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AMARE-eu

A MULTICULTURAL APPROACH TO RESILIENCE

PROJECT FINAL PUBLIC REPORT



2020



www.amareproject.eu



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PROJECT DATA

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Project Partners



EPC - European Project Consulting srl
Coordinator (IT)
epcsrl.eu



City of Vejle (DK)
cityvejle.dk



PREPARED International UG (DE)
prepared-international.org



ASSFAM - Groupe SOS Solidarités (FR)
groupe-sos.org



Lai-momo - società cooperativa sociale (IT)
laimomo.it



AICCRE - Associazione Italiana del Consiglio dei Comuni e delle Regioni d'Europa
Federazione Veneta (IT)
aiccre.it

Project website
www.amareproject.eu

Social media
 [/amareproject](https://www.facebook.com/amareproject)

THE CHALLENGE

Over the last few decades, European cities have been characterized by migrant flows that have resulted in the growth of multicultural societies and the creation and expansion of non-native communities. At the same time, cities are increasingly investing in strengthening their adaptation capabilities to climate change, learning how to live with natural disasters, building in places and ways which take into account the possibility of disasters happening and developing as well as approving policies, regulations and plans for resilience enhancement in the short, medium and long run.

In this new context, one of the most important things is to involve all the citizens in the new challenging aspects that are rising in these years.



The European project AMARE-EU focused specifically on developing concrete, low-cost and easy-to-be-applied solutions to involve and inform those who, due to linguistic, social, economic, and cultural factors, are at severe risk in case of a natural disaster.

Thanks to a multi-sector and multi-skilled partnership composed of organizations active in the field of natural disasters, cultural cooperation, smart and resilient policies, cities coordination, migrants support and integration, a dedicated raising awareness toolkit and related communication campaign has been developed and implemented.

WHO WE ARE

The project involved six experienced organizations who are used to work in an international and multicultural environment.



EPC - offers consultancy, design and technical assistance services aimed at the realization of public and private initiatives in the context of community, national and regional programs.

epcsrl.eu



VEJLE - the city of Vejle is located on the southeast of the Jutland Peninsula in Denmark, the city has a population of 57,655 making it the ninth largest city in Denmark. The municipality aims to strengthen the multicultural resilience approach among its citizens thanks to the AMARE-UE project.

cityvejle.dk



AICCIRE - the Italian Association for the Council of Municipalities and Regions of Europe (AICCIRE), based in Rome, is the only national association that brings together all the levels of local authorities in a unified way.

aiccre.it



LAI-MOMO - Lai-momo is a social cooperative active in different sectors like immigration, social communication, intercultural dialogue and development.

laimomo.it



PPI - is specialised in consultation, research and training services in the field of disaster risk reduction, preparedness, climate change adaption and resilience, in order to inform political decision-making and target a capacity-building strategy for the long term.

prepared-international.org



ASSFAM - the SOS GROUP was created with the ambition to fight against exclusions in all their forms. Gradually diversifying its activities, it now meets the needs of society with 8 activity sectors: youth, employment, solidarity, health, seniors, culture, ecological transition, international action.

groupe-sos.org

WHAT WE HAVE DONE



Development of an online **self-assessment tool** to evaluate cities capacity to foster a culture of resilience in presence of multi-cultural societies.

Elaboration of **accessible materials** related to risk reduction, mitigation of adverse consequences of disasters, and citizens involvement.



Creation of a **toolkit supporting city administrators** in ensuring most effective involvement of non-native citizens in prevention and preparedness strategies, for creating safer and more resilient communities.

Launch of a call for interest and selection of **4 European pilot cities** where the proposed approaches have been tested and implemented.



Apply developed methodologies, through analysis, training, definition and implementation of the local action plan, involvement of non-native citizens and delivery of raising awareness campaign.

Diffuse the innovative approach and set of supporting tools throughout Europe.



INVOLVEMENT OF CITIES



Training for pilot cities, Bonn, June 2019

Four European pilot cities were selected through a call for interests. In these cities, the proposed approaches have been tested and implemented, with the direct support and experience of the project partners. Specific analysis, training and planning activities have been implemented in each of these cities, including the involvement of non-native citizens and the realization of an awareness campaign. This allowed validation of an innovative approach and a set of support tools, which will then be made available for transfer and implementation throughout.

The cities selected were **Rotterdam** (Netherlands), **Catanzaro** (Italy), **Heraklion** (Greece) and **Skopje** (North Macedonia).

