



## Thinking lab

### Disability Inclusion in Emergencies

It is recognised that around 15% of the world's population live with some form of disability and this percentage is likely to increase in emergency contexts. Persons with disabilities are among those most exposed to disaster risks, and are rarely involved in emergency cycle decision-making processes. However, despite the current situation, examples of good practices do already exist.

This Thinking Lab shed light on the importance of meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities towards inclusive emergency management policies, and collected ideas for mainstreaming the inclusion of persons with disability in civil protection. Additionally, the invited panel demonstrated the need of developing common European guidelines related to protection, preparedness and the rescue of persons with disabilities in emergencies, an endeavour which should be prioritised by policy makers around the globe.

The group conversation was structured around several open questions and provided a space for discussion between all present stakeholders, speakers and public alike. The main outcomes of the fruitful exchanges between the participants are presented below:

- Disability inclusion has been defined as a basic human right, where importance must be given to ensure its presence in mainstream services, allowing accessibility to all.
- The importance of meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities with first responders, in an attempt to undertake mutually beneficial trainings.
- The necessity to combine good policies at national and international level with effective implementation by developing common European guidelines related to protection, preparedness and rescue of persons with disabilities in emergencies.

