



ARMENIAN
NATIONAL PLATFORM
EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM



Funded by
the European Union



PROTECT YOUR TERRITORY. NEWS. MEDIA REVIEW. TERRITORY AND PEOPLE. ABOUT US.

“PROTECT YOUR TERRITORY”

**LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, CREATIVE INFORMATION AND ENGINEERING
TECHNOLOGIES OF THE STUDENTS AND MASS MEDIA
AGAINST DISASTERS**

*(Involving School Students into Creative Activities in the Field of
Development and Ensuring Effective Functioning
of Territorial Online Tools
 (“Protect Your Territory” PYT Web Page)
Through Information and Engineering Technologies)*

*“Protect your territory” (PYT Project) – is
an online tool for reporting hazards
and preventing disasters*

TECHNICAL TASK

**FOR THE DEVELOPMENT of the “Protect your territory”
UNIVERSAL REGIONAL Web-page
(The case of Armenia)**

Send Your Message to Protect Your Territory!

Yerevan, 2023

RESPONSIBILITY AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF EVERYONE IN PROTECTING HIS/HER TERRITORY

1. In the end of the 20th century and beginning of the 21th century around two billion people that i.e. a third part of the total mankind were found to be affected **by natural disasters**. The number of disaster victims made more than 20 million during that period.

The lessons of the natural disasters, including of the Spitack earthquake of December 7, 1988 in Armenia, as well as the first lessons that have already been learned from the consequences of the recent earthquakes (in February 2023) that hit Turkey and Syria, and from the 2023 inundations caused flooding of considerable territories in many countries of the world, ***demonstrated, that the scale of the tragic consequences has been partially predetermined by the imperfection of the National disaster management systems, insufficient engaging communities into disaster risk reduction and insufficient level of knowledge and skills of adequate behavior in people at threat of natural disasters and at natural disasters themselves.***

Many natural and other disasters that have affected countries, their individual regions and territories could have been avoided if their territories had been regularly maintained (the risks of probable, often recurring disasters had been reduced): if the territories and channels of mudflows had been cleared of branches and blockages, if the leaky sewage system, water conduits and canals had been repaired, if destroyed or shaky load-bearing walls had been restored, if landslides had been prevented in time, if dry, quickly flammable undergrowth had been regularly cut down, if rocky ridges had been trimmed by removing overhanging stones, etc.

Many people living in these places were aware of the risks they were exposed to because those risks were obvious and recurring very often.

To learn more

People's awareness of risk situations, however, rarely leads to actions (intervention) useful for their elimination.

On the one hand, because **preventive actions to maintain territories (reduce the risks of probable disasters)** are scarcely covered by mass media. More over before the occurrence of a disaster, media are not at all interested in population's "Local Knowledge", which becomes "news" only after disaster.

As a consequence, if there is no media coverage, the population's "Local Knowledge" about existing risks is out of the spotlight of the politicians, responsible for making decisions on the implementation of preventive actions, **and decision-makers do not give priority to the maintenance of the territory.**

On the other hand, because **there is no system of automatic transmission of information** from the one, **who is aware** of the hazards (often directly from the place of the identified hazard) to the one, **who is responsible for their elimination.**

And thirdly, because school students and young people, in general, are almost not involved (or weakly involved) in the processes of identifying local hazards and in the activities of the systems for automatic information transmission about them (if such systems are created).

Meanwhile, in modern conditions, **young people, who possess skills and successfully operate in the field of information and engineering technologies**, provided that they acquired **the necessary knowledge** in the field of disaster risk reduction **and are appropriately motivated** can be **creatively involved** in the processes of development and ensuring effective functioning of the modern territorial (provincial, municipal) systems of automatic transmission of information as for reporting hazards and preventing disasters, as well as for **increasing the responsibility and active participation of everyone in the protection of his/her territory** and for **ensuring its sustainable development**, and also for **acquisition and consolidation of leadership qualities**, necessary for performing successful activities in the various areas of development of their community (province, country as a whole).

The purpose of this site (page) "**Protect Your Territory**" (PYT) is to **collect messages from citizens and users** about situations related to the presence of risks that may be found **in their territory (a village, a city, a district, a region)**, and transfer them to the competent authorities: to take appropriate actions to reduce risks and eliminate hazards, and local media: to monitor (control) subsequent actions. ***

In modern conditions one of the most important directions for the reduction of vulnerability and improving preparedness of societies to natural, man-made, ecological, biological and other disasters is development and ensuring effective functioning of the territorial (provincial, municipal) **online tools** for reporting hazards and preventing disasters to initiate the involvement of knowledge of local population and schools, and mass media against disasters, to increase the responsibility and active participation of everyone in the protection of his/her territory, to improve communicative informative interaction between authorities, mass media and population in emergencies.

