



IPA 2012/290-552 Project

Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey

Project First Steering Committee Meeting and Advisory Group

30 August 2012, Zagreb, Croatia

Kras Congress Centre

MEETING SUMMARY

I Steering Committee and Advisory Group Meeting

The first Steering Committee and Advisory Group meeting was held on 30 August from 14:00 to 17:30 at the Kras Conference Centre, Zagreb. A general overview of the project tasks was given by Mr. Demetrio Innocenti, UNISDR Programme Officer in charge of coordinating the UNISDR led tasks, and Ms. Sari Lappi, Project Coordinator from WMO/FMI Project Office.

The Steering Committee consists of representatives from the IPA Project Beneficiaries, UNISDR, WMO and European Commission.

The Advisory Group is composed of representatives of relevant international and regional organizations as indicated in the project Description of Action. Representatives of the following organizations attended the meeting: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), EUMETNET, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE).

V.1 General Overview of the tasks, UNISDR activities

Mr. Innocenti introduced the overall objective and purpose of the project and the consultation process that led to commencing of project activities. Mr. Innocenti also described the task of the project lead by the UNISDR. These tasks are:

- Task 1: Enhanced regional institutional capacity and coordination in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures;
- Task 2: Strengthen the regional capacity and cooperation towards data and knowledge sharing on risks;
- Task 7: Insurance and reinsurance products for disaster risk transfer are promoted among the IPA beneficiaries in collaboration with the private sector, the World Bank and Europa Re;
- Task 8: Increased public awareness on disaster risk reduction.

V.2. General Overview of the tasks, WMO activities

Ms. Lappi presented the task lead by the WMO including:

- Task 3: Enhanced regional risk assessment capacities through improved capabilities of beneficiaries in hazard analysis and mapping;
- Task 4: Enhanced capacity of IPA Beneficiaries to prepare and deliver accurate and timely warnings for hazardous meteorological and hydrological phenomena;
- Task 5: Improved capacity of the NMHSs of IPA beneficiaries in the provision of information to support climate change adaptation and climate risk management;
- Task 6: A design for a seamless regional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) developed and promoted for adoption at national and regional level, with proper consideration of the existing specific needs and situation in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

Ms. Lappi concluded with the presentation of the implementation plan of the project including the timetable of the project activities. The full implementation period of the Project is from 21 May 2012 to 20 May 2014. The implementation schedule has been developed with tentative dates for the different events: meetings, training session, workshops, development of specific products (e.g., knowledge data base, climate data management system), etc. The meeting agreed with the proposed schedule and endorsed the implementation plan with the understanding that this plan will be monitored and regularly reviewed, in order to ensure timely adjustments, as may become necessary, to ensure fulfillment of the project objectives.

V.3 Discussion on working arrangements

Mrs. Natalia Berghi, Programme Officer, WMO Regional Office for Europe, presented the working arrangements from the administrative, technical and financial point of view for the management and implementation of the project activities. She gave an overview of the project management structure and highlighted the role and responsibilities of the Project Coordination and Implementation Team, of the Steering Committee and of the Advisory Group. The meeting participants were informed on the planned three Steering Committee meetings and on the way of communication during the project period to ensure its successful implementation.

V.4 Discussion on monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Mr. Innocenti presented the monitoring, evaluation and reporting procedures of the project. He highlighted that in the Description of the Action document there are agreed indicators to measure the achievements towards the expected results and verification criteria through which the project management will assess progress.

A mid-term evaluation will be performed by an expert at the end of the 1st year of implementation to assess the achieved results and recommend to the Steering Committee needed corrective measures. At the end of the 2nd year of implementation (end of the intervention), the expert will conduct a final evaluation, which will also assess the relevance, sustainability and impact of the project results. In addition, the final evaluation report would provide recommendations for areas which will be still in need of investments for future regional and national disaster risk reduction projects and programmes.

One of the tools for keeping all partners aware for the on-going and planned activities will be the project website <http://www.preventionweb.net/ipadrr/>. Some parts of the website are still under construction. In addition to the public information accessible to all, the website will provide the opportunity for secure access to certain areas of concern of the Steering Committee members. They will be shortly provided an access to a password protected webpage where information not intended for public access will be uploaded.

V.5 Questions and Answers and wrap up discussion.

Dr. Dejan Komatina, the Secretary of the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) expressed the satisfaction of ISRBC being included as a project partner in the activities in Task 3, managed by the WMO. He considered these activities very relevant to the work the ISRBC. The ISRBC has infrastructure established to coordinate this kind of activities through Expert Groups for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues, Flood Prevention, and Accident Prevention and Control. This infrastructure can be utilized in the implementation of the project activities, especially regarding the tasks 3 and 6. Dr. Komatina pointed the importance of translating the project related documentation to local languages and envisaged collaboration between the project and its institution in this regard.

Dr. Silvo Zlebir, the Director of the Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia (EARS) indicated the need to proceed addressing DRR related issues through this kind of projects. EARS has supported the previous DRR/SEE project and has an interest to cooperate in the new project which would help building the resilience to disasters in Slovenia, as well. EARS, through the regional facilities that are hosted, the Drought Management Centre (DMC) and the Regional Instrument Centre (RIC) will continue acting as a resource for assistance and knowledge sharing.

