



Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection

General Secretariat for Civil Protection

The role of volunteers in Civil Protection.

Role and protocols in Greece: Communication and management.

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The **mission** of the Civil Protection Voluntary Teams is to provide assistance to the competent authorities in safeguarding the lives, health and property of citizens, as well as the environment and the cultural heritage from impending or ongoing natural, technological, or human-made disasters and threats that give rise to emergency situations during times of peace.

The Civil Protection Voluntary Teams are part of the National Civil Protection Mechanism and actively support the initiatives of the competent authorities and state services in fulfilling their mission, all in alignment with the principles of social solidarity.

PRESENTATION STRUCTURE

1. Brief historical review.
2. Upgrading the Civil Protection Volunteerism System - Law 4662/2020.
 - 2.1. Requirements of affiliation in the new Civil Protection Registry.
 - 2.2. Employers' obligations, Insurance coverage and Civil liability.
 - 2.3. Strengthening of Voluntary Teams in materials and means.
 - 2.4. Evaluation – Ethical fees – Deletion of Voluntary Teams.
3. Training of Voluntary Teams and Actions they can be involved.
4. Involvement of Voluntary Teams in operational planning.

Civil Protection Volunteerism in Greece: A Brief Overview

Formally established in 2002 by Law 3013, that :

- Introduced the role of Voluntary Teams within the Civil Protection System.
- Outlines their legal structure.
- Indicates the phases in which volunteers can be involved (Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Rehabilitation).
- Outlines the financial mechanism.

The total number of Voluntary Teams registered in the national Registry by March 2020, was about 580 with a total number of members over 12.000.

The main criteria to be registered were based on:

- ❖ Confirmation by state competent bodies for their participation in civil protection actions.
- ❖ Confirmation of training received from various governmental or non-governmental organizations, such as the Fire Service (Forest Protection, Forest Fire Fighting, Search and Rescue), First Aid Service, Red Cross.
- ❖ The scientific and professional qualifications of their members (doctors, nurses, psychologists, sociologists, etc.).

Upgrading the Civil Protection Volunteerism System: Law 4662/2020

The recognition of specific weaknesses in the regulatory framework, including mainly

- inadequate and incomplete training,
- absence of certification of volunteers skills,

prompted the reformation of the Civil Protection Volunteerism System in 2020 under the Law 4662.

Voluntary Teams that had already been registered, **were invited in 2022** to submit supporting documents **according to the new criteria** and conditions if they wished to join the new System.

There is also an open invitation for new teams to participate.

Today, a year later approximately **300 teams with over 6.000 members** have expressed interest in becoming part of this vital initiative.

Civil

Protection

Volunteerism

Registry

Kept by the Directorate of Volunteerism and Education at the General Secretariat of Civil Protection

Consists of 3 individual sub- registries and 2 Archives:

- ❖ **Registry of Civil Protection Voluntary Teams:** *to which Teams that meet specific criteria are registered*
- ❖ **Registry of Civil Protection Volunteers:** *includes the members of the Registered Voluntary Teams that meet some essential attributes*
- ❖ **Registry of equipment:** *includes the means and materials of the Registered Voluntary Teams*
- ❖ **Archive of organizations and entities** *collaborating with the General Secretariat of Civil Protection*
- ❖ **Archive of the Evaluation Reports** *for the Registered Voluntary Teams*

A **Voluntary Team** in order to get registered in this new Civil Protection Registry must be a national Non-governmental Team that:

- has a non-profit nature,
- has a charter where is stated the aim of participation on situations related with civil protection
- has at least twelve (12) members that accumulate all the essential attributes for being entitled as certified Civil Protection Volunteers.

A **member of a Voluntary Team** must:

- have Greek nationality or permanent living in Greece
- speak and write the Greek language sufficiently
- has reached the age of 18 years old and not to exceed the age of 65 years old for operational actions and 70 years old for supportive actions
- be provably in good physical and mental health, certified by medical reports from doctors specialized in pathology, cardiology and psychiatry
- has a clean criminal record
- receive successfully the required certified training

What it means being a recognized Civil Protection Volunteer?

→ Unique and personal number

→ Digital Card for Civil Protection Volunteers



Protection Actions

Insurance Coverage (having an

insurance carrier or not)

→ Civil liability for Registered Volunteers

Evaluation Reports: reflects the competence, efficiency and performance of the members of the Voluntary Team to each incident that they have participated in

Moral remuneration: for outstanding services or efforts as an award by decision of the General Secretary of Civil Protection

Strengthening in means and materials

Action plan

+

Criteria:

Member force
Involvement in Civil
actions

Protection

Evaluation Reports

programs etc

Funding for:

Operation

equipment

Safety

equipment

Office

equipment (like

computers

and

other

means)

Clothing

Fuel

Participation in training

etc

Reasons why a Voluntary Team may be deleted by the Registry:

- culpable, not in time or unfruitful correspondence of a Voluntary Team to a call - out or mischief in the cooperation with the General Secretariat of Civil Protection or the operational bodies involved
- arbitrary non appearance or misconduct or misdemeanor implementation during the duties by members of a Voluntary Team
- arbitrary adoption of national or supranational operational action, apart from the official operational planning and orders of the responsible organization
- exercise or covert pursuit of profit-making activity of the Voluntary Team
- the Voluntary Team hasn't been active for more than 2 years.
- no compliance with safety rules by the members of the Voluntary Team during the performance of their duties
- declaration of inaccurate or unreal facts concerning the Teams and their members to the General Secretariat of Civil Protection

