European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement
Mechthilde FUHRER
Deputy Executive Secretary of EUR-OPA Agreement

Panel 5: Promoting resilience and agency in support of vulnerable groups
COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Established on 5 May 1949 (Treaty of London) by 10 states

Comprises 47 member states

Strasbourg (France)

Intergovernmental political Organisation
Human Rights
Democracy
Rule of law
European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement

- Created in 1987
- Ensures better prevention, protection and organisation of relief in the event of major natural or technological disasters by calling upon resources and knowledge to ensure efficient and interdependent management of major disasters.
- Reinforces and promotes co-operation between member States in a multi-disciplinary context.
Three levels for action

- **Political Level**
  - Political Guidelines and Priorities are defined by the competent Ministers of 25 member States
  - Implemented by their *Permanent Correspondents* through the programme of *activities*.

- **Scientific and Technical level**
  - 26 *Specialised Centres* (research/training/expertise)
  - Permanent structure for multinational and pluridisciplinary scientific and technical co-operation

- **Worldwide Strategy**
  - Active partner of the UN International Disaster Reduction Strategy who promotes global approaches to DRR
STRATEGY

• disaster risk reduction guidance to inspire and promote appropriate policies improving prevention and response governance;

• knowledge-based instruments to assess and reduce vulnerability through science, technique, education and training;

• coordinated regional approach in addressing often neglected important issues and defining adequate mechanisms to cope with them.
A Global Framework for Action

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
- First major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities for action
- 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Cancun, Mexico

Link to the Sendai Framework
DDR AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

- Children / elder people
- People with disabilities
- Migrants, Refugees, Asylum seekers
- Ethical Principles on Disaster Risk Reduction and People’s Resilience
Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees

- **Recommendation 2016** - 1 on Major Hazards and Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees
- **Conference** on Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of Major risks prevention and management, Lisbon, Portugal, 14 October 2016
- 2016 Major Hazards and Migrants. Their Involvement in Disaster Preparedness and Response **Book**
- Good practices on major hazards and migrants **online Publication**

Link to the project
Recommendation 2016 - on the Inclusion of Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees in disaster preparedness and response

The Ministers recommended to:

• Integrate specialized measures on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees into national disaster risk reduction policies (…), that would reduce the vulnerability and exposure to disaster of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees;

• Design and promote national programs and standards for the rescue, protection and care of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees (…);

• Design, promote and coordinate measures at all levels, through authorities and emergency management services (…);

• Involve civil society and other non-state actors (…);

• Ensure that migrants, asylum seekers and refugees are included in the entire disaster risk reduction process (…);

• Ensure that education and training on the protection and assistance of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees are in the mainstream curricula for disaster risk reduction (…);

• Support the efforts of the Agreement to promote inclusive disaster risk reduction for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in its member States (…).
Migrants in Disaster Risk Reduction
Practices for Inclusion