Dr. Abdullah Ceylan the Acting Director from the Turkish State Meteorological Service (TSMS) wished that the concept of Multi-hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS), as well as, the evaluation process of the project should be well understood and defined. He also stressed the importance of taking into account in the project activities the different level of development of the IPA beneficiaries and their Hydrometeorological Services. **Dr. Maryam Golnaraghi** from the WMO responded by explaining the work WMO has been doing to define the different hazards and standardization of hazard related data and databases. She explained that the idea of MHEWS was to be able to deliver interlinked warnings through an integrated approach. She also stressed the importance of multi-stakeholder approach in early warnings, with civil protection having a crucial role. WMO has identified a number of good practices and principles for building effective MHEWS and the establishment of close operational cooperation and collaboration between the Hydrometeorological Services and the civil protection bodies is among the fundamental requirements. With regard to the monitoring and evaluation process, Mr. Ivanov pointed out the importance of receiving feedback from the beneficiaries in order to be able to customize and prioritize the activities, including the planned training events, taking into account the limitations of the project budget.

Mr. Milan Dacic, Director of the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia (RHMS) stressed the importance of the project to provide training and improve skills which would result in the improvement of the products provided to the end users. This would help to build trust of the users in the products and services provided by the NMHSs. One of the aims of the project should be to bring the lessons learned from the trainings back home and utilize them effectively in the work of the beneficiaries. To achieve this, the customization of the trainings and other capacity building events is important. The

sustainability of the project results would be achieved by supporting the decision-making process of the end users with high quality data and products. This was seen as a two-side interaction and the engagement of the stakeholders was crucial to ensure the sustainability of project results. Mr. Dacic pointed out the importance of the correct use of the name Kosovo in the project documents as defined by the UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99. He also expressed the willingness to cooperate and provide aid to Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244/99) and other beneficiaries.

Dr. Pande Lazarevski, the National Platform Coordinator and HFA Focal Point of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia shared the information of a Summit for the presidents of the South-Eastern European countries which will be organized in Skopje in June 2013. The main topic of the Summit will be climate change and disaster risk reduction. He suggested that this occasion could be used to promote project activities, for example by organizing some project event (e.g. 2nd Steering Committee meeting) in connection to the Summit. The Project management took note of this proposal for the planning of respective project events.

Mr. Muhamed Muminovic, Advisor for International Relations to the Director of the Federal Hydrometeorological Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo), stressed the importance of evaluating the lessons learned by the beneficiaries and the implementing organizations from the DRR/SEE Project (Phase I). The observed difficulties and shortcomings should be properly taken into account in the planning and implementation of the new Project activities.

Mr. Manfred Kloeppel, Scientific and Technical Assistant to the Director-General of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) noted the importance of guaranteeing the sustainability of the project results, especially regarding the Early Warning System (EWS). He pointed out that the EWS connects all the activities of the Project and the development of the respective capabilities of the project beneficiaries institutions will take years to develop. Therefore, there was a need for prioritization and step-by-step approach with the current Project activities being focused on the development of EWS capabilities for the core hazards for the region.

Ms. Daniela Topirceanu, Programme Manager from the European Commission DG Enlargement expressed that the proved involvement and interest of the beneficiaries was the main reason for further funding by the EU. Thus, the continuation of such support in the future would depend on the achievements of this new Project and meeting the established objectives and expected results. She explained that several kinds of funding opportunities existed to support the development of the sector and it was important that the beneficiaries voice their needs and proposals for further development. In addition, Ms. Topirceanu recommended that the beneficiaries should use the Steering Committee as a mechanism for expressing their views and needs for further developments and improvements in the field of DRR, as well as, monitor the implementation and undertake appropriate measures to ensure that the project will reach the results envisaged in a sustainable way.

Mr. Sergio Pasquini, Programme and Projects Coordination, EIG EUMETNET explained that at this stage EUMETNET cannot make a formal commitment to the project because there had been no consultation with EUMETNET during the preparation of the proposal which meant that EUMETNET Members had, in turn, not been consulted on any cooperation. However, Mr. Pasquini stated that he believed there is a strong alignment of the aims of the IPA/2012/UNISDR project with the EUMETNET Programmes which are in the process of being defined and established for the 5 year period starting in January 2013. A consultation with EUMETNET Members over this project and the possible role of EUMETNET in its

implementation will begin in October and conclude with the EUMETNET Assembly of Members in late November. Among the possible forms of cooperation, project beneficiaries may consider joining relevant EUMETNET programs which can then help in the delivery of the project goals, e.g., the EMMA programme that established and operates the Meteoalarm system.”

Ms. Ivana Ljubojevic, Head of DPPI SEE Secretariat, expressed the gratitude for being regarded as partners in the project as DPPI SEE connects the whole region in disaster preparedness and prevention activities and their involvement as the host of the regional knowledge management system supported by the project fits with the mandate of the organization. Additionally, she noted DPPI SEE involvement in the project would create an opportunity for other DPPI SEE member states (not being direct beneficiaries of the project) to be updated on the ongoing regional activities in the respective field.

Action agreed

UNISDR and WMO will share, along with the present report, with the member of the Steering Committee the project workplan for review and feedback from the beneficiaries with regard to the implementation schedule and any further details planning.

Date and venue of future steering committee meeting will be communicated in due time.

Annex 1: List of participants to the project Steering Committee Meeting and Advisory Group

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* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

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