

Active Volunteering for a European Civil Society  
Kick-off Conference  
22 August 2013 in Berlin



## **Minutes of the working group II – Active Volunteering in Civil Protection**

Date: August 22, 2013  
Venue: ASB representative office / LVHB Bremen, Berlin

### **Participants (registered):**

**Aurelio Dugoni, ANPAS Italy (moderator)**

**Markus Leimegger, LRV WK South Tyrol (moderator)**

Annalisa Bergantini, ANPAS  
Katinka Matthis, ASB Bad Windsheim  
Erich Matthis, ASB Bad Windsheim  
Sabin Bran-Craciun, ASB Bad-Windsheim  
Waltraud Altdörfer, ASB Baden-Württemberg  
Dr. Jutta-Anna Kleber, ASB Berlin  
Elke Kaufmann, ASB Berlin  
Boris Michalowski, ASB Berlin  
Alexandru Tudorache, ASB Brasov  
Oana Tudorache, ASB Brasov  
Jürgen Schreiber, ASB Bremen  
Felix Fellmer, ASB Cologne  
Ludwig Frölich, ASB Hessen  
Wolfgang Krenn, ASBÖ Austria  
Renata Penazzi, ASSR Slovakia  
Petr Berger, ASCR Czech Republic  
Thomas Pedersen, DPA Denmark  
Bastian Harms, Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe, Headquarters  
Dr. Kathrin Hofer, LRV WK South Tyrol  
Reinhard Mahlknecht, LRV WK South Tyrol  
Gerd Staffler, LRV WK South Tyrol  
Martin Vieider, LRV WK South Tyrol  
Harald Schottner, ASB Federal Office  
Daniel Gelbke, ASB Federal Office  
Christian Kamp, ASB Federal Office  
Edith Wallmeier, ASB Federal Office  
Carsten Stork, ASB Federal Office  
Axel Schmidt, ASB Federal Office  
Simone Michalowski, ASB Federal Office  
Christian Anton Vintilescu ASB Ploiesti  
Christian Leonard Vintilescu, ASB Ploiesti  
Heribert Röhrig, ASB Schleswig-Holstein  
Udo Glauflügel, ASB Schleswig-Holstein  
Stefan Andersen, ASB Schleswig-Holstein  
Sandor Agócs, USB Hungary  
László Józsa, USB Hungary



## Background – Working group II

Voluntary structures are the backbone of civil protection. Scarce financial resources and an increasing number of damage situations pose new challenges for voluntary helpers in times of demographic change. In case of natural disasters dimensions and consequences are rarely predictable. It is therefore of utmost importance to have sufficient personnel resources in the form of volunteers who are motivated, appropriately trained and can be deployed where and when needed. The cases of emergencies within the last years (earthquakes in Italy, flooding in Italy, Austria, Germany etc.) have shown that the EU Mechanism for civil protection within the European Union still holds challenges and requires an ongoing effort in optimization. Needs on local, regional, national and European level in order to allow cross border assistance within EU Member states (alerting, SOP, finance, risk & insurance, education) have to be discussed.

## Working Group II – Active Volunteering in Civil Protection

Moderators:

### **Aurelio Dugoni, ANPAS Italy**

Project manager of the ANPAS office branch in Rome with the duty of European projects and international relations Preparing and coordinating European projects in the field of social policies and civil protection

Experience at the European Parliament and as a project manager in the field of social regeneration of areas in crisis; health and social development of the territories and immigrants, gender equality

Different volunteer experiences inter alia with ARCI and ANPAS in the field of civil protection

Participation in various campaigns to promote social rights and citizenship and to provide humanitarian aid e.g. during the wars in the former Yugoslavia

### **Markus Leimegger, LRV WK South Tyrol**

Paramedic

Master in European NGO Management

1999 to 2010: Head of the department Technology and Purchasing White Cross (WK)

Since 2010: Head of the department marketing and public relations (WK)

Since 2001: Head of the unit Civil protection (WK)

## Draft Agenda of the Working Group

*TOP 1 Short introduction of the working group tasks and the topic by the moderators*

