

BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY KANDILLI OBSERVATORY EARTHQUAKE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS EDUCATION UNIT

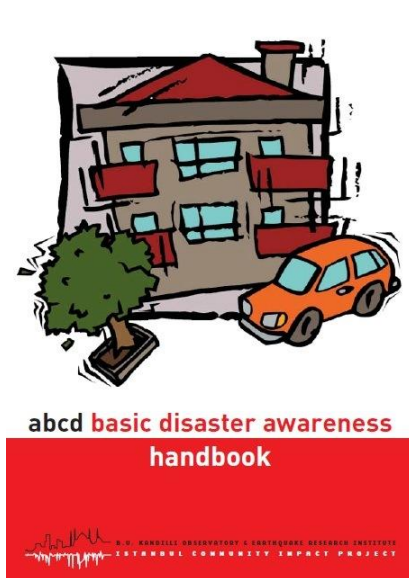
The Disaster Preparedness Education Unit (DPEU) at Bogazici University's Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute (KOERI) was initially established a year after the 1999 Kocaeli earthquake, as the "Disaster Preparedness Education Project" (DPEP), a five-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID-OFDA). The financial administration of the project was carried out by the Bogazici University Trust.

The goal of the project is to contribute to the efforts to prepare Istanbul for the likelihood of a damaging earthquake. It seeks to improve public disaster awareness, local preparedness, and first response organization and skills in order to decrease the loss of life and property in the event of such an earthquake.

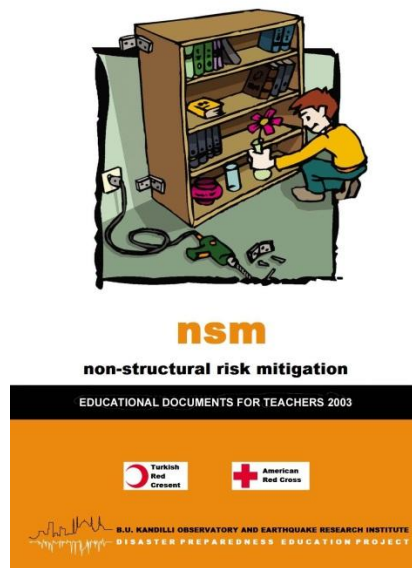
In pursuit of this aim, four main education programs were established:

- Basic Disaster Awareness
- Non-Structural Mitigation
- Structural Awareness for Earthquakes
- Community Disaster Volunteer and Public Disaster Preparedness Program

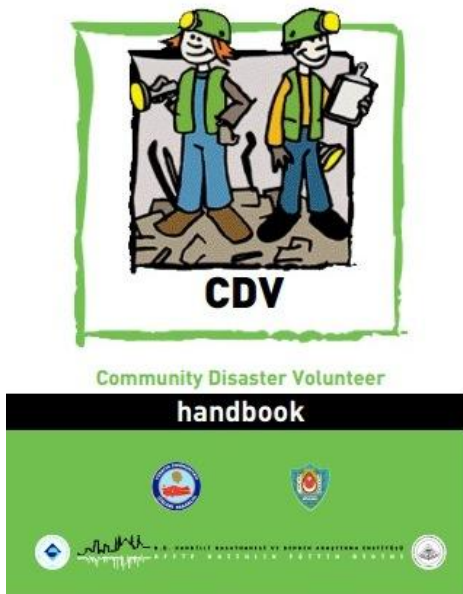
In this context, the project created educational presentations, handbooks, CDs, and knowledge cards, including the Handbook for Disaster Preparedness in Schools, the Handbook for Disaster Preparedness in Hospitals, and publications on disaster preparedness for the disabled and on the conservation of museum works in disasters.