.....

*****) It should be noted that the PYT page does not replace the institutional services involved in emergency situations (ES), in these cases it is necessary to report a threatening (imminent) danger by calling the appropriate numbers at the local emergency service department.**

For the development of and ensuring regular functioning such a territorial **online tool: “Protect Your Territory (PYT) Web Page”**, targeted at improving knowledge of local risks through involvement of the local population and schools, was launched **LoKSAND project**.

“The main players (sides) of the Project are on the one hand Local Civil Protection Structures, Local communities and Local population, on the other hand: Schools (High school students and teachers), and also Local Media”.

To make **PYT pages an effective tool for disaster prevention**, it is important to **involve the local community** not only in their use but also **in their creation**.

2. ECRM, Yerevan, Armenia started working on the LoKSAND project as **partner-centre**, based on the documents of information and methodological nature, kindly provided by the **CUEPS, Ravello, Italy the Coordinator Centre of the Project**, by given the specifics of Armenia. Due to certain objective reasons work on the Project by ECRM in 2021 was interrupted and decided **to be suspended till 2022-2023**.

Starting 2023 we began to develop **independently a new, modified pilot Project, by given the specifics of Armenia**, namely:

“LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, CREATIVE INFORMATION AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES OF THE STUDENTS AND MASS MEDIA AGAINST DISASTERS”. (Involving School Students into Creative Activities in the Field of Development and Ensuring Effective Functioning of Territorial Online Tools (“Protect Your Territory” Web Page) through Information and Engineering Technologies).

Naturally *the new, modified pilot Project* proposed by us is being elaborated, bringing a new quality to the development of ideas underlying the previous Project, and is focused primarily on enhancing creativity and motivation for involving schoolchildren in the processes of increasing the effectiveness of functioning of territorial online tools (PYT Pages) for reporting hazards and preventing disasters, for increasing responsibility and active participation of everyone in the protection of his/her territory.

The elaboration of new Project is being carried out by given valuable experience of **CUEPS**, taking into consideration the European values. However, the facilitation process not a one-way communication process, at the same time it is an interaction process based on the transfer of problems, exchange of experiences and results.

The effectiveness of the Project will be largely predetermined by the degree of motivation, creative involvement and preparedness of students, which is a task that requires a regular solution.

Fortunately in Armenia at school level have been set up unique structures successfully operating in the field of information and engineering technologies “TUMO” Centres for Creative Technologies and “ARMATH” engineering laboratories.

Sufficiently detailed information about the content, modern methods of organizing the educational process and creative possibilities in the field of information and engineering technologies, being acquired by the students of the above “TUMO” Centers and the “ARMATH” Laboratories and servicing a good prerequisite for their successful and creative involvement in the new, modified pilot Project, is given in section 1 of the developed by us document: “BRIEF JUSTIFICATION OF THE NEED FOR CREATION AND REGULAR FUNCTIONING OF THE "Protect Your Territory" REGIONAL Web-pages (sites) (the case of Armenia).

The same document (section 3.) provides the ways of solving the issues indicated above and the ways of successful implementation of the results and valuable experience of the suggested new modified pilot Project, drawn on the example of the selected province of Armenia, in all other provinces of the republic, as well as the ways to transfer them to the partner-countries mentioned there.

The “Protect Your Territory (PYT) Web Page” explains the purpose of the Web Page (site), contains a "MESSAGE FORM" (FS), mechanisms for transmitting the message, and subsequent actions regarding the message itself.

The page also contains cognitive information about the territory and people, about effective steps aimed at reducing disaster risks, increasing the attractiveness of the territory for living, effective application of forces and means, and tourism development.

.....

.....

What to report?

To learn more.

.....

How to report?

To learn more.

.....

Who is sending the message?

To learn more.

.....

What happens to the message?

To learn more.

.....

Additional information about the reported risk situation

(if the reporter wishes to provide this data).

To learn more.

.....

.....

WHAT TO REPORT?

Please, tick the category (a serial number) of the most frequently occurring situations of potential risks mentioned below in the given area, in which the situation associated with the risk you are reporting can be included.

