

# Participation of voluntary organisations in a national program of disaster prevention against flooding

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## Background/Introduction

To minimize the loss of life and goods by maximum effects and minimum costs.

To create, educate and train a minimum part of the population to act as efficient volunteers in prevention and in defending disaster situations of flooding.

This is a cooperation program of national authorities, governmental and voluntary non governmental organisations. No community can afford to hold a greater number of qualified personal available only in stand by for occasions that are often unexpected and occur in not foreseen sequences.

Participation between communities and voluntary organisations is vitally needed.

## Aims / Objectives

The work aims to the target, that by minimum costs and maximum effect, necessary help is available at any time in areas of distress.

## Target

Target group is the whole population of a nation between 18 and 60 years of age.

The work is located in local groups at community level, these groups are connected in platoons at regional levels, which have the possibility to act together with other platoons on a over regional, national or even international base.

## Methods / Implementation

DLRG is, beside other voluntary organisation, part of the program.

The program works on the basis of national agreed principle of education for disaster management.

The policy works in good cooperation of all units involved.

DLRG is the most experienced organisation in Germany on the scene of accidents in relation to water.

The program is created in agreed conjunction with governmental and non governmental organisations.

The policy covers the whole area of the nation, it has been implemented by the government.

The regional authorities are responsible for the practical execution.

Research has been made empiric and scientific over a period of more than 50 years.

This is an on going program since more than 50 years.

Techniques are established by operating specific types of groups such as:

Evacuation Groups, Rescue Diver Groups, Work Groups for deich defence, First Aid Groups and other specialist, such as dogs for the recovery of persons.

## Results / Evaluation

Monitoring the work is an on going process.

Evidence of the work is on hand during every incident that needs action.

Benefits for the population is safety as far as possible.

Continuous work has to be done to achieve safety further on.

Effects of nature, bringing danger to people, are often unexpected.

The work has the ability to be replicated in other areas.

The main challenges in implementing the work is to motivate a sufficient and qualified amount of people to spend time and efforts into a job without payment.

Same efforts, on continuous high standard, are needed to continue the work in future.

At least in Europe, some of the countries have similar organisation structures.

## Conclusion

Voluntary work is often a basis for safety, which can not be provided by government to such an extend.

## Acknowledgements

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## References

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