaigns”, as well as specific features being typical of Armenia. In particular, it

focuses on municipal “Campaigns”, as well as on the problem of developing “Information material” to be used by each family. There have been also viewed in details the issues of ensuring relevant information to the mayors and other leaders of local governance bodies.

In this way the “Methodic” is universal and it can find its application within development and holding of national and municipal ”Campaigns” as well as in other interested states, in particular in state -members of the Council of Europe’s EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement and in developing countries with exposure to major disasters.

**1.4.** Section 7 of the “Methodic” quotes a brief analyses of a state in the Republic of Armenia of a provision system intends to improve developing and implementing of the ”National Campaign” Project. A state of issues dealing with warning and informing in schools and a state of school response plans in the case of an imminent disaster have been analyzed.

A state of an interpretation of this problem through mass media as well as training media representatives and employees from information bureaus of ministries and departments, specializing in informing the populations about disasters have been addressed.

The events implemented by the information center “Emergency channel” in terms of realizing phase 1:”National Campaign” in September-October 2005 are quoted.

The same section highlights a state of elements of the warning system in the Republic; geo-information system of monitoring natural and technological disasters; problems of developing plans for actions aiming to reducing disasters likely to happen in Armenia, as well the experience in organizing and conducting command-headquarters exercises based on these plans –as a serious background for developing and holding national and municipal “Campaigns” in Armenia.

**1.5.** Within the consultations with mayors and leaders of local governance bodies and countryside settlements another essential detail has been revealed.

It has been highlighted that for the better understanding by municipalities of goals and the meaning of the “Campaign” as well as for enabling them with taking into consideration the local specifics to propose their suggestions and comments concerning “Campaign’s” developing, a kit of information material needs to be elaborated already in phase 1:”Planning”. In the first turn it concerns the information material envisaged to be distributed in each family.

With accounting all the above, in the light of approaching a “Third Conference on early warning” 27-29 March, Bonn and Germany in whose connection this material for the EUR-OPA Major Hazard Agreement appears to be an example of best practices in the mentioned area; more over with factoring that this material has been developed by direct support of the Agreement, we think it is necessary to transfer the development of the material from phase 2: “Preparedness” to phase 1: “Planning”.

Within the same fixed terms we have prepared: a “Leaflet: what to do first”; a short brochure:”Brief information about what to do first”; a more detailed brochure:” The priority for actions undertaken by the populations in the case of disasters that likely to occur in Armenia”. The brochures contain the same basic scenario, the motto: ”Who is warned that one is protected. If you are aware what to do in the case of disasters, you will save your own life and the lives of your dependents”.

The emblem of the “Campaign” (Noah, descending Mount Ararat”) accompanied by the motto and words citing the warning message that the God addressed to Noah adorns the brochure’s cover. It is interesting that the Bible quotes the detailed description of early warning and all preventive measures enabling to be prepared to the Deluge.

The brief brochure is universal and can be applicable to any Republic region as well as to any concerned countries. The more detailed brochure contains inter alia priority for actions undertaken by the populations in the case when a disaster is imminent. It can serve a basis for developing more concretized regional brochures as well as can be used within national brochures’ development by other interested countries.

## **B. 1. Horizontal Programs.**

### **i. Training**

#### **ACTIVITY N 5**

**FORM-OSE (school level)**

#### **TRAINING OF PUPILS IN RISK PREVENTION**

**PREPARATION AND EXPERIMENTAL TEACHING  
OF “SAFETY AND SURVIVAL SUBJECT”  
IN ARMENIAN NATIONAL AFTER “ANANIA SHIRAKATZI” COLLEGE  
IN YEREVAN CITY  
AND IN THE REGIONS OF ARMENIA  
INCLUDING AT REMOTE RURAL SCHOOLS.**

1. In 2005 the experimental teaching of “Safety and Survival “subject in Armenian National after “Anania Shirakatzi” college in Yerevan city, included into the “Initiative Pilot Group of Schools around which the European pilot network of schools, involved into risk prevention training”, as well as in a number of other municipal and remote rural schools, were continued.

2. There was carried out a preliminary training of the teachers, teaching “Safety and Survival” subject in more than 15 Armenian schools, with providing them with all the necessary methodological and other educational materials.