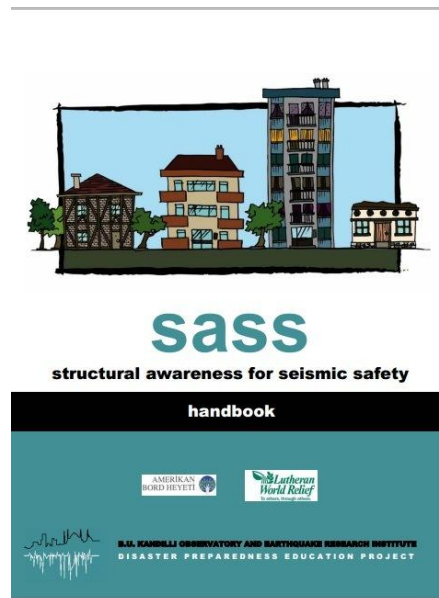
[ABCD Handbook](#)



[NSM Handbook](#)



[CDV Handbook](#)



[SASS Hanbook](#)

These programs reach diverse sectors of society and disseminate disaster preparedness protocols developed with the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of the Interior Civil Defense Directorate, the Ministry of Health, the Turkish Red Crescent and the American Red Cross, local administrations, and assorted civil society organizations.

It is very important for community-directed earthquake education programs to be ongoing and sustainable. For this reason, Disaster Preparedness Education Unit (DPEU) was founded on 19 October 2004 to bring together the existing education programs created under DPEU with new and developing projects, and provide them with an institutional identity. The decision to create DPEU was made by the Board of Directors of KOERI with the agreement of the Board of Directors of Bogazici University.

DPEU's education programs, which are developed with the participation of BU-KOERI faculty members, community experts, and practitioners, have been adopted by existing public institutions, civil society organizations, volunteers in assorted initiative groups, and educators responsible for disaster preparedness, in order to ensure their standardization, continuity, and long-term development.

DPEU's goal is to develop high-quality curricula and training materials for community-focused disaster preparedness education. To achieve this goal, AHEB works to build bridges between scientists, academics and technical experts in this field, and the people who need access to knowledge to reduce their risk from disasters. AHEB develops disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness training materials, organizes and conducts teacher trainings, and participates in research activities on these topics.

In addition establishing the four core educational programs, on Basic Disaster Awareness, Community Disaster Volunteers, Non-Structural Risk Mitigation, and Structural Awareness for Earthquakes, AHEB has also developed Turkish, English, and Russian-language educational materials on the topics of disaster preparedness and business continuity planning for hospitals, museums, schools, and people with disabilities.

In accordance with its founding mission, AHEB's duties and activities include:

- Developing, supervising, and evaluating educational programs;
- Preparing educational materials such as reports, books, pamphlets, CD-ROMs, DVDs, and videos;
- Developing distance-learning internet resources by publishing and updating educational materials in an online environment;
- Building educational capacity throughout the institute and creating an on-site staff of educational personnel;
- Assessing institutional and individual demand for existing educational programs and coordinating training;
- Developing protocols for cooperation through cooperative work with national and international institutions and related sub-projects;
- Contributing to the creation of national strategy and policy through coordination with public institutions and civil society organizations;
- Arranging national and international seminars, workshops, and conferences;
- Coordinating training for the students who visit the Earthquake Park.

DPEU's activities include the management of the [Earthquake Park](#), an educational center created at KOERI. On specific weekdays, groups of primary school students visit Earthquake Park to learn about earthquakes and undergo training designed to raise their awareness teach them what to do before, during, and after an earthquake occurs.

In 2011", DPEU has provided EARTHQUAKEPARK ABCD Disaster Awareness training to 4087 students and 226 accompanying teachers from 122 schools.





KOERI believes that creating the culture of earthquake preparedness and raising awareness in society is only possible through better understanding of science and technology which is challenging. For this reason and encouraging feedbacks received from several local community actors.

DPEU has also a Mobile Earthquake Simulation Training Truck

Mobile Earthquake Simulation Training Truck was developed in 2007, aiming to create a stage for community awareness for the earthquake preparedness and to change the common wrong perception and ignorance on earthquakes also aiming to be a model-project for other cities in Turkey and countries which has the same risks.





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