



Preparedness for **A**ppropriate **a**ccommodation in **E**mergency **S**helters



Project co-funded by the EU Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection

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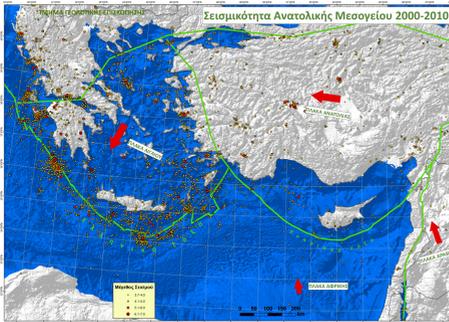


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The PACES Project

Recent developments have shown that there is a tendency for disasters to grow both in size and frequency, all over the world. Earthquakes in Eastern Mediterranean region denote a major hazard. It is well known that this area



hosts very complex active tectonics, accommodates major seismic sources and suffers from many deadly earthquakes. It is considered as one of the most seismically active regions in the world, and the area with the highest released seismic energy in Europe. It is remarkable that 2% of the annually released seismic energy of the world is released only in Greece.

Large scale earthquakes may cause a lot of damage in very populated areas hence mass evacuation of people (residents and tourists) in a short period of time is required. At the same time, the displacement of a part of the affected population, for their own safety is vital. Emergency Shelters must be prepared for covering immediate housing of the displaced population.



One of the main challenges after a mass disaster event is the care for the directly or indirectly affected population, gathering rapidly in great numbers



at specific areas. Experience from previous evacuation operations both on Cyprus and Greece has shown that logistics procedures need improvement when the number of the evacuees is very high, especially during the first days. For the appropriate organization of the shelters, components such as coordination, communication and medical care are considered as very important. The medical needs of evacuees must be identified and appropriate care and support must be provided.

The PACES project is an innovative project that aims to advance European Union Civil Protection procedures for the management of evacuation and sheltering of people after mass disasters, such as earthquakes, through cross border preparedness plans and practices.



Objectives – Expected Outcomes

The project engages civil protection governmental and non-governmental organisations and other authorities at national, regional and local level in Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Italy and Austria, as well as expert groups throughout Europe in understanding, verifying, and improving civil protection procedures. It focuses on direct response and impact reduction of natural



disasters and improved planning and preparedness of sheltering and caring for displaced people after mass evacuation. The objectives are presented in the following paragraphs.



Seismic Risk Assessment

Seismic risk assessment will be undertaken for specific areas for planning and execution of increased preparedness actions. Seismic hazard and risk maps will be elaborated, depending on available data for each area, as well as its specific characteristics regarding seismic hazard and vulnerability issues. Various elements and people potentially at risk (exposure) will be identified as well as vulnerability factors and assessment of likely impacts.

Operational Planning and Preparedness

The PACES project aims at improving operational planning and preparedness for Union Civil Protection Mechanism operations building on seismic risk assessment and scenarios. This will be achieved through the enhancement of cross-border civil protection cooperation which in turn will advance the effectiveness of operations. Operational teams with diverse expertise will identify and share best practices strengthening cross border activities and alignment of plans. These actions will result in better response to the



consequences of large earthquakes including mass evacuation. Project results aim at benefiting volunteer organisations and civil protection forces in the member states of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Earthquake Response Plans

Readiness to cope with the consequences in case of an earthquake will be increased through aligning plans according to risk assessment scenarios for each area. Seismic risk analysis will be communicated to civil protection networks in order to improve local, regional and transnational contingency plans for mass evacuation and sheltering. Based on the seismic risk analysis, two small scale and one table top pilot exercises will take place in three cities, in Greece, Cyprus and Italy. All three cities have similarities in economic, social, cultural and administrative components and are located at highly seismic risk areas.

Organisation of Emergency Shelters

The PACES project will especially focus on the organisation and operation of emergency shelters. The shelters will offer the appropriate accommodation required after a disaster and a mass evacuation process, taking into account the needs of the displaced citizens, including vulnerable groups, elderly, and people with disabilities. Efficient and effective organization of shelters requires specific coordination actions, medical care and communication procedures. Selecting appropriate areas for emergency shelters is also an important issue.





ICT Services for Emergency Shelter Camp Management



Innovative ICT technologies and tools will be developed and used to speed up accommodation procedures and improve care and support for the affected people. The ICT solutions will provide an enhanced visualisation of the emergency camp and operation procedures for better and appropriate allocation of human and material resources and will provide the necessary information to the relevant authorities for support of the emergency camp needs. Effective and efficient management of resources and services include electronic solutions

for the registration of evacuees for better control of their numbers and needs; for the support of medical care such as admissions, vital signs measurements, and diagnosis; for evacuation monitoring to support the involved services with information about the evacuation operations including the selected area for evacuation, the affected people and the meeting points.





Public Awareness on Seismic Risk

The PACES project will make the necessary efforts to inform all stakeholders including public authorities, businesses, NGOs, and the general public about seismic risk and preparedness measures. Enhancing public awareness on seismic prevention measures is very important for the success of emergency operations in case of a disaster. It contributes at creating a common understanding of the risks faced as a community and helps foster an inclusive debate about the relative priority of possible mitigation measures at local level.

