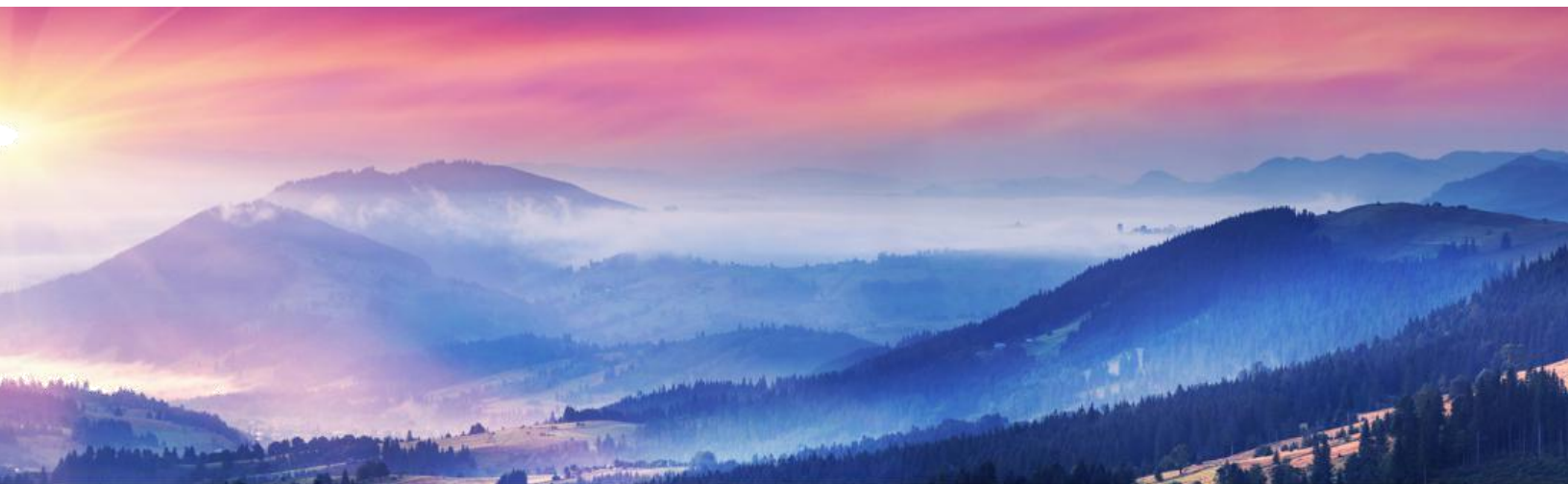




PARTNERSHIP

WITHOUT BORDERS

CODE VDIC (HUSKROUA/1702/8.1/0035)

Output 1.1.
Volunteer Network Requirements Guidelines
2020

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Introduction

Society and production have created many environmental changes in the territory of the North-Eastern Carpathians. In addition to existing natural hazards, the changes have created several new challenges in the field of emergency management. It is likely that increasing, multi-factor, damage events can only be addressed through increased capacity and a new integrated approach. The growing number of damage events and the increase in the extent of the inhabitant's harms, make it essential for the supporting forces of society to work together at the level of both national and cross-border relations.

Performing emergency management and disaster management tasks is unthinkable without the support of voluntary forces in society. The resources of the voluntary movement are useful and integral parts of national defense systems; their development is an important interest for the state, the municipality, and the residential communities.

Protection against the disasters means the struggle of communities, with the natural and man-made threats, almost the same age as humanity. The history of defense shows that it responded first to the forces of nature, to the transformative activity of man, to its harmful effects, first instinctively and then with the defense organization of societies, at a level commensurate with the development of society, technology, and science.

For societies struggling with a series of info communication revolutions and crises in the twenty-first century, is obvious that the defense is an integrated system of tasks at the organization level, requiring integrated cooperation between state, municipal bodies, business, and social organizations. The task system cannot do without modern information management, communication, unified management, conscious, modern human resource development, and the increase of the resilience of the population and emergency information.

"Disaster prevention and control are a national matter; uniform management of defense is a state task." (Mógor, 2012, p. 123.). It does not say, contrary to this principle, the basic idea of the CODE VDIC project, voluntary intervention organizations, capacity building. In development, participating organizations, believe in bottom-up initiatives, in strength and importance.

"Participating as a volunteer in disaster management tasks is a special competition" (Hábermayer, Hornyacsek, & Muhoray, 2018, p.160.). This fact is an important element in the development of intervening volunteer capacities. But it also does not escape the attention of the project partners that the opinion and support of the state organization responsible for disaster management is essential for the implementation of development. In the countries of the program area, in the border areas, recognizing the need for joint management of cross-border threats, the need for cooperation and development of voluntary intervention organizations is growing.

