



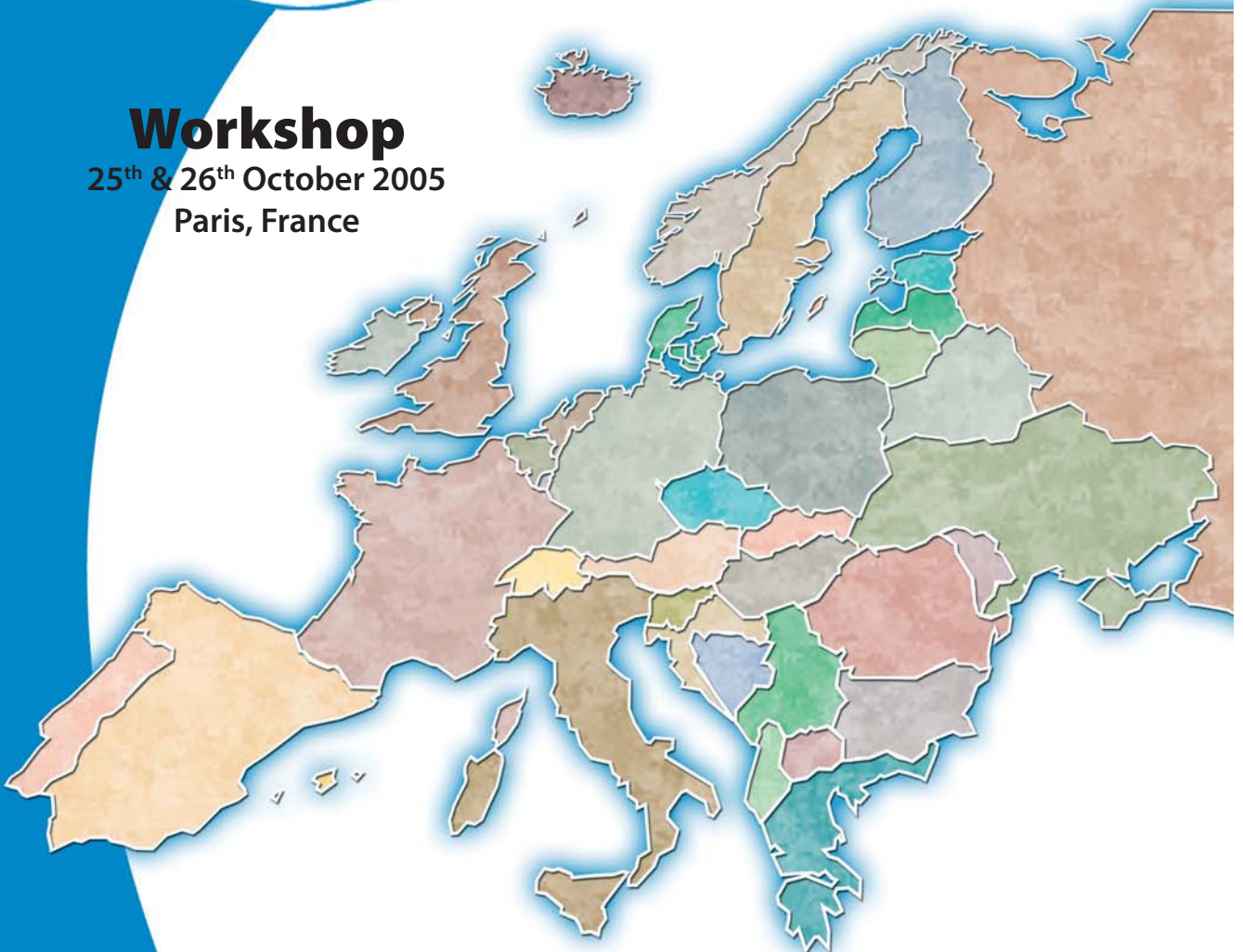
Disaster Self-Protection

**Best Practices
and Life-support Kits**

Workshop

25th & 26th October 2005

Paris, France



"BEST PRACTICES AND LIFE-SUPPORT KITS
FOR THE SELF-PROTECTION OF EU CITIZENS
IN HOUSEHOLDS IN THE CASE OF A DAILY
OR DISASTROUS EMERGENCY"

WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN TOMORROW'S CITIZENS



Disaster Self-Protection: Let's be Prepared

Disasters. Are EU citizens informed and prepared?

Do they know what to do?

Is there a response plan in place? What are the risks?

Perhaps there are already practices and support systems in place. Are they sufficient? Do they cover the possible risks? Do they include awareness and avoidance practices?

Disasters can have devastating effects on local populations.

Effects can be wide-spread: Floods, severe storms, earthquakes, fires, blizzards, volcanic eruptions, avalanches, hurricanes, heatwaves, tsunamis, cold waves, droughts, diseases, famines, interrupted or contaminated water supplies, poisonous fumes, industrial accidents, radioactive exposures, power outages...

Domestic accidents are the number one risk to individuals: Burns, smoke inhalation, ingestion of toxic products or plants, food poisoning, drowning, electrocutions, choking, falls, medical overdoses, hypothermia, thermal shock...