3. The European Center for training rescuers (the ECTR) coming out of concerns that “Safe life activities basis” subject was not included into the Training Program for schools in the Republic of Armenia, in 2005 within the framework of the “Developing and introducing “safe life activities basis Draft Program required under extreme circumstances”, developed the below chapters of the base Training Manual aiming to teaching “Safe life activities basis”:

**3.1.** “Introduction”-provides the ground for developing this Manual.

**3.2.** “Sound mode of life” - apart from the rules of sound mode of life- gives the idea of the concept that “health is not so much an inherited predisposition, but rather a reasonable attitude of a human being to himself”.

**3.3.** “The environment and human safety”.

The four sections composing Chapter 3 were developed by the ECTR as brochures in 2005. In 2006-2007 these brochures intend to be enriched, enlarged and included by separate chapters into the above text book (see more details in “Draft Proposals for activities scheduled for 2006-2007 on developing a “Safe life activities basis” Manual required under extreme circumstances). These four sections include:

- safety on ice;
- safety on water;
- snakes;

- lightening.

## **B. 1. Horizontal Programs**

### **i. Training**

#### **ACTIVITY N 6**

##### **FORM-OSE (school level)**

##### **TRAINING OF PUPILS IN RISK PREVENTION**

##### **PROPOSALS FOR PROGRAM DEVELOPEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION AIMED TO TRAINING PUPILS IN SKILLS OF RECOGNITION AND ADEQUATE BEHAVIOR AT TERRORIST ATTACKS OR AT THE DANGER OF SUCH ATTACKS.**

##### **ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN 2005.**

In 2005 according to Clause 1.1. of the Program (the Program is considered in details in “Proposed Activities, 2006-2007) the European Interregional Center for training rescuers jointly with the Crisis Management Academy under the Emergency Management Administration of the Ministry of Territorial Management of the Republic of Armenia developed and published training and methodic manuals on the topics:” Children and terrorism “and “Fighting terrorism”.

The name of the main work is:”Terrorism: the current state and some problems dealing with its combating”.

The work consists of “Introduction” section, being rather detail developed. Section 2 looks upon the current state of the problem under review. Section 3 is devoted to the concept of terrorism, its meaning and specific features. Section 4 quotes terrorist actions’ goals and objectives. Terrorist activities’ subjects and objects are available with Section 5. Typology of terrorism is included into Section 6. Section 7 demonstrates means of valiance used by terrorists. Terrorist actions are given in section 8. The main principles and directions in fighting terrorism are showed in Section 9.

Issues dealing with training the populations in the skills of hazard recognizing and protection against terrorist actions are studies in Section 10. Besides, Subsection 10.1 quotes the methods used to assess risk level. Subsection 10.2 considers methods, used for protection the populations against terrorist actions. Subsection 10.3 cites recommendations in case your transportation means were kidnapped. The paper is also supplemented by a list of recommended actual literature.

In 2005 basing on the material developed, the European Interregional Center for training rescuers jointly with Crisis Management Academy carried out on regularly basis the preparing (the training) school teachers and administration officials, students and their parents.

## **B. 1. Horizontal Programs**

### **i. Training**

#### **ACTIVITY N 7**

**FORM-OSE (School level)**

**TRAINING OF PUPILS IN RISK PREVENTION.**

**PROJECT  
OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION  
OF TRAINING SOCIALLY UNPROTECTED TEENAGERS  
CALLED "DIFFICULT CHILDREN"  
IN SAFE LIFE ACTIVITIES BASIS  
TO BE APPLIED IN EXTREME SITUATIONS.**

#### **ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN 2005.**

In 2005 within the "Developing and introducing safe life activities basis , survival in extreme circumstances and administering first aid draft training Program for "difficult children" (see Annexes for 2006-2007, Activity7 ) the following was performed:

**I.** The "methodological proposals for training "difficult children" in the safe life activities basis , survival in extreme circumstances and administering first aid were developed; along with their underlying basis and specific features that were also quoted and studied . The mentioned methodological recommendations will provide assistance to teaches and tutors involved into developing and introducing school curricular for "difficult children" as well as within the context of the above recommendations they will enable, basing on the summarized studies conducted by the professionals from a number of countries, to disclose psychology of this category's children and to suggest the productive practices in working with them.