- 1) Mudflow course, channels clogged with branches, stones, debris or blocked by landslides**, which can lead to subsequent flooding.
- 2) Leaks in not watertight canalization sewers, conduits, channels**, which can cause the collapse of embankments or buildings.
- 3) Destroyed or cracked walls holding terraces or embankments**, which can lead to collapse and further to a landslide.

4) Loose land slopes, or slopes planted with sparse trees, or intensively built slopes, or slopes not provided with an adequate water drainage system, which in the event of heavy rains can lead to a total landslide.

5) Uncut undergrowth, especially dry, flammable bushes: they easily start fires and contribute to the rapid spread of fire.

6) Rocks, characterized as unstable, which overhang along routes regularly used for movement, but not controlled by the relevant institutions (paths, steps, trails along which cattle are driven). Heavy rains or earthquakes, even if they are weak, can cause them to collapse.

7) Rocky ridges that can come into contact with fire. At high temperatures caused by fires, rocks can crack and collapse.

8) Buildings and structures of cultural or historical value (churches, chapels, mansions, historic aqueducts) or objects (elements) worth mentioning (wayside shrines, caves) that are in poor condition or under threat from one of the above dangers.

9) Other risk situations worth reporting.

.....

.....

HOW TO REPORT?

There are two ways to post messages on the PYT page:

- using the appropriate **form** for compiling messages by **clicking here**;
- by sending a **photo** via WhatsApp to tel. *N: +... ..* , specifying the place to which it belongs, and if you want to know about the next steps after receiving your message, also include your name.

.....

Message form

1. Briefly describe the risk situation you are reporting and mark its category (number) from the above list of risk situations.

2. Where did the risk situation arise?

City Village

Locality

.....

.....

WHO SENDS THE MESSAGE?

1. The message will be reviewed and shared with those competent to take appropriate action and the local media.

The message can be sent anonymously or openly.

Do you want to be credited as the author of the post?

No. In this case, the author of the message is not mentioned.

No, but I would like to be informed about follow-up actions after receiving my message (see below, point 2). In this case, the identity of the author will be known to the staff of the site, but not to the general public, thus confidentiality will be respected.

Yes. In this case, mark who is the author of this message?

.....

2. Do you want to be informed about the next steps after receiving your message?

No

Yes

How? E-mail address,

WhatsApp

SMS.....

.....

.....

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE MESSAGE?

1. After receiving **the message**, its **reliability is checked**, the **correctness of its inclusion in one or another category of risk situations** and placement on the site of dangers.
2. **The message** is then assigned a **code number**, which is communicated to its author (if he has given his consent), and ***which will make the message trackable in the future*** both for the system and for other users.
3. **If necessary**, additional information may be requested from the author of the message (if he wishes to provide this data).
4. **The message is then passed on to the institutions competent to manage the described situation and to the local media.**
5. **The message is applied to the Message Map** of the involved site with a code number representing its category. **All messages** included in each category can be viewed **individually**.
6. **Every three months, the management of reports** by the institutions involved is checked.
7. **The audit report is then broadcast to the local media.**

.....

.....

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE REPORTED RISK SITUATION

(if the author of the message wants to provide this data).

1. **Have similar situations of instability already occurred in this territory (locality)?**

No

Yes

When?

Don't know

2. **Has this risk situation been reported before?**

No

Yes

When? To whom?

3. Have you taken action on previous reports?

No

Yes

Which?

4. Want to add a photo?

No

Yes.....

5. Want to add a comment?

No

Yes.....

.....

.....

TRACKING FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS RELATED TO YOUR REPORT.

The code ??? Search.

Message map.

View all messages.

.....

.....

**NEWS
ON ACTIVE STEPS TO
REDUCE DISASTER RISKS**

Start

Start

Start

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Read more

Read more

Read more

.....

.....

MEDIA REVIEW.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Read more

Read more

Read more

.....

.....

AWARENESS OF PROBABLE, FREQUENTLY REPEATED IN THIS AREA

DISASTER RISKS

Start

Start

Start

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Read more

Read more

Read more

.....

.....

TERRITORY AND PEOPLE

.....

.....

Read more

.....

.....

ABOUT ACTION STEPS TO:

➤ **INCREASE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE TERRITORY**

• *FOR LIVING,*

• *FOR THE EFFICIENT APPLICATION OF FORCES AND MEANS,*

➤ **AND TO DEVELOP TOURISM.**

Beginning

.....

.....

Read more

Beginning

.....

.....

Read more

Beginning

.....

.....

