

NMFR Disaster

Final Workshop 16th-17th April 2009

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Legal and Ethical Implications of Disaster – Rome Workshop Overview

The workshop covered a range of topics including:

- The ethical context of disaster response
- choices and challenges for decision makers in times of disasters
- ethical decision making in emergencies and issues concerning citizens during disasters.

It also consisted of two networking sessions in which attendees suggested proposals for new research and development for areas where further research is required.

Sessions

- One - 'Disaster Response – the Ethical Context'
- Two - 'Choices and Challenges'
- Three - 'Ethical Decision Making in Emergency'
- Four - 'Victims or Citizens?'

Workshop Overview continued...

The workshop discussion has stressed the need of sharing

best practices to disaster response inside and outside

Europe. Standards of care, that also include legal and

ethical implications, are becoming crucial to enable first

responders to face different healthcare provisions, diverse

cultural realities in order to ensure an effective

Outcomes of Workshop

Several ideas were put forward as a result of the workshop and the ideas discussed during the networking sessions.

Legal and ethical issues are closely interlinked and the recommendations made as a result of this workshop were relevant to both.

Key Areas for Future Development

- **Media** – need to develop clearer guidelines concerning media practices in disasters
- **Cultural Diversity** – a need to clarify cultural differences relevant to disaster response, perhaps developing a manual or guide e.g. concerning different mourning practices
- **Best Practice Consortium** – a need to share lessons between organisations
- **Blood Donation** – need to consider topics relevant to blood e.g. donation at different phases and who decides on using untested blood in a disaster situation
- **Standards of Care** – Is it possible to achieve the same standard of care for all? What could impact the standard in different places?

Other Recommendations

- The whole topic of legal and ethical implications of disasters is an area rich in potential for future development and is relevant to all of the other areas relevant to this project. For example, as seen on the previous slide, legalities and ethical issues are important in relation to blood.
- An updated version of the Rome Workshop Report was recently sent to Chaim which included further recommendations .

Thank You!