The given studies intend to be deepened, enlarged and concretized. (see details in "Training safe life activities basis , survival in extreme circumstances and administering first aid for "difficult children").

**II.** A text book "Safe life activities basis" was developed. In 2005 the following three chapters were prepared:

- "Introduction"-it gives the substantiation of the idea to develop of such a text book;
- "Sound mood of life" - apart from rules of sound mode of life- it gives grounds for the concept, that "health is not only an inherited predisposition, but rather a reasonable attitude of a human being to himself";
- The environment and human safety".

Some themes composing this chapter for many years have been developed by the ECTR as brochures (their number is 20). These brochures intend to be enriched, enlarged and included by separate chapters into the above text book. (see more details in 2006-2007 Programs on developing a text book" of "Safe life activities" basis in extreme circumstances").



## **B. Scientific and technical cooperation, researches, training.**

### ACTIVITY N 8

#### **WORLD CONFERENCE AND THE PROBLEMS OF DISASTER REDUCTION IN THE DEVELOPING MOUNTAINOUS LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES (THE CASE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA)**

In 2005 the European Center was involved into developing materials for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, 18-22 January, 2005).

The Report of the Governmental Delegation of the Republic of Armenia in the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe was presented by the Head of the Emergency Management Administration under the Government of the Republic of Armenia, highlighting in line with other priorities in the field of disaster reduction the importance of international and regional cooperation and, in particular, the importance of the Council of Europe's EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement as a common structure for establishing regional cooperation links with Northern and Southern Mediterranean and Eastern European states.

The National Report on disaster reduction in the Republic of Armenia for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (on 43 pages), coordinated by the Emergency Management Administration under the Government of the Republic of Armenia was prepared by Director of the European Center, basing on methodical materials of the UN International Strategy on Disaster Reduction.

Component 7 of the National Report: "Priorities addressed by the Republic of Armenia for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction" (pages 38-43) was submitted to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement.

The most significant materials adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in particular, "The Hyogo Framework for action 2005-2015: building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters" served the basis for activities in 2005 and while developing activity Programs scheduled for 2006-2007.

In particular, in 2005 we carried out study on the topic: **"The World Conference and the problems of disaster reduction in the developing, mountainous, landlocked countries (the case of the Republic of Armenia).**

**Below is quoted a brief variant of the above mentioned paper in an article format intends to be published in "Crisis Response Journal" (The Great Britain).**

The very high level of significance of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, 18-22 January 2005) is that the decisions made at the Conference are called to promote the preservation and development of the world's highest values – life and health of people and the cultural and spiritual heritage of mankind.

We highly appreciate opportunities of formalization with the international experience in disaster reduction area and in integration of Armenia as a partner into the total global safety system which is opening for us cooperation within the frame work of the UN International Strategy on Disaster Reduction and thereto, in particular, has encouraged the participation in the World Conference.

The most significant problems and priorities discussed in the World Conference from our point of view were the following:

- including of Clauses referring to disaster risk reduction and risk management into national planning practices and sustainable development and the linkage of the related targets to those of the Millennium Development Goals;
- viewing the ensuring of disaster risk as a national policy with a clear focus on a strong organization base aimed to its pursuance;
- location of resources required for disaster risk management and disaster reduction in corresponding sectors of the national budget and in local administrative budgets (community budgets);
- revealing, assessment and monitoring of risks;
- holding of regular public-information campaigns for all segments of the population and using of early warning systems which messages have to be opportune and clear for those at risk and have to indicate the ways to proceed after being warned;
- establishing of regional cooperation links for trans boundary disaster risk reduction;
- using of knowledge and skills for establishing a disaster reduction culture and sustainable development; the involvement of communities into the work linked to risk reduction;
- improvement of disaster preparedness and setting up of effective disaster response systems.

The above mentioned priorities and key goals (included the further detailed tasks) were included into the outcome documents adopted by the World Conference including the “Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015” and the “Hyogo Declaration” for further implementation.