One of the most effective tools for cooperation is the creation, maintenance, and development of networks. There is a growing demand for the development of voluntary intervention organizations, both from the governmental and local communities, so we are living in an important period of their development today.

“In an ever-changing security environment, challenges, risks and threats now emerge on multiple levels - individuals, communities, states and regions, and globally - and a wide range of individuals, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and transnational actors affect.” (Endrődi, & Jósmai, 2016, p. 6.).

Fortunately, more and more organizations and institutions (civil defense, firefighters, church, municipal volunteer intervenors) are launching a volunteer program, and joining it, more and more people are interested in volunteer opportunities. The period following the change of regime, with a negative perception of voluntary (unpaid) work, is beginning to disappear, with more and more people taking part in the voluntary field of disaster management.

In the program area, primarily, in adult and more educated groups, there is openness to these types of activities. Unfortunately, in the times following the change of regime, the wave of popularity for the voluntary movement also declined. Today, well-thought-out, recruiting, membership-expanding development is essential for intervening organizations. In the field of disaster management, emergency management, and emergency intervention, organizational, positive, optimal, recovery, involvement of new staff, who are unable or, in the absence of information, unable to get involved, are currently still involved in the challenges of the next period. **For this challenge, a possible answer is the establishment, maintenance, and development of a voluntary intervention network.** Cross-border volunteer programs, interventions, in many cases, are not properly organized, there are many civil and disaster relief, rescue interventions, non-governmental organizations in the program area that do not have adequate resources, information and knowledge for good quality volunteer interventions. Development of the capacities of cross-border volunteers, providing them with information is an essential task for the population of the countries in the program area and for the voluntary sector. **In the case of cross-border emergencies, intervening volunteering will not be sufficiently strengthened without the development of sufficient reception capacity and joint careful planning.** The main driver of the desired change could be a cross-border voluntary intervention network, as well as related organizations and institutions dealing with intervention capacity development and training. For the establishment of a voluntary intervention network, it is essential the strategic issues consensus for voluntary capacity building.

The CODE VDIC project suggests the following strategies for partners.

OVERALL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND INSTRUMENTS

1. Infrastructure development

Adequate support infrastructure is essential for the establishment and operation of the voluntary intervention network. The forthcoming network of partners based on background capacities of the project partners. The first level of the project network idea is the network of project partners, along common goals, and interests, will be created. Based on a proposal from network development responsible Slovak project partner will be drawn up the network contract. The next step is the creation of the network infrastructure, deployment, and operation, relying on the capabilities of the project partners (communication tools, website, etc.). Finally, each partner, in their field, is looking for additional network partners, expanding the network.

2. Volunteer and state organizations and institutions responsible for protection

Civil protection, disaster management, emergency, interventions activities in the program area are everywhere part of the integrated protection systems under state responsibility. Network-based, voluntary capacity building is therefore not conceivable without the involvement of responsible state organizations. The integration of volunteering into public institutions is a key goal of our networking strategy. In the integrated system of responsible state partner organizations, institutions, many community problems can be solved using volunteering. Protection, not only, can be built on professional forces, it is necessary to mobilize the extensively resources of our society. The existence of a volunteer network has supported, in these institutions, development attitude change. Important changes could be brought about, which in the areas of government work, promote the formulation of goals, the integration of horizontal policies in the public sector. The main purpose of the networking program would be to receive volunteers in public institutions and to be, within the organization, a coordinator for volunteers. Public organizations integrate voluntary management as a working method. All this, of course, can only be achieved after thorough networking, preparation, additional tender resources, plus resources, and additional human resources, state-of-the-art equipment, assigned to these tasks.

3. Encourage volunteering, facilitate, and ensure the flow of information, through a network

The intervening volunteer movement, one of its vital issues, is to retain existing volunteers and recruit new volunteers for the organization. The main purpose of encouraging and facilitating the flow of information is to give volunteers who are already volunteering access to information through which they can find the area that works best for them in the organization. The aim is also to get new volunteers into the system, to have information in the public discourse about the volunteering of the intervener (civil protection, firefighter, etc.), on the basis of which the citizens will feel like joining these activities. It is also important that they do not feel like they cannot connect to an organization. Thus their determination to get involved, to develop their skills, to develop their courage, with the next instruments of help of the goal (TV shows, flyers, promotions, radio shows, newspaper articles, quizzes). CODE VDIC's networking endeavour, at this point, is closely linked to the project's public campaign activity vision.

4. Encouraging individuals, to carry out volunteer activities and to join volunteer organizations

Connecting with organizations through a network is an important area, because volunteers, through their network of contacts, expand through thematic groups to promote both professional and fellowship relationships and collaboration. Their relationship with communities facilitates easier access to information about volunteering.