Civil Protection Academy

- *Department of Civil Protection Volunteers & Voluntary Teams*
- Department for the Personnel & Executives of Regional and Municipal Authorities
- Department for Public Administration Executives
- Department for citizen groups

Appertains to General Secretary of Civil Protection

Based in Attica

Began its operation in November 2022 with the Civil Protection Volunteers & Voluntary Teams department

Training **of:**
Civil Protection Volunteers
Executives of the public sector, the Armed & Security Forces
Students of all educational grades
Staff of private sector organizations
Citizen groups



Training program for Volunteers



Certified Civil Protection Volunteer

Theoretical Part

total duration: 16 hours

Legislative Framework

Forest Fires

Earthquakes

Snowfalls

Floods

Drills

Civil Protection Volunteer System

Introduction to the European Civil
Protection Mechanism



Practical Part

Operational Actions:

Forest Protection
Forest Fire Fighting
Urban Fire Fighting
First Aid
Search and Rescue
*Actions to provide
assistance*

Supporting Actions:

Telecommunication
Psychological Support
*Actions for notification,
warning, information*
Care for the affected
Transportation
*Organizing and operation of
meeting places*

Involvement of Voluntary Teams in operational planning.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT AND THEIR ROLE

Central/ Governmental level: General Secretariat of Civil Protection is responsible for the organization, update, supervision and upgrade of the Civil Protection Volunteerism Register (E.M.E.P.P.). The role, also, includes the promotion and support of volunteerism, the certified training of volunteers and the undertaking of appropriate measures to improve the institutional and regulatory framework.

Regional Operational level: 13 Regions. Each Region is subdivided spatially and administratively into Regional Units. There are 74 Regional Units throughout the country.

Local Operational level: 322 Municipalities



13 Regions

74 Regional Units

Each Voluntary Team is involved in the Regional Unit level or Local level operational planning according to the spatial range of action, as well as the specific actions that are determined in the Registration Act.

I. Regional Operational level: Civil Protection Regional Unit Coordinating Body (S.O.P.P.)

The role of the Civil Protection Regional Unit Coordinating Body (S.O.P.P.) is to support the work of the Vice-Regional Governor for the availability, disposal and coordination of all the necessary resources and means for the preparedness, response and restoration actions in the Regional Unit to which it belongs.

The **members of the Body** are the Heads of the **Civil Protection Directorates** of the relevant Region and Regional Unit and the **representatives of all regional authorities** and services depending on the Risk and their responsibilities.

Concerning **Flood Risk**, representatives come from the Infrastructure sector, the Agricultural development sector, the Health sector, the Fire Service, the Police, First Aid Service etc.

Volunteer Teams that are registered and act in each Regional Unit are also **members** of the Coordinating Body of the Unit and must provide information regarding:

- The number of their members who can participate in each specific activity.
- Their temporal availability.
- The action area.
- The means they can provide.

II. Local Municipality Operational level: Local Civil Protection Coordinating Bodies (S.T.O.).

At the local Municipality level, the Local Civil Protection Coordinating Body (S.T.O.) has the same role and responsibilities for the support of the Mayor in the Municipality preparedness and emergency planning.

Also in this case **Voluntary Teams** registered and act in each Municipality are members in the Local Coordinating Body with similar role and responsibilities as above.

COORDINATION OF VOLUNTARY TEAMS

The coordination of the Voluntary Teams which participate in actions, as these have been identified in Regional Unit or Local Civil Protection Coordinating Bodies, is done by the Civil Protection Directorate of the Regional Unit or the Civil Protection Department of the Municipality.

i. Preparedness Activities of Volunteer Teams (in regard to Flood Risk)

- Participation in Regional Unit or Local Coordinating Bodies as described above.
- Public Awareness Activities: Assisting local authorities in informing and raising awareness among citizens to take preventive and self-protection measures against risk.
- Telecommunications Activities: Participation in the communication and information flow system checking to ensure the ability to securely exchange information between the involved Agencies.
- Participation in training programs and exercises organized by the Civil Protection Agency of the Region or the Municipality to deal with flood risk.
- Maintenance of the equipment and vehicles they will provide to deal with emergency needs from floods.

ii. Response Activities of Voluntary Groups (in regard to Flood Risk)

- Search and Rescue operations: Support the responsible Authorities in locating, assisting, extricating and rescuing citizens in danger.
- Aid and Support Actions: a) Water Pumping , b) Animal Release and Rescue.
- First Aid Actions: Exclusively by volunteers doctors or nurses .
- Relief and Support Actions and Transportation Actions: Assistance of the Regional or Municipal services in the transport of people and materials, in the organization and operation of shelters, for accommodation and feeding of the affected population. Undertaking psychological support actions should be only by volunteers who are professionals (psychologists or sociologists).
- Actions to inform citizens for preventive evacuation measures:

Support local authorities and Police to inform the citizens door to door about the risk that they run if they remain in the area, providing the required information about safe routes to safe places.

Thank you for your attention!