

E U R O P E



ARMENIA

The Armenian National Survey of Seismic Protection produced a booklet for children on earthquakes, in cooperation with UNICEF, and launched it on 8 October 1997. This booklet was inspired from Learning About Natural Disasters, produced by the IDNDR Secretariat for the 1995 World Disaster Reduction Campaign.

BULGARIA

At least four television and radio programmes focused on IDNDR and articles were published on the subject of prevention of natural disasters. Bulgarian National Radio ran a two-hour programme on the 1997 water theme on 8 October. This was very effective as listeners could 'phone-in' and talk to civil protection authorities.

In 1997 two agreements to co-operate more closely were signed between the Civil Protection department and companies responsible for managing dam and irrigation systems.

Flood protection exercises in May 1997 resulted in up-dated planning. In November, the Fourth National Conference on Science Support for Disaster Prevention took place and included discussions on water-related hazards.

In 1998, the Bulgarian National Crisis PR Organisation participated in both the UN World Disaster Reduction Campaign and in the Internet Conference as part of their own Crisis Management Programme.

http://www.bg400.bg/vev25_06/index.htm

CZECH REPUBLIC

At the beginning of 1997, IDNDR was not represented in this country but flooding in Moravia in July triggered the creation of the Czech National IDNDR Committee. A symposium was held at the ASRT's centre in Kharga, New Valley. In addition to scientific exchanges, it emphasised the necessity of increasing public awareness and involving the media.

The floods which inundated the Czech Republic in 1997 highlighted the role of the media in natural disasters and gave the authorities, the public (and the press itself) an interesting insight into the media's capacity to perform in such events.

The 1998 theme "the Role of the Media in Disaster Prevention" was therefore of particular interest in the country.

