

Creating Educational Disaster Centre “Save the Children Life”

Temenoujka BANDROVA

Department of Photogrammetry and Cartography, UACEG, Sofia, Bulgaria

tbandrova@abv.bg,

Abstract

Children are a part of the most vulnerable to disaster social groups; therefore, they need to be educated continuously in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Important challenge of the advanced researchers and experts is to ensure that knowledge and skills, gained by the children in the DRR training centres during primary and secondary school will be useful throughout their lives. To answer these needs, a conceptual framework for Educational Disaster Centre (EDC) “Save the children life” establishment at University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (UACEG), Bulgaria, is stated, considering that children are very capable to adopt innovations quickly, to develop their own innovative solutions to real challenges, and to take advantage of complex concepts to reduce risk in disaster situations.

The main objectives of this Centre are to provide guidance, educational materials and tools to children and their families to be prepared for adequate behaviour before, during and after a disaster using of spatial thinking. The EDC educators will be University teachers, scientists from Bulgarian academy of science, PhD students, and invited foreign professionals. UACEG students will be involved in the educational and training EDC activities. The first efforts of the proposed Centre will be towards education of schoolchildren. It is worth to be mentioned, that the undergraduate students need also of relevant education in disaster preparedness and DRR, which will be among the future EDC activities.

The Centre activities could contribute to the policy of the institutional responsiveness to the DRR educational needs and to fill critical gaps in children’s disaster preparedness. The success of the proposed Centre in increasing children resilience strongly depends on the coordinated efforts of the institutions responsible for Early Warning & Crisis Management (EW &CM) policies. In this respect, we still have a lot of work to do for successful collaboration of the EDC with governmental, private and non-profit organisations related to the DRR national programmes and policy. Bulgarian Cartographic Association will be engaged by advertisement, conference propagation and expert support in the process of establishing the EDC “Save the children life”.

Key words: natural disaster, educational centre, children’s disaster preparedness