At the same time in the “Yokohama Strategy and Plan for Action for a Safer World” (in Introduction) it was written: “Emphasizing the need for the United Nations System to play special attention to the least developed and land-locked countries and small island developing states... in the activities of the Decade”. (“World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction”, Yokohama, Japan 23-27, May 1994).

Unfortunately, the main documents of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, 18-22 January 2005), including the priorities for actions, contains no references to “land-locked countries”. This concerns both: the “Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015” and the “Hyogo Declaration”, adopted by the Conference.

And only in the “Draft Summary Report of the Thematic Segment of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Clause 3.3 “Emerging risks: What will tomorrow hold?” is written: **“Developing countries and especially small island States , land-locked and other particularly vulnerable countries such as Least Developed Countries (LDC’s) are disproportionately affected by natural disasters”**.

At the Conference we suggested to include the above wording from the “Yokohama Strategy and Plan for Action for a Safer World” (Introduction) into the final documents of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction: ”Program outcome documents”, “Conference Declaration”, “Conclusions of the Conference”, in particular, A/CONF.206/ L.2/Rev. 1. ”The Draft Program Outcome document”, III. ”Priorities for action 2005-2015” A. General considerations 13. (g).

The given proposal was made by me, as a member of the Armenian delegation, on 19 January 2005 at session 1.8.:”Dialogue on risk in mountainous regions: Experiences from Switzerland with integrated approaches and lessons learnt for international cooperation” (time: 16h- 18h) and gained the approval of the participants of the session and was also made at the Intergovernmental Segment (Plenary) on 21 January 2005 (time 10h-13h).

Our proposal was stipulated by the fact that **developing mountainous landlocked countries** as well as small island developing states are deemed the most vulnerable to the natural and related to them man-made and environmental disasters.

A good example for it is Armenia.

The Republic of Armenia as a developing, landlocked country, as a “mountain island” is deemed the most vulnerable in case of major disasters as well as “small island states.” Severe earthquakes, frequently occurring landslides, hail storms, droughts, strong winds, floods are threatening safety of the people and causing a considerable damage which impedes the sustainable development of the country. As a result of a catastrophic Spitack earthquake hit Armenia on 7 December 1988 in Northern Armenia loss of life was considerable caused the death of more than 25 thousand, tens of thousands injured and left homeless hundreds of thousands. The country is still going on with resuscitation measures in the disaster area.

Viewing disaster risk reduction as a priority policy, the Government of Armenia has assigned its political commitments in this area through creating and up-dating an adequate national legislative base by signing bi- and multilateral interstate Agreements, joining corresponding international Conventions; it has set up the structures on coordination and implementation of the concrete preventive and operative actions, allocation of necessary resources and encourage of the involvement of the civil society.

Although, in many cases prevention of the natural and technological emergencies and their response, in the first place, the cross border emergencies are not possible to carry out by using only the resources of a single country. Here one needs to consolidate the efforts and means of the countries sharing borders and corresponding international organizations in line with the setting up of the relevant regional structures and through bi- and multilateral programs targeted for the particular disaster reduction.

The importance of regional cooperation will especially grow for the regions like the Southern Caucasus where on a comparatively small territory, having a complex relief, exists the likelihood of arisen of almost all types of natural and man-made disasters, including the likelihood of severe earthquakes and floods; accidents in hazardous chemical and oil -containing plants, in oil and gas pipelines, burst of dams on the mountain rivers running along the territories of several neighboring states. In many of the mentioned cases there is the likelihood of arisen of emergencies of a trans boundary nature.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia recognizing that integration of the mutual efforts aimed at natural and associated with them man-made and environmental disasters is regarded one of the most effective mechanisms of ensuring the sustainable development, gives an exceptional consideration to the joint preparation and implementation of the regional Programs on cross border disaster reduction through highlighting their both: a significant applied meaning and a no less important sounding of creating and strengthening of an atmosphere of trust between the nations.

Basing on the mentioned above there has been developed and approved a main direction in pursuing the national policy in a disaster reduction area: to minimize the emergency related risks through close cooperation with the international institutions and foreign states, including the states of the Southern Caucasian region and the neighboring countries, with involvement of the national and local governance bodies, NGO's and the population into developing and implementing the initiatives in the above area.