These different cities, with different degrees of attention regarding practices of prevention, urban resilience and social in-

clusion, are characterized by some common elements like:

- the high percentage of non-natives;
- the exposure of the territories to multiple factors of natural catastrophes (earthquakes, floods, fires, drought);
- interest in strengthening collaborations between the public administration, law enforcement, associations of migrants, volunteers and local population;
- the request for practical action plans.

Specific analyses, training and planning activities have been implemented in all pilot cities, involving non-native citizens through a communication awareness campaign.

The **City of Catanzaro**, situated in Calabria Region in the south of Italy, observing and concretely experiencing urban, social and natural changes, has implemented some strategies in the perspective of “urban resilience”. For this reason, it has activated several initiatives, such as programs for the redevelopment of the historical center and energy efficiency following a smart city model, for urban consolidation and regeneration of the suburbs, for the defense of the natural habitat, and the drafting of a municipal civil protection plan against the risks of natural disasters, seismic and hydrogeological risks.

The activities undertaken in the framework of the AMARE-EU project aimed to:

- Insert these initiatives in a global strategy to involve non-native communities present on the territory;
- Increase non-native citizens' awareness in the issue of urban resilience and, as a consequence, increase a sense of belonging to the territory and make them responsible and conscious citizens;
- Foster the dialogue between native and non-native citizens, creating moments of collective confrontation.



Several activities and meetings took place in Catanzaro with immigrants' communities, Civil Protection, Rom communities and different social associations, over 20 volunteers from Civil Protection, 25 non-native citizens, 10 Rom citizens, participating in the October workshop.

One successful aspect of the activities carried out in Catanzaro was the use of the participative format of the focus group used during the workshop held in October 2019. This methodology allowed to share competences, instead of simply transmitting information, and to elicit needs, problems and solutions directly from the participants.

The **City of Rotterdam** is situated in the river delta close to the North Sea, in Netherlands, and therefore extremely prone to inundation by flooding when sea level rises.

Rotterdam is an extremely diverse city, both in terms of ethnicity of citizens and in terms of income. Most of Rotterdam citizens is not native (51%). Correlation between percentages of non-native citizens, low literacy rates and the capacity to tackle upcoming climate-change related challenges is high.



The activities undertaken in the framework of the AMARE-EU project aimed to:

- Empowering Rotterdam's Civil protection and non-native/low-literate/elderly citizens on good resilience practices;
- Facilitating access to information for non-native and/or low-literate citizens.

Thanks to the AMARE-EU project the city of Rotterdam wanted to develop:

- Display/exhibition of photo/video material or floating protection equipment for conceptualizing flood risk;
- A water 'drill', similar to a fire drill;
- Creating a short audiovisual/film with school children about how to prepare for heavy rainfall/flooding.

The **City of Heraklion** is the largest urban centre of Crete, in Greece. Heraklion lies in a distance of 135 Km from the active Santorini volcano and the island lies between the Eurasian and African plates, which makes necessary the improvement of anti-seismic protection in any possible field.



The city cooperate with all relevant authorities that implement in the field of risk management and also with all relevant NGOs that are specified either in civil protection (Red Cross , Hellenic Rescue Team , etc) either in the field of integration and social support. The cooperation was excellent and throughout AMARE-EU project it is considered as a great opportunity of different (but necessary) fields cooperation.

The activities undertaken in the framework of the AMARE-EU project aimed to:

- Working with non-native citizens to create a local plan for non-natives citizens in earthquake emergency;
- Establishing a communication network between non-natives and civil protection authorities ;
- Printing relevant foreign language material for a better understanding of the relevant instructions on a case-by-case basis;
- Dissemination of multicultural approach.

The activities have been implemented and have already been a success: Thanks to the AMARE Approach Heraklion's Civil Protection follows a multicultural approach in emergency starting from any exercises they participate by using AMARE material and experience.

The Training and Workshop sessions worked very well, it has created great exchange between Community leaders, Heraklion's Civil Protection and the AMARE Staff. Participants were interesting and the Workshop was an opportunity to discuss about a true and effective earthquake emergency plan.

The **City of Skopje**, in Republic of North Macedonia, is a melting pot of political, economic, and cross-cultural activities with a growth of the urban population. It represents an area with a high diversity of threats from natural and man-made disasters, as floods, droughts, landslides, earthquakes, air pollution, fires, social risk, riots, humanitarian catastrophe, terrorism. Skopje is an ethnically diverse city and its urban sociology mainly depends on ethnic and religious belonging. Macedonians make up 66% of the city's population, while Albanians and Roma represent 20% and 6% respectively. Each ethnic group is generally limited to certain areas of the city. As a transit area for migrants and refugees, non-natives in the area come from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia, Bangladesh, Morocco and Kosovo. The municipality aims to increase awareness among the decision makers, the local staff and the citizens about the meaning of resilience, but also having in mind the non-native population present in the Skopje Area.