- Definition of civil protection – splitting up civil protection in preparedness, intervention and post intervention. Each of the three fields have special issues particularly for volunteer work.
- Volunteer commitment in the sector of civil protection
- Objectives of the working group

*TOP 2 Inputs of participants*

- Challenges for aid organizations in civil protection
- Legal obstacles on national and European level for volunteer commitment in this area

*TOP 3 Create perspectives – foster commitment*

- Aims of the volunteer organizations
- Steps for lobbying in order to have the administrative, financial and legal issues solved.
- Outlook on possible common activities / education standards and training modules
- Next steps

## Welcome and introduction of participants

Aurelio and Markus welcomed all participants, introduced themselves to the group and gave some practical information.

Due to the shortage of time the moderators suggested a brief round of introductions of only one representative per organization who gave their names and main reasons for their participation especially in this working group.

The vast majority of participants are involved in civil protection activities as full time staff or volunteers with a wealth experience not only in training and exercise but also proven experience in the three main fields:

- prevention,
- preparedness and
- response to disasters,

on a national, cross-border and / or international basis.

Thus, it could be defined that civil protection is an important common topic for the whole group.





*TOP 1 Short introduction of the working group tasks and the topic by the moderators*

- *Definition of civil protection – splitting up civil protection in preparedness, intervention and post intervention. Each of the three fields have special issues particularly for volunteer work.*
- *Volunteer commitment in the sector of civil protection*
- *Objectives of the working group*

It was outlined by the moderators that civil protection is more than only a response to emergencies, illustrated by the following examples:

- the recent earthquake in Italy in Emilia Romagna with ANPAS actively involved in short and long term activities supported by volunteer staff of the WK South Tyrol
- “Terremoto - io non rischio - Earthquake I don't risk” campaign for seismic risk reduction promoted by the Civil Protection and Anpas - National Association for Public Assistance, in collaboration with Ingv - National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology and ReLuis - Network of University Laboratories of Seismic Engineering.

The campaign, held on 22 and 23 October 2011 in the squares of nine Italian municipalities at high seismic risk, aimed at promoting a culture of prevention, training to specialize volunteers and starting a process to guide the citizens in acquiring an active role in seismic risk reduction. ANPAS civil protection volunteers were trained on the seismic risk, and then, in turn, trained other volunteers, making them actors of the process of knowledge diffusion.

The campaign and above all the train-the-trainer method were so successful that meanwhile thousands of volunteers were involved in the ANPAS civil protection activities.

### **Main topics of discussion**

The participants were encouraged to focus the debate on the following topics:

1. How can the aspect of training in civil protection to gain specialized and skilled volunteers be strengthened by SAM.I. ? (Aurelio)  
The good experiences gained in the course of the campaign and in particular the train-the-trainer programme clearly highlighted the importance of training.
2. In which areas of civil protection can SAM.I. be active with the aim to find a role for volunteering? (Markus)  
Fire fighting  
Rescue  
Camps  
Preparedness  
Social aspects, e.g. psycho-social care  
Reconstruction and rebuilding as long-term measures

...to name only a few of them.

### **Objectives of the working group**

- Define common tasks on a small scale level, e.g. a joint SAM.I. module, also as an approach to a proposal to the European Commission.
- Decide on small but concrete steps as an output of this discussion.

Motto: Civil protection should gain more importance in SAM.I.!



### *TOP 2 Inputs of participants*

- *Challenges for aid organizations in civil protection*
- *Legal obstacles on national and European level for volunteer commitment in this area*

A lively debate arose on possible tasks of SAM.I. and the problems involved, with a focus on

- financing
- European level
- training
- exchange
- language
- intercultural understanding
- mutual information
- next steps

### An overview of the topics of the sometimes controversial discussion:

#### **Financial aspect**

- Importance of financial aspect.
- All partners could afford tents and meals for exchanges and visits.
- Exchange highly depends on the financing of such activities.
- Proposal to establish a common fund to cover the first step costs and to put civil protection on the agenda as a common continuous and concrete point to follow.
- Internal budget line to cover part of the costs for meetings and exchange proposed.