One of the most important goals is to get as many people as possible involved, newly, in the intervening voluntary movement. For the evolving network, the biggest challenge is to reach and convince prospective members about that the intervening volunteer organizations have valuable programs and services in store for them. Our potential prospective companions join the alliance for several reasons, but the most compelling reason is that the alliance offers something they need or an opportunity to provide for self-defence or to strengthen security.

An important area is the recruitment of volunteers, addressing young people who, during their years in kindergarten, school, understand why it is important to work for the benefit of the community and society. The participant in the secondary school service experiences that the service builds and shapes the actor himself and herself. Participants in the voluntary movement are less likely to turn to social institutions or question the democratic institutional system, becoming an intolerant, exclusionary member of society. In school systems, volunteering should be encouraged by demonstrating the work of intervention volunteers.

In the teaching of different knowledge, it is necessary to integrate the knowledge that has accumulated about volunteering and accumulated elsewhere over the centuries. All students should be given the opportunity, as volunteers, to test their perseverance, empathy, communication skills, develop their skills, tolerance, and understand how doing activities for others also develops the performer of the activity. The goal is similar, in terms of workplace in the productive sector. The recruitment of employees who carry out intervention voluntary activities should be encouraged. Within the company, it should be given the possibility to connect to the voluntary activities. It is necessary to support human resource development programs that set community goals on a voluntary basis.

The strategy of intervention, voluntary capacity building, is based on protracted, long-term challenges. An important element is network support. Protection against natural and man-made emergencies and disasters is an important and fundamental system of human and national tasks, but it also serves cross-border international interests. Experience of recent years, cases proved its *raison d'être*.

The experience of recent damage events has shown that it has become justified to renew the interventionist voluntary system of disaster protection, the precise separation of responsibilities and activities, and to define the interventionist voluntary tasks of the prevention and control recovery periods.

Concretizing the system of tasks of state and non-state bodies involved in defense, as well as strengthening the sense of responsibility felt by society in connection with disaster protection, is also an important task, of which voluntary networking can be an excellent tool. The purpose of the strategy for the voluntary intervention network is to identify the areas in the field of disaster and crisis management where there is the greatest discrepancy between the current situation and the objectives set in the CODE VDIC project. The development of the security ecosystem, although largely self-governing, requires the network to monitor the progress of the project objectives and the development of the system through continuous feedback in order to balance the development, take advantage of the sector's management benefits and equal opportunities or sustainability. It is necessary for the network activity to ensure that the intervention capacities of the member organizations of the network can always be used effectively. The applicability of the intervening voluntary organizations is determined by the capacities available and created as the project progresses. One of the greatest challenges of the 21st century is rapid change, both at the social and technological levels, which often calls into question the effective feasibility of an organization's tasks. In the field of emergency management, the need for effective capacity development is exacerbated. Of course, this is extremely important not only in the system of professional tasks, but also in the field of voluntary organizations.

In the operating environment of both civil and professional disaster management organizations, technological, economic, social, changes have emerged that make the implementation of resource development projects, such as the CODE VDIC project, are essential. One of the important objectives of the CODE VDIC project partners, both nationally and internationally, is a cross-border regional network of NGOs and volunteer professionals who adhere to the principle of volunteering. The concept of setting up the network is basically aimed at voluntary cross-border disaster management intervention, risk reduction and preparation of the population living in the endangered area. This trend is demonstrated by the European Parliament's resolution and communication P7_TA (2010) 0326 on a Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters at European level - and at national level - the modernity and effectiveness of our strategy. The document, clearly states, the concept of prevention and management of natural disasters, and man-made disasters, the need for and extreme importance of both human communities and material assets, and the preservation of the natural and built environment.

The methodology for setting up a cross-border voluntary network for disaster management and prevention consists of three main components:

- **Intervention and prevention are a legal, operational environment**
- **Ensuring the conditions for intervention, protection, and prevention**
- **The financial environment of the intervention, defense, prevention and activity**

The Cross - Border Volunteer Intervention Network is as a network of territorial, professional, civil protection, voluntary organizations, national and cross - border, contributes to one of the important tasks of non - governmental organizations (advocacy activities). The non-governmental organizations operating in the field of disaster protection are a decisive social base, responding to local, regional, and national needs in the program area, while also playing an advocacy role. In the field of disaster protection, the strengthening of aspiration, participatory democracy, and participatory professional dialogue is becoming stronger. Based on the principle of partnership, the civil sector has a decisive role in this process, which is implemented primarily in a formally organized professional network, with the participation of state responsible organizations. But professional organizations are also playing an increasingly important role in enforcing interests based on continuous dialogue. Cross-border volunteering is important for both the professional and civil volunteers. The cross-border volunteer intervention network intends to carry out activities in this area as well. The intention of the CODE VDIC partner organizations is that the activities of the network will earn its participation in the field of legislation and elaboration in the field of internal regulations.

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