Read more

.....

.....

ABOUT US

Beginning

.....

.....

Read more

Beginning

.....

.....

Read more

Beginning

.....

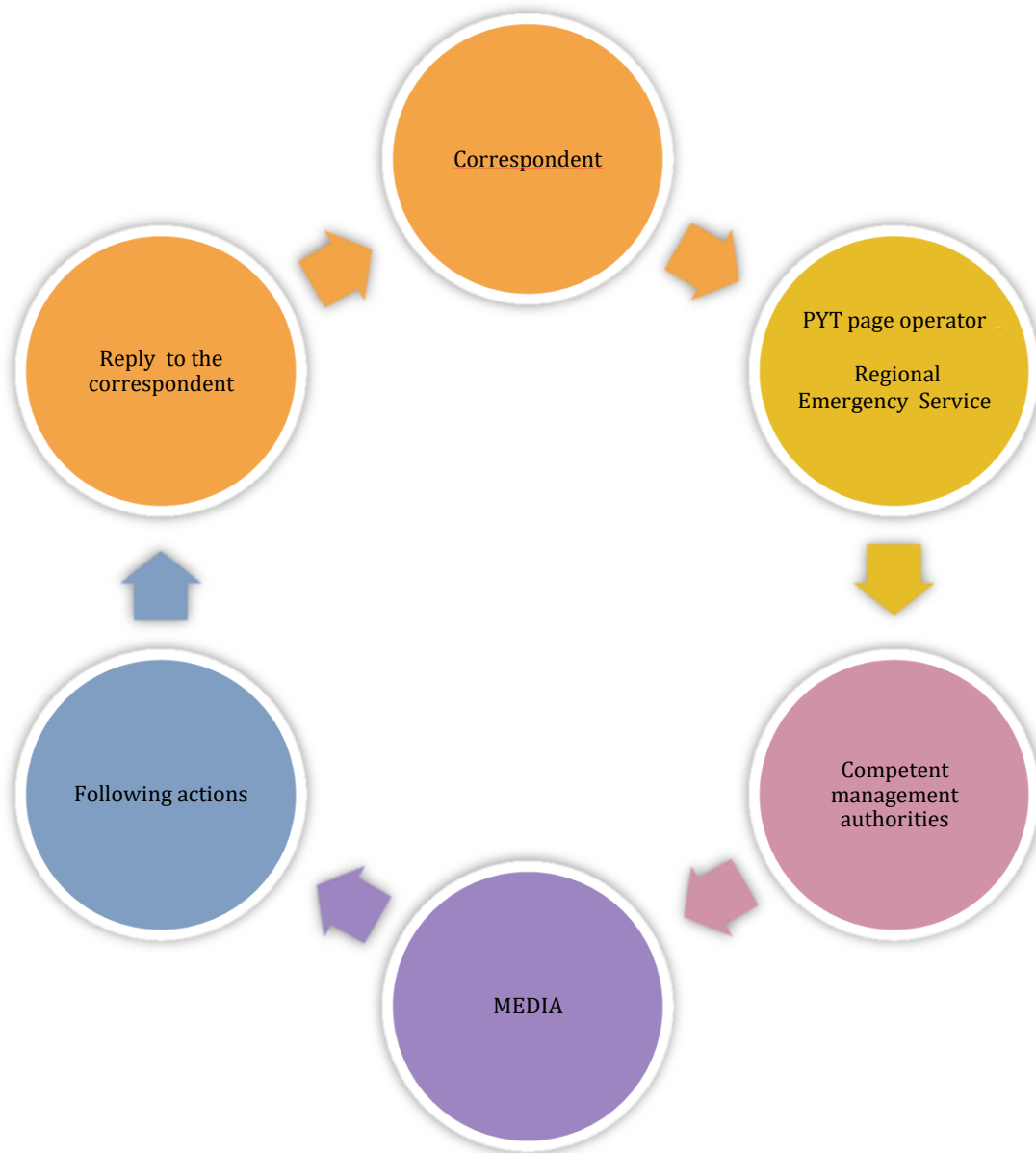
.....

Read more

.....

A Full Turnover of the Messages' Movement received from the Citizens (Correspondents)

On the protection of their territory:



Cycle includes:

Sending a message by a correspondent.

Acceptance of the message by the PYT Web page (site) operator and its verification by the regional emergency service.

Transfer of the message to the competent management authorities.

Sending a message to the media.

Taking follow-up action.

Sending a reply to a correspondent.