**Poland submission - "CRPD DGD on art 11**"

The law applicable in connection with emergency situations is the **Act of 16 September 2011 on special solutions related to the removal of flood effects (Journal of Laws of 2011, No. 234, item 1385).** The provisions of the Act apply in matters related to the removal of the effects of flooding.

The Act contains detailed regulations aimed at restoring the living and working conditions of persons with disabilities affected by the flood.

On the basis of the above the funds of the State Fund for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons may be allocated to i.a. on:

* maintaining the jobs of disabled persons at risk of being liquidated as a result of flooding;
* reconstruction of the infrastructure and equipment of occupational therapy workshops, occupational activity centers and enterprises of disabled persons conducting economic activity, damaged or lost as a result of the flood;
* assistance for the disabled for the purchase of rehabilitation equipment, aids and orthopedic items lost or damaged as a result of the flood;
* removal of damage caused by the flood within the previously removed technical and architectural barriers in connection with the individual needs of the disabled (financing renovations, readaptation and purchase of equipment);
* co-financing the interest rate on bank loans taken out to eliminate the effects of the flood in connection with the employment and rehabilitation of disabled persons.

In Poland, the basic legal act regulating design standards in terms of evacuation procedures is **the Regulation of the Minister of Interior and Administration of June 7, 2010 on fire protection of buildings, other structures and areas (Journal of Laws of 2010, No. 109, item 719).** The regulation defines the methods and conditions of fire protection of buildings, other construction objects and areas.

According to the regulation, appropriate evacuation conditions are provided from every place in the facility intended for people to stay, enabling quick and safe leaving of the zone at risk or covered by fire, adapted to the number and efficiency of people staying in the facility as well as its functions, construction and dimensions, as well as the use of technical fire protection measures, consisting of:

* ensuring a sufficient number, height and width of emergency exits;
* maintaining the permissible length, height and width of passages and evacuation routes;
* ensuring fire-safe housing and partitions of escape routes and rooms;
* securing the escape routes listed in the technical and construction regulations against smoke, including: the use of smoke prevention devices or devices and other technical and construction solutions ensuring smoke removal;
* providing emergency lighting (evacuation and backup) in rooms and on escape routes listed in the technical and construction regulations;
* ensuring the possibility of broadcasting warning signals and voice messages by the sound warning system in buildings for which it is required.

The above mentioned law and **the Regulation of the Minister of Infrastructure of April 12, 2002** on the technical conditions to be met by buildings and their location (Journal of Laws of 2015, item 1422) specify the requirements regarding the length and width of escape routes, their course and marking, assembly points after evacuation, as well as mandatory exercises (so-called trial evacuations).

The theme of supporting persons with disabilities in emergency situations was mentioned in **the Strategy for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030** - The document Strategy for Persons with Disabilities was adopted by Resolution of the Council of Ministers No. 27 of February 21, 2021 on the adoption of the document Strategy for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 (Polish Monitor 2021 item 218).

The strategy assumes an in-depth analysis of regulations and practices in the field of ensuring and coordinating support for persons with disabilities in all potential emergency situations, both local, regional and national, in particular constitutional states of emergency (martial law, state of emergency, state of natural disaster) and other states regulated by law (e.g. state of epidemic emergency, state of epidemic, flood alert states).

As a result of the analysis, proposals for changes in legal acts and activities will be developed, taking into account the needs and possibilities of supporting persons with various disabilities, both in urban and rural areas.

The analysis and proposed changes will concern e.g. full availability of the emergency notification system for persons with disabilities, the ability to effectively contact and communicate with the relevant alarm, security and information services (e.g. hotlines or video hotlines 24/7) and taking into account the needs of persons with various disabilities in all crisis management plans and anti-crisis activities. Crisis management at various levels of administration must take into account persons with disabilities.

Moreover, pursuant to Art. 7 sec. 5 of Directive (EU) 2018/1808 of the European Parliament and of the Council on audiovisual media services of 14 November 2018, emergency information, including public communications and announcements in the event of a natural disaster, made public by means of audiovisual media services will be provided in a manner accessible to persons with disabilities.

Another action listed in the Strategy is *training for police officers and police employees in the field of contacts with persons with disabilities, as well as officers and employees of the Border Guard and municipal guard services.*

It is planned to undertake training activities consisting in the development of a local professional development program, preceded by the identification of needs in individual Police organizational units, implemented in cooperation with local branches of the State Fund for Rehabilitation of Disabled People and non-governmental organizations operating locally to ensure the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Educational undertakings will be addressed in the first place to police officers and police employees who have contact with persons with disabilities, e.g.

The training will cover, among others: the issue of identifying situations at risk of violence and protecting persons with disabilities from violence, in particular women with disabilities.

Educational activities carried out as part of local professional development will also cover editors of police websites in terms of the correctness of posting information on police websites, in accordance with the requirements of the current WCAG guidelines), and in order to develop positive habits among editors in the preparation and publication of information on police websites online, in a form accessible to persons with disabilities.

Similar training activities as those intended for Police services will cover officers and employees of the Border Guard, as well as municipal guard services.

Training for police officers and police employees in the field of contacts with persons with disabilities, as well as officers of the Border Guard and municipal guard services.

The strategy *also provides for training of the State Fire Service and volunteer fire brigades in contact with persons with disabilities.*

As part of the action, the training programs of the State Fire Service and volunteer fire brigades will be reviewed in terms of the needs of persons with disabilities. They will be verified in terms of their adequacy and the possibility of using them in practice by the services established by law to help in contacts with persons with disabilities.

The review of the training programs of the State Fire Service and volunteer fire brigades in the field of contacts with persons with disabilities will be carried in order to assess their usefulness and develop new or modify existing training programs aimed at:

• increasing access to rescue services;

• increasing the availability of hazard warning and alarm systems;

• increasing access to emergency numbers and rescue applications (eg Regional Warning System).