

European Fire Research Project (2000-2003)

Task of the Irish Network

1. Target Fire Safety Objectives

- ◆ During and after the process of independent evacuation to a *Place of Safety** which is distant from the building, or partial evacuation to a *Place of Relative Safety** within the building, or protection in place - the individual and group *Health** and safety of people involved should be assured, specifically those people with a *Health Condition** or physical / mental / cognitive / psychological *Impairment** of a permanent or temporary nature ;
- ◆ Particularly with reference to *People with Activity Limitations** - to improve the *Fire Safety Design** and management of common building types.

2. Scope of Work

There are three aspects to the multi-disciplinary work required to complete this task :

- (i) To contribute to a **Technical Guidance Document (TGD)**, which will be applicable throughout Europe, and be developed using a Harmonized E.U. Vocabulary, and a Simplified Classification of 'Ability' in relation to self-protection and evacuation during a fire - both based on the 2001 WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability & Health (ICF) ;
- (ii) To produce a **National Annex** to the TGD, the purpose of which is to contain a bibliography, and references to relevant national legislation and standards. National Annexes, from each of the participating countries, will be appended to the TGD ;
- (iii) To consult with a wider **National Consultation Group** of interested organizations, which should be established approximately six months after work commences.

In the form of clear, simple language and/or schematic drawings, the **European Technical Guidance Document** should, where relevant, present practical guideline principles for building design and construction teams, management teams, general users, people with activity limitations themselves, and the fire services - on the incorporation into new buildings, and existing buildings (particularly those of historical, cultural and architectural importance), of **Fire Protection*** measures which adequately assure the individual and group health and safety of people using a building, specifically those people with a health condition or physical / mental / cognitive / psychological impairment of a permanent or temporary nature.

3. Guideline Principles of Fire Safety Design & Engineering

The practical Guideline Principles :

- (a) should respect the dignity, autonomy and independence of people with activity limitations ;
- (b) should stress direct and meaningful consultation, prior to the implementation of any protection measure, with people having activity limitations and/or their advocate(s) ;
- (c) should include a consideration of mixed building function, innovative design, later *Flexibility** and *Adaptability** of the building, and 'real' patterns of building use ;
- (d) should be applicable to all common building types, assuming individual and group use by people with a health condition or physical / mental / cognitive / psychological impairment of a permanent or temporary nature.

* Definitions of these terms may be found in **Appendix II & Appendix III**.