

RESCUE NET project

ERASMUS+ - Small-scale partnerships in adult education (KA210-ADU)

Inclusive Emergency Training Modules for Deaf Individuals and Civil Protection Volunteers

SUMMARY

1. Introduction

The increasing occurrence of emergencies across Europe highlights the need for more inclusive and accessible preparedness systems. Deaf individuals remain particularly vulnerable due to communication barriers and limited access to emergency information. The RESCUE NET project addresses these challenges by developing accessible training modules based on emergency protocols from Pescara (Italy) and Kapakli (Turkey). The modules respond to needs identified through project research, including insufficient accessible communication, limited disability participation in training, and inadequate volunteer preparation. Their goal is to provide practical, inclusive tools that improve both individual preparedness and institutional response capacity.

2. Methodological Framework

The training modules are based on a multidisciplinary approach combining inclusive design, adult education, and emergency management principles. A user-centred methodology ensures that the needs and experiences of Deaf individuals and civil protection volunteers guide the development process. Existing emergency protocols from Italy and Turkey are adapted into accessible, practical training resources, allowing participants to apply procedures in realistic emergency scenarios while maintaining consistency with national systems.

3. Target Groups

The modules target two main groups: civil protection volunteers and Deaf individuals. Volunteers play a key role in emergency response but often lack training in disability inclusion and accessible communication. Deaf individuals face significant barriers due to the reliance on auditory alerts and verbal instructions. The modules also involve municipalities, NGOs, and disability organizations to support implementation and sustainability. By addressing both responders and beneficiaries, the project promotes a collaborative and inclusive approach to emergency preparedness.

4. Accessibility and Inclusion Strategy

Accessibility is a core principle of the RESCUE NET training modules. The training adopts a visual-first approach, prioritizing gestures, body language, pictograms, and step-by-step visual instructions over auditory communication. Simplified language is used to make content understandable for a wide audience. Training activities encourage collaboration between volunteers and Deaf participants, fostering mutual learning, empowerment, and shared responsibility for emergency preparedness.

5. Integration with Video-Based Learning

Video-based learning is a central component of the RESCUE NET strategy. Short, visually oriented videos complement the training modules by presenting key information in an accessible and easily transferable format. These videos help overcome communication barriers, particularly for Deaf individuals, and support both training and dissemination activities. They can be used in awareness campaigns, community events, and on online platforms, extending the project's reach and impact.

6. Evaluation Framework

The effectiveness of the training modules is assessed through a mixed-methods evaluation framework that combines quantitative and qualitative tools. Pre- and post-training questionnaires measure changes in knowledge, attitudes, and confidence related to emergency preparedness and disability inclusion. Participant feedback, especially from Deaf individuals, provides insights into accessibility and learning outcomes. Evaluation results are used to improve the modules and videos, ensuring continuous development and long-term sustainability of the RESCUE NET project.