

## **Education and guidance to the civil protection culture: insights and first results from the SicuraMente project**

Saverio Romeo (1), Eugenio Benvenuti (2), Danilo Calabrese (2), Dario Giuseppe Galluccio (2), and Mauro Tocci (3)

(1) University of Perugia, Department of Physics and Geology, Perugia, Italy, (2) LARES Italia, Italian Civil Protection Association, Foligno (PG), Italy, (3) Prevent Srls, Foligno (PG), Italy

To gain awareness on natural hazards social and educational initiatives are required, aimed at promoting a civil protection culture able to guide towards conscious and correct behavior. People, well-informed about risks in their territory, are safer citizens. In this perspective, it is important that the learning environments, such as schools and universities, play a key role on promoting dialogue and interactions among institutions, becoming a useful resource for the local community.

In this framework, the present work describes an experimental project, called SicuraMente, started 2 years ago, about safety and civil protection culture coordinated by LARES Italia, a national civil protection association.

This ongoing project, that involves high school and university students, is a training course that teaches skills and grants its participants specific toolset to increase the civic awareness and personal knowledge on actions to take in specific emergency situations.

SicuraMente is a multi-hazard project, concerning several natural phenomena such as earthquake, flood, landslide, fire and extreme meteorological events. Each topic is discussed with a global approach starting from the scientific knowledge of the phenomenon, with a final discussion on the best practices about disaster prevention and preparedness. Additionally, in order to encourage the interest of students, 4 contexts are taken in example (home, school, city, society) with special case study sessions of each, with open discussion and debate.

The project's activities are conducted on two levels: peer education lessons with "learning by doing" approach (e.g. simulation-based learning) under the coordination of LARES volunteers, and a further training stage at home in e-learning environment ([www.sicuramentelab.it](http://www.sicuramentelab.it)).

In the first year of the project, 669 students from 9 schools of Regione Umbria (Central Italy) were involved. Thanks to the fundamental support of the volunteers of LARES association, 543 training hours were carried out.

The first results, obtained through questionnaires and online tests allowing the continuous monitoring of the learning process, confirmed that the main goals are achieved: it is recorded a general increase of the safety awareness on students and people around them.

The present project is under the Patronage of the Civil Protection of Regione Umbria and the Association of Italian Municipalities and it is co-financed by the Italian Civil Protection Department. In addition, in order to ensure a high quality standard on the project contents, the main national research centers such as the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology and the Research Institute for Geo-Hydrological Protection (National Research Council) are involved.

The next step of the SicuraMente project will be the increase of the total number of stakeholders (institutions and students) by involving new schools and universities at national level.