Training Programs

Advanced e-training and field training programs for professionals and volunteers will help trainees develop the proper capacity to respond on such disasters and improve collaboration among all the involved service organizations. The cooperation between the scientific community and civil protection authorities will be strengthened as professionals and volunteers will be encouraged to participate in the activities of the project. A novel multi-lingual e-learning platform will facilitate sharing of common resources and will deliver improved educational material in synchronous and asynchronous learning.



Evaluation Methodology

An evaluation methodology will be developed based on the interventions of the project. Evaluation methods include open discussions with engaged organizations during project events, evaluation forms, and feedback and recommendations from end-users and observers. The evaluation program will also include workshops to test and evaluate PACES interventions and dissemination actions for the adoption and utilisation of project results by end-users.



Partners

The consortium of the PACES project is multinational representing five different countries. The project team is comprised of organizations whose experts have highly relevant professional experience and active involvement in real incidents and emergencies throughout the world. These organizations are presented in the next pages.





Cyprus Civil Defence (Coordinator)

Location: Cyprus

website: http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/cd/cd.nsf/index_en/index_en/



Cyprus Civil Defence (CCD) is the governmental agency in charge of the protection of the people of Cyprus under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Cyprus. It has a long line of experience in disaster relief from natural disasters, which occurred on the island of Cyprus such as earthquakes, forest fires, draughts, floods, and severe rainstorms. Cyprus, through CCD, actively participates in the Community Civil Protection Mechanism and harmonizes, where necessary, national policies and programs.

Decentralized Administration of Crete Civil Protection Directorate

Location: Greece

Website: <http://www.creteregion.gr/en/Home/tabid/801/Default.aspx>



The Decentralized Administration of Crete implements the central state policy of civil protection at regional level. The main aim of the civil protection directorate is the protection of the population and of the environment from natural, technological and other disasters, the minimization of these disasters impact through the coordination of all the units involved and the planning to confront any natural or human induced risk.

Civil Protection Department of Malta

Location: Malta

Website: <http://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>



The scope of the Civil Protection Department of Malta is to work in the field of disaster management to protect human lives, property and the environment. In this respect, the Department is tasked with a number of



functions such as drawing up of contingency plans, maintain a fire and rescue force, organising Civil Protection training, promote public awareness on Civil Protection, prepare regulations to be able to respond to national emergencies and participate in International Humanitarian aid initiatives.

The Italian Civil Protection Department

Location: Italy

Website: <http://www.protezionecivile.gov.it/>



The Italian Civil Protection Department (DPC) steers the National Service of Civil Protection, which includes local authorities, research institutes, private companies, volunteers associations and all Italian operational forces. During major emergencies, it ensures horizontal (line Ministries) and vertical (central-local) coordination. It has a guiding role, in cooperation with regional and local governments, for risk prevention, forecasting and monitoring activities as well as for emergency preparedness and for intervention procedures in cases of on-going or upcoming crisis events.

Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization

Location: Greece

Website: <http://www.oasp.gr/>



Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (E.P.P.O.) was founded in 1983, as the state responsible authority for planning the earthquake policy in Greece, at all levels, and monitoring its implementation. E.P.P.O. works towards a seismic risk mitigation policy in the country by strengthening the seismic capacity of the structures, enhancing the operational planning procedures, arising the seismic risk awareness, supporting applied earthquake research and collaborating with all involved parties in the field of seismic risk management.



Cyprus University of Technology

Location: Cyprus

Website: <http://www.cut.ac.cy/>



Cyprus University of Technology faculty of Civil Engineering and Geomatics offers Bachelors of Engineering degrees in Civil Engineering and Geomatics, and Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering and Sustainable Design, as well as Doctoral degrees in Civil Engineering and Geomatics. It has participated in several research projects funded from various sources such as: MARIE-CURIE (ITN), FP6, FP7, INTERREG, LIFE+, EUREKA, MED, Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation etc. The faculty of Civil Engineering and Geomatics has achieved within the last 5 years a reputable level of research activity with more than 35 research grants as coordinators and partners from local and European grants.

DMAT Consulting KG

Location: Austria

Website: <http://www.dmat.at/>



DMAT Consulting KG works in the field of Disaster Management, Advice and Training and offers, Advice in preventive measures for disaster management operations, disaster control and emergency planning and evaluation, planning/organizing, assistance with advice and expertise for nat. and int. disaster management operations, and for tenders in the field of disaster, crisis and security, individual training and lectures for disaster management, research and studies in Disaster Management, leadership, socio-economic effects of disaster, national and international disaster response laws, legal aspects in Peace Support Operations etc.



Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas

Location: Greece

Website: <http://www.ics.forth.gr/>



The Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH) is one of the largest research centres of Greece with well - organised facilities and a highly qualified staff. The research and technological focus of the foundation is centred on selected areas of great scientific, social, and economic interest. The Institute of Computer Science since 1983 plays a leading role in worldwide efforts towards the deployment and adoption of Information Society Technologies. The Computational BioMedicine Laboratory has established a tradition of internationally acknowledged excellence in conducting high-level R&D work and in developing innovative systems and services.







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The Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (E.P.P.O.) archive

The Italian Civil Protection Department archive

The Geological Survey Department of Cyprus archive

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The PACES project

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