The Head of the governmental delegation of the Republic of Armenia in the World Conference quoted priority topics to be discussed and agreed upon at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction aimed at strengthening and enhancing the national policy and practices of the Republic of Armenia, the regional (for the Southern Caucasus) policy and practices on disaster reduction and vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters.

1. Development and improvement of geoinformation systems in order to manage natural disaster risks (earthquakes, spring freshets in mountain river basins, floods caused by burst of reservoir's dams, land slides processes);
2. Development of the Project and holding of the "National Campaign on **early warning and informing** of the population of the Republic of Armenia in emergencies at national and municipal levels" (as a basis for the setting up of **a regional awareness and early warning system** for the population of the countries of the Southern Caucasian region and neighboring countries in case of trans boundary emergencies);
3. Subsequent forming and improving of the national legislation in a disaster reduction area, harmonizing and bringing of the national legislation of the countries of the Southern Caucasian region into line with the international principals and norms accepted in the mentioned area.

The mentioned priority Programs as well as

4. "Proposals for developing and implementing the Program of training children in the skills of recognizing and properly reacting to terrorist assassinations or an the danger of such assassinations" and
5. "Program of developing a handbook on administering first aid in emergencies"

papers have been quoted in a deployed form and under separate cover. They need to be further worked out and concretized.

The regional cooperation within the framework of the UN International Strategy on Disaster Reduction and other international organizations, in particular the Council of Europe's EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, is called to acquire an exceptional significance in developing and putting into practice of the mentioned and other priority Programs and in ensuring success to pursue disaster prevention and managing policies.

The Council of Europe's EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement whose member and an active participant in the Programs the Republic of Armenia has been since 1993, presents itself an unique structure for regional cooperation between the states of Northern and Southern Mediterranean and Eastern Europe. As it is, the Agreement can promote its member-states, including Armenia, within the framework of a regional approach to actively participate in undertaking of the international efforts targeted to reduce risks and minimize vulnerability, to increase the sustainability of the nations and communities in the support to the sustainable development.

We are ready to take part in the implementation of the guidelines and Programs that were adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction at community, national and regional levels.

The informative basis for disaster reduction having been created, it is time for action gap to be filled. However, full commitment of political bodies to the task of eliminating institutional barriers and including disaster reduction in the strategies and programs for sustainable development and poverty reduction remains indispensable for disaster reduction. The vital role of disaster risk reduction has been proved by years since the Yokohama Strategy. This vision failed to be properly translated into action because of insufficient political commitment to the goal. Disaster risk reduction must cease to balance at the periphery of the relief structures and should be incorporated in the Millennium Development Goals. The international Community has prioritized health and education as basic needs. It is time for disaster reduction to gain the same status.

Yes, we are still having some differences in understanding and perceiving of some problems, but our attention is being more focused on the matters that can consolidate us and I am confident that we will continue to cooperate in the spirit of growing dynamism, trust and mutual assistance for the benefit of our nations.

Finishing this article, may I cordially thank the Japanese authorities and the UN Secretariat of the International Strategy on Disaster Reduction for their excellent organization of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, 18-22 January 2005) which good holding promises to achieve successful results.

**B. Scientific and technical co-operation.  
Researches, training.**

**ACTIVITY N 9**

**PRIORITIES OF REGIONAL COOPERATION  
IN THE SOUTHERN CAUCASUS  
IN TRANS BOUNDARY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.**

On October 6-8, 2005 in Yerevan the 61<sup>st</sup> “ROSE ROTH” Seminar: “Security in the Southern Caucasus” was organized by the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.

The Director of the European Center, the Permanent Correspondent of the Republic of Armenia in the Council of Europe’s EUR OPA Major Hazards Agreement was invited to participate in the above Seminar as an expert.

For the ECTR to participate actively, the corresponding paper: **“Priorities of regional cooperation in the Southern Caucasus in trans boundary emergency management”** was developed and as an official document distributed to the Seminar participants, members of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, representatives of different states.

**Below is given the content of the mentioned paper.**

Currently, exposure of communities to natural and associated with them man-made and ecological risks which impact is aggravated by demographical, economical and social change including urbanization and development process has been continually accumulated.

