Fatalism, a challenge to prevention

Some cultural groups may also not rely on authorities in their response to disasters, and may show an apathetic response to the on-going event: "For example, in case of fires in nomad camps the reaction of people is to remain where they are, and they also seem not to like the intervention of rescue means, despite the event is still ongoing" (G4; R). A small number of practitioners reflected on a perceived culture of fatalism, i.e. behaviours related to citizens' specific worldview, regarding earthquakes in Italy, where even after having responded to these disasters adequate prevention efforts were still not being made: "I am saying that unfortunately this overall situation [with repeated earthquakes] pushes people to stick to fatalism instead of looking for some prevention tools" (G4; R). A few practitioners stated further that an awareness of religious differences is required for disaster response, for example, regarding burial customs, to ensure that citizen' needs were met: "I remember the train accident that occurred in Viareggio, where there was a strong Muslim community and in the accident many Muslims died. And the community wanted to do a Muslim funeral, and in that case the person who managed this situation was extremely capable, because they have some specific requirements in funerals, for example they should be directed vs. Makkah. And that person did an excellent work" (G6; R8).

Note: See source document for full reference.

Applicable to:

Stakeholders: Worldviews, Customs/traditions/rituals

Disaster Phases: Response, Recovery

Types of Actors Concerned: National civil protection body, Local authorities, Red Cross, NGOs, Military, Law enforcement agencies, Healthcare and emergency services

Hazards: Natural hazards, Man-made non-intentional hazards or emergency situations, Man-made intentional hazards

Recommendations:
- Develop a personal "culture of preparedness"
- Empower vulnerable groups (i.e. children, elderly, and people with disabilities) by including them in disaster management decision-making and actions

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Source

Deliverable D5.11 "Report on Stakeholder Assembly 2 (Italy)" (page 19)

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