#### **European level**

- Legal framework
- A large range of tasks can be fulfilled by volunteers but a lot of small measures provided by volunteers are not matched by EU programmes / funds.
- EU programme 'Exchange of experts' under the Civil Protection Mechanism of the European Commission mentioned.
- Discussions about civil protection on European level often lack topic of volunteering.

#### **Training**

- Lack of training of volunteers in life-saving measures.
- Responsibility of the organizations which deployed volunteers.
- Skilled volunteers are needed, thus training could be an important common goal of SAM.I.
- Volunteers not only need exercises: discrepancy between structures at home and in emergencies.
- Fire fighters were mentioned as an example of professionally trained volunteers compared to volunteers in civil protection with a lack of skilled staff.
- How to set up basic training programmes.

#### **Exchange**

- Visiting and exchange is easy to organize.
- More opportunities necessary to meet and exchange to build up closer relationships also between members who don't live nearby.



## **Language**

- Solving the language problem.
- All Samaritan teams have to speak English.
- Importance of common language and cultural understanding especially in cross-border training.

## **Intercultural understanding**

- Social awareness is important.
- Volunteers have to deal with different cultures.
- Aspect of establishing confidence between the volunteers.
- Importance of daily needs of the people in emergencies.
- Idea of establishing a common project related to cultural identity of disaster affected people.

## **Mutual information**

- Distribution of information, addresses, contacts etc.: through facebook, websites, SAM.I. general secretariat.

## **Next steps**

- Defining a common goal, suggestion to clarify the question why SAM.I. wanted to have more training before continuing this point: cross-border activities, joint SAM.I. team, what is the goal?
- Small actions of several organizations / units advocated.
- Before building a joint Samaritan team a framework for joint missions should be built up to bring together the capacity of all SAM.I. organizations involved in civil protection.
- Design of an 'empty box' and definition of goals until 2014. Chance to discuss in two further meetings of the conference series.
- What are the tools for the 'toolbox'? A toolbox is the second step.
- Scepticism regarding too big range of topics.
- Creating active citizens through the work with young people: civil protection as part of the next first aid contest to strengthen the importance of this topic.



*TOP 3 Create perspectives – foster commitment*

- *Aims of the volunteer organizations*
- *Steps for lobbying in order to have the administrative, financial and legal issues solved.*
- *Outlook on possible common activities / education standards and training modules*
- *Next steps*

Under this agenda item, the discussion under TOP 2 was summarized by the moderators.

**Summary of what was generally agreed**

- Discussing internal budget line to cover part of the costs for meetings and exchange.
- Open the first aid contest for civil protection.

It was suggested by the moderators to form small groups which meet once or twice a year to continue the work and focus on the aspects discussed (legal aspects, gaining of importance). The participants were also encouraged to invite partner organizations, also via facebook, to join meetings, working groups and trainings.

**Decisions / results**

**Possible future activities**

<b>Action</b>	<b>SAM.I.</b>	<b>Long term</b>
Training (developing rules)	Gain importance	Legal framework
Education	Budget line like contest	Policy
Help other SAM.I. partners	Civil protection group 6-10	Lobbying issue
Calendar on SAM.I. Homepage	Open SAM.I. contest to civil protection	SOP (standard operation procedure)
Address list		
Share what we have already		

**Persons responsible, deadlines**

**Group:**

The following representatives have kindly agreed to commit themselves in the proposed working group:

Renata Penazzi, Wolfgang Krenn, Aurelio Dugoni, Harald Schottner, Daniel Gelbke, Markus Leimegger, Gerd Staffler, Ludwig Frölich, Erich Matthis, Jürgen Schreiber

**Deadline:**

SamETS project: decision of EU is pending, the group will be invited as soon as the decision has been taken.

*„SamETS“ (SAMARITAN Emergency Temporary Shelter): Joint project of SAM.I. Organizations in the field of international emergency assistance for the conception of an Emergency Temporary Shelter as a module of the European civil protection.*

All participant were satisfied with the process and the results of the debate!