Disaster reduction being one amongst main constituent parts of sustainable development and associated with it risk management is a subject of the prime responsibility borne by the governments. Risk management of this kind should be drawn on an integrated process of decision making aiming to integrate knowledge, vulnerability assessment and management bodies at all levels. A civil society, private sector, including insuring companies, experts and scientific circles need to be involved in full into this process.

The scale of risks manifested in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has predetermined the need for the enhancement of a role of relevant global institutions and international cooperation for their potential to track, assess and cope with these threats. In many cases prevention and liquidation of natural and technological emergencies, especially the trans boundary ones are not possible by using only own resources of a single country. The need for strong interaction of states in the region in the above direction is recognized.

A challenge for regional cooperation in the area of providing safety is one amongst the other pressing issues addressing the establishment of cooperation links within the frameworks of the relevant international organizations, including the “Partnership for Piece” process. Here the need and priorities of “Regional Cooperation open for all” require to be specifically highlighted.

The Armenia terrain and the territories of other Southern Caucasian countries and adjacent states are found to be prone to one type natural disaster (severe earthquakes, floods, mudflows, major landslides, hurricane winds, hail storms, avalanches).

Tens of reservoirs are situated on mountain rivers, streaming along the territories of the two or more neighboring countries. Magisterial oil and gas pipelines were built or are planned to be built in the territory of the region. Hazardous chemical and oil enterprises are presented in the region.

If major accidents occurred in them, including those with natural trigger, factoring geographical and natural-climatic specific features of the region, the likelihood of trans boundary emergencies putting the population and the surrounding environment of simultaneously two or more adjacent states at risk is rather high.

One of the policies enhancing the regional cooperation in case of trans boundary emergencies is interlinked regional warning and informing systems building.

But here seeking solutions to technical and technological issues of monitoring, informing and warning the population may be considered a significant but only an initial step towards local and regional early warning systems building. No less important is the organization of training and consolidation in all population segments, including local management bodies, of the adequate skills in behavior when informed and warned about disaster risk.

The basic principals of international cooperation within the framework of “Partnership for Piece” process at multilateral, regional and bilateral basis have been quoted in depth in the corresponding documents.

It is expedient to draw attention to a narrow circle of problems addressing specific regional cooperation aiming to cope with crisis.

Below the following basic directions in regional cooperation are available:

1. Regional cooperation in case of likelihood of one type emergencies (as a result of earthquakes, landslides, flooding and etc) occurred in the territory of individual countries of the region
2. Regional cooperation at availability of possible trans boundary emergencies and reciprocal openness of countries of the region
3. Regional cooperation at availability of possible trans boundary emergencies under conditions of political tension existing among the countries of the region.

The limitation of time within the framework of the present presentation prevents from any detailed considering the expedience in commitment integration and experience exchange in terms of emergency prevention, mitigation and recovery as well as removing possible barriers towards regional cooperation in the first and, partially, in the second cases.

In the second and in the third directions in regional cooperation the possible sources of prefiguring risks leading to trans boundary emergencies can be:

- burst of major reservoir dikes built on rivers streaming along the territories of several neighboring states,

- likelihood of accidents in magisterial oil and gas pipelines, in hazardous chemical and oil installations,
- likelihood of release of radioactive substances in nuclear power plants in case of some off design basis accidents.

In all these cases, apart from joint working to develop scenarios of emergency situation extending across the borders of a country where it has been originated over territories of the neighbors, developing the joint programs and plans of disaster reduction and operative (including rescue) operations and guidelines being applicable and in the first case, the interacted warning and informing systems for the population at state level as well as between adjacent localities of neighboring states beginning to have a very high degree of significance.

And finally, in the third case the existence of political tension between the states of the region impeding cooperation, nevertheless, should not be considered as a obstacle to undertaking reciprocal actions at likelihood of major trans boundary emergencies.

On the contrary, cooperation in the protection of the population, disaster reduction, emergency prevention and recovery areas (and especially in case of trans boundary emergencies) leads to creating confidence between the nations, can facilitate mitigation of political tension and removal of barriers enabling cooperation in other interstate activities.