The activities undertaken in the framework of the AMARE-EU project aimed to:

- Increase non-native citizens' awareness in the issue of urban resilience;
- Increase communication between authority and local citizens;
- Reach non-native communities in urban ghettos;
- Increase reporting of policies taken by authorities to reduce risks.

Thanks to the project, the City of Skopje developed a website which contains relevant information on disaster preparedness and mitigation of the consequences, to be promoted especially in schools.



AMARE TOOLKIT

The AMARE-EU project has developed a toolkit, which aims to support cities in building resilient communities without leaving behind those who could be at high risk of exclusion. The toolkit provided suggestions, examples and concrete solutions to enhance resilience in local communities, reduce risks and bring non-native citizens and volunteers into resilience and emergency planning.

The aim of this toolkit is to support cities in building resilient communities without leaving behind those who could be at high risk of exclusion and who, in case of a disaster, could be exposed to severe consequences caused by a lack of knowledge, awareness and therefore preparedness.

The toolkit is targeted towards city administrators and decision-makers, supporting them in building city resilience. Due to linguistic, social,



economic and cultural factors, there are categories of citizens who are at severe risk; that is why this toolkit has a detailed focus on potentially vulnerable groups of non-native citizens.

The toolkit is divided into different sections and topics:



WORKING WITH RESILIENCE

This section presents the different possible disasters and risks that cities are exposed to today. Furthermore, it introduces the term 'urban resilience' and suggests the use of several tools, which are the outcome of already implemented and tested European projects, and which can provide useful guidelines on how cities can build resilience and hereby prepare for or prevent disasters. To this essential element, AMARE-EU adds the necessity of taking non-natives and new-comers into account.



WORKING WITH NON-NATIVE CITIZENS

Because of the migrant flows of recent years, many cities today are characterised by an enlargement of their non-native communities. This section deals with the specific assistance needs of non-native citizens in emergencies and gives guidelines on how cities can make use of their resources and involve these people in local emergency planning.



WORKING WITH VOLUNTEERS

This section provides tools and suggestions on how to promote volunteering and the active involvement of the different groups which are part of the local communities in order to trigger participation in and dedication to organisations and initiatives existing at city, national and EU level. In addition, the section provides examples of good practices in this realm.



TOOLS AND EXAMPLES

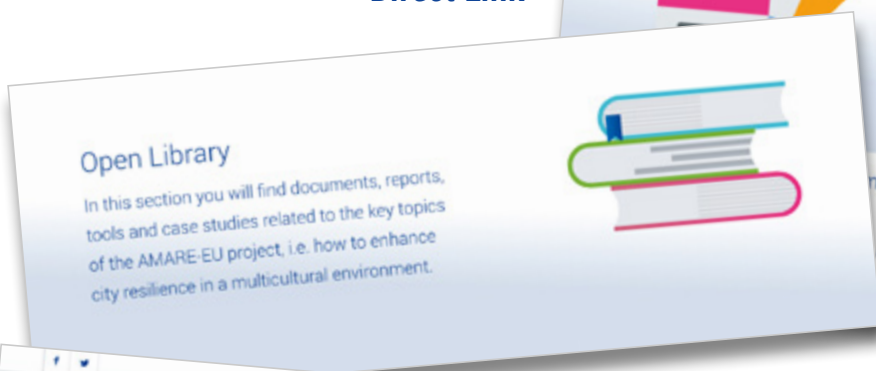
This section provides specific tools and materials that cities can use in a practical context or simply as inspiration. The material consists of guidelines, checklists, leaflets, illustrations and videos. The idea is that cities can select the information, pictures or guidelines that are relevant to them and adjust them to their needs.

OTHER PROJECT TOOLS

ONLINE OPEN LIBRARY

In this section you will find documents, reports, tools and case studies related to the key topics of the AMARE-EU project, i.e. how to enhance city resilience in a multicultural environment.

[Direct Link](#)



SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

The AMARE-EU project has developed an online city self-assessment tool, able to identify the current capacity of European cities in fostering a culture of prevention in presence of multicultural societies.

This will help cities to evaluate their own ability/capacity to merge prevention and resilience strategies with actions focused on enhancing inclusion and integration.

[Direct Link](#)



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“

The resilience of a city is grounded in its capacity to not leave any citizen behind, in particular groups that are considered most at risk due to economic, social, cultural and linguistic factors.

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DISCOVER MORE:

Project website

www.amareproject.eu

Social media

 /amareproject

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