The climate, the environment, urban spread, and our way of living has been changing. The types of possible disasters fluctuate with these changes. Example: The heatwave of August 2003. Authorities estimate that over 22 000, people died across Europe due to the excess heat. For countries that normally have temperate climates, it seemed unimaginable that such a devastating impact was even possible. But it is just the unthinkable that presents the greatest exposure. During the heatwave, Europe experienced a breakdown in social networks, unprepared for the unanticipated.

Preparation. Information, education, training and reaction programmes prevent and minimize the costs, both human and capital, and improve response in a disastrous event. Speed and reacting appropriately can minimize injuries and even save lives; implementing safety precautions and preventing incidents can avoid controllable incidents altogether.

Project: “BEST PRACTICES AND LIFE-SUPPORT KITS FOR THE SELF-PROTECTION OF EU CITIZENS IN HOUSEHOLDS IN THE CASE OF A DAILY OR DISASTROUS EMERGENCY”

Project Scope

To reduce the consequences of disasters including chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats to society by informing the public on adequate behaviour before, during and after disaster; and by designing home life-support kits for this purpose, including the dissemination of the “112” European emergency telephone number.

Project Goals

By examining the risks and sharing best practices, the EU Red Cross National Societies can develop localized action plans that ready and protect the EU citizen in a daily event or a disastrous emergency.

The objectives of this European Commission funded project are to:

- Identify relevant experts in the field of civil protection and disaster preparedness;
- Collect and synthesize existing practices and recommendations in the domains concerned by the project -- list commonalities and specificities;
- **Conduct a Workshop to take place 25th & 26th October 2005 in Paris, France;**
- Provide recommendations and behavioural guidelines that will assist EU civilians in knowing how to respond BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER a disaster;
- Design home disaster and life support kits;
- Field-test the results of the analysis made by the experts as result of the workshop;
- Assist the European Commission and relevant national public authorities in developing rules and regulations around citizen’s preparedness to all hazards.

By producing recommendations and guidelines on self-protection behaviour and action that can easily be implemented by EU citizens, the **EU Red Cross National Societies** can contribute to building safer communities. The results will also have an immediate operational value for the **European Commission** and national public authorities in their regulation efforts.

A final report will be presented to the European Commission. It will be available in print and on the web on the following websites:

www.europa.eu.int and www.firstaidinaction.net.

Disaster Self-Protection

Best Practices and Life-support Kits

Workshop
25th & 26th October 2005
Paris, France

Workshop Goals

The objectives of this two-day workshop are **to develop the recommendations and guidelines** to be included in the final report that will be presented to the European Commission and **to identify key common information and kit contents as well as differences and specificities.**

Specifically, the participants of this workshop will collaborate on:

- Analysing the range of self protection practices and personal support tools in private households within Europe;
- Matching the existing practices with maps of risks, then defining the core common and more specific daily and disaster needs; as well as related information and kit contents;
- Identifying customisation efforts to better reach different population groups (e.g. children);
- Ensuring coherence and consistency between daily and disaster related information and home kits;
- Developing guidance on awareness about and accessibility of the information to the public.

Expected Results

- Drawing up best practices focusing on the role of the EU civilian as the front-line first response
- Development of information and life-supports kits content adapted for general public about self protection behaviours
- Guidance on awareness about and accessibility of the information to the public.
- Sharing practices and key learning's from actual deployments from each of the EU Red Cross National Societies and EU member states.
- Defining our capabilities for the citizen's preparedness, prevention and rapid response efforts
- Recommendations to the European Commission and relevant national public authorities in developing rules and regulations around citizen's preparedness to all hazards.

Who Should Attend

This workshop will be attended by a wide-range of relevant experts in the field of disaster preparedness and civil protection. The experts and the relevant stakeholders in this field include, among others: **European Commission; EU Red Cross National Societies**, national Civil Protections units, disaster preparedness NGO's, Media, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear industries, and organisations dedicated to civil protection.

Expertise and operational experience in disaster preparedness and awareness of the general public is the requisite common thread of those attending this workshop. Bringing together these experts assures recommendations to the European Commission that provide for the better preparation of the general public via household and disaster related information and home kits.

WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN TOMORROW'S CITIZENS

The European Commission and the EU Red Cross National Societies are working together in the area of self-protection of EU citizens in the event of a daily or a disastrous emergency.

The objectives of this project are fundamental to the missions of both organizations.

The **European Commission** is committed to fostering co-operation between EU countries on areas of direct importance in every day life – in the area of environmental protection, this includes civil protection.

The **EU Red Cross National Societies** develop programmes that are responsive to local vulnerability by mobilising all resources – this includes disaster response and preparedness.



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Workshop Programme

Day One: 25 October 2005

09:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Presentation of Session 1 & 2 Workshop Topics

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Workshop Information

14:30 Session 1 Workshops

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 Session 2 Workshops

17:00 Day One Conclusions

17:30 End of Working Sessions

Day Two: 26 October 2005

09:00 Review of Day One

09:15 Presentation of Session 3 Workshop Topic

09:45 Presentation of Case Studies

10:45 Coffee Break

11:15 Session 3 Workshops

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Remember the Goal

14:10 Session 1 & 2 Workshop Conclusions

15:10 Coffee Break

15:30 Session 3 Workshop Conclusions

16:00 Workshop Recommendations and Next Steps

16:45 Closing Session

Workshop Topics:

The Culture of Risks

From Vulnerability to Resilience

From Theory to Practice

Specific programme details will be sent to workshop registrants the 3rd October 2005.