Here apart from above mentioned recommendations, the addressing by relevant international establishments starts to have a very high degree of significance, within whose framework and by whose support and mediation:

- in countries with likelihood of exposure to trans boundary risks, the scenarios on how these hazards originate and spread over territories of their neighbors can be developed;
- mechanism of information conveys, organization of warning of the population of the adjacent countries as well as plans of mutual action can be elaborated
- all these documents within the frameworks and via mediation of the relevant international structures can be proliferated from countries where an emergency event is likely to occur to neighboring countries whose territories can be undermined due to its extension, in part referring to these countries;
- further the joint working with involvement of all the parties is envisaged aiming to polish up and clarify the draft scenarios of spreading trans boundary hazards, minimizing their effects and developing of reciprocal actions in order to be able to cope with possible emergencies.

The Republic of Armenia comes with an initiative to develop jointly a specific Program of regional cooperation in the above direction and suggests implementing the Program by starting from its territory.

Currently the concrete steps are being undertaken aiming to develop in depth and implement Project “National campaign on informing and warning the population of the Republic of Armenia about emergencies at central and municipal levels (as a basis for building regional warning and informing system for the population of the Southern Caucasian and neighboring states about trans boundary emergencies).



While developing “National Campaign” a rich experience accumulated by the Netherlands, where the similar “National Campaigns have been developed and are regularly implemented and the Czech Republic experience where such a Campaign has been held by methodological assistance of the specialists from the Netherlands and under financial support of the relevant structures from this country, can be used.

For Armenia, being a land-locked country situated in a small territory prone to almost all natural and man-made hazards types ( including devastating earthquakes, floods, in case the reservoir dikes on mountain rivers medium- and down streaming along the territories of neighboring states were burst, and probable off design basis nuclear accidents occurred), building of warning and informing system for the population on possible risks and training of the population in adequate behavior in emergencies becomes a prime goal.

As a result of using Dutch, Czech, Swedish and other European Union’s countries’ experience in the Republic of Armenia and holding of the National Campaign:

- each family in the Republic of Armenia will be informed about possible risks threatening the place where it lives and about what is to be done after being warned on a threatening danger and in the case of a particular disaster;
- local (municipal) authorities will be prepared to inform people in emergencies as well as they will ensure improved disaster reduction preparedness in the case of a danger of a particular disaster;
- this is a first wide scale campaign on protection of population that will lay the grounds for regularly holding of such campaigns each 2, 5-3 years.

The warning and informing system for the population of the Republic of Armenia can be built into a regional warning and informing system for the population of the Southern Caucasian and neighboring states about trans boundary emergencies. An expertise accumulated at training of the population, including local government bodies can find its successful implementation while preparing and holding the similar “National Campaigns” in neighboring countries, taking into account their specific geographic and natural-climatic conditions.

In this way the goal aiming to develop and implement the above “National Campaign” in the Republic of Armenia extends across a pure nation framework, acquiring a significant regional nature.

It is expedient as an initial step to organize in 2007 in the Republic of Armenia a regional Conference on the theme:” A challenge for early warning and informing at central and municipal levels for the population of the Southern Caucasian and neighboring states about trans boundary emergencies” within the context of the Dutch, Czech and some other countries’ experience and factored specific, geographical and natural-climatic conditions typical of the region. The Conference may adopt a relevant outcome document in terms of setting priorities in regional cooperation in the above field.

All together, the need for necessary working to further polish up of the Project and to prepare “National Campaign” in the Republic of Armenia to be implemented through viewing it as a basis for setting up of the mentioned regional system is recognized.

The proposal of the Republic of Armenia regards holding of the mentioned “Regional Conference” in Armenia, working out and realizing the “National Campaign in the Republic of Armenia and building on its basis the “Regional warning and informing system about trans boundary emergencies for the population of the Southern Caucasian and neighboring states” is considered to have enough value from a standpoint of “Regional cooperation open for all”.

As it has already been mentioned above, regional cooperation and liaison in the protection of the population, disaster reduction, emergency prevention and recovery areas ( and, primarily, in case of trans boundary emergencies) will lead to creating of confidence between the nations, can facilitate mitigation of political tension and removal of barriers enabling cooperation in other interstate activities.