



**Building Resilience to Disasters in
Western Balkans and Turkey**

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Task 1: Enhance the regional institutional capacity and coordination with respect to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and adaptation to climate change.

Background: Building disaster prevention and risk reduction capacities is an essential component of DRR planning and integral part of the second goal of the HFA while aligning procedures and practices in Disaster Risk Management with the EU countries is a step towards the accession of the IPA Beneficiaries. The project will support both goals through an exchange between the IPA Beneficiaries and selected EU countries. The experience matured by the project will be evaluated in its impact on the beneficiary institutions and if the outcome will be assessed as positive there is the potential for replication at larger scale.

Task Description: A number of beneficiaries' officers who have responsibilities in their institutions on issues related to DRR will acquire relevant knowledge in the areas of climate change adaptation and risk reduction through their engagement in the Exchange DRR Programme with EU selected countries. In turn this will result in an improved institutional DRR capacity and coordination at regional level.

Planned Activities: The task will involve expert/governmental representatives (including National Platforms coordinators, HFA Focal Points) and will address DRR and climate risk management issues. The programme will also address the needs identified by IPA Beneficiary countries towards sharing good practices in DRR with EU countries. Besides the organizations of the exchanges, a study guide will be developed for the beneficiary participants with learning elements. The participants' feedback of the experience will be collected through structured evaluation forms.

These activities shall be coordinated by a capacity building expert with experience in DRR training material. The expert shall develop the plan of the study tour in consultation with the beneficiaries and the EU countries, the study material.

The experience will be documented through a final report of which will be presented to the beneficiaries, donor and main stakeholders. The reports shall also include recommendations on future actions in terms of DRM/DRR/CRM capacity building interventions based on the lesson learnt from the implementation of the programme.

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Task 2: Strengthen the regional capacity and cooperation towards data and knowledge sharing on risks.)

Background: There is a wealth of material produced for Western Balkans and Turkey in Disaster Risk Management and Risk Reduction and there are regionally owned initiative such as DPPI SEE which are working to assure that information in DRR is effectively shared. The project intends to further strengthening the capabilities in knowledge and information sharing through a web portal which will be hosted by DPPI. The portal shall host a Knowledge Management System (KMS) in which documents, publications and media material dealing with DRM, DRR and CCA can be retrieved using a multiple language interface. The fact that the portal will host material in IPA Beneficiary language and its interface translated in the beneficiary languages shall assure effective information sharing in the beneficiary countries and in particular support the need of beneficiary institutions which are involved in DRM, DRR, and CCA.

Task Description: The KMS will be developed by an IT and Management Information Expert with experience in database development and webhosting. The KMS will bring to the IPA beneficiaries a dynamic database developed in multiple local languages, which can host documents, contacts and virtual working space for the regional DRR and CCA community of practitioners.

The system will also be open to further possibility of expansions to serve as regional hub for the collection and retrieving of data on disaster losses as a dynamic database which can produce online reports on disaster data in Western Balkans and Turkey.

Planned Activities: A KMS will be developed consisting of a web-accessible database of national and regional information specific to disaster risk reduction, including regional experts' contacts and resource material. This will be achieved through the work of an expert in Information Management who will design and develop the web-based system. The design will be undertaken based on consultation with the beneficiaries and UNISDR Information Management Unit.

In addition, there will be the consolidation of relevant information and publication and other content currently available. This material will be included in the KMS web portal.

Training guidelines on the use of the KMS will be developed and shared with IPA beneficiaries countries

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TASK 3. Enhance the regional risk assessment and mapping capacities through improved capacity of beneficiaries in hazard analysis and mapping

Background: Floods, droughts and forest fires are among highest priority hazards in the region, with severe impacts on safety of lives and economic losses across the whole region. As risk assessment at regional, national and local levels is the foundation for the development and implementation of any DRR strategy, methodologies and tools for production of risk assessment and mapping at the national and regional level should be developed and harmonized in the region for the priority hazards, based on common standards. This would be particularly crucial for cross-border hazards, such as flood and drought.

Task description: Under this task, a major effort will be undertaken in improving the historic meteorological and hydrological databases, including the rescue of available paper archives of relevant meteorological variables, data digitalization, homogenization and quality control, in accordance with the established international standards.

The task includes capacity building in development and utilization of hydrometeorological databases through training, as well as, procurement of new and/or upgrade of existing climate data management systems.

Particular attention is given to providing methodology for flood losses, as well as, hydrometeorological data exchange in the Sava River basin as a test-bed for implementation of such methodology in all IPA beneficiaries. In close coordination with the International Sava River Commission (ISRC) and its six Member Countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia), a pilot project will focus on enhancing capacities in flood risk assessment in the Sava River transboundary basin. It will focus on hydrological data management and exchange at the basin level, to provide the foundation of flood analysis and flood losses assessment.

Planned activities:

- Assessment of beneficiaries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo (under UNSCR1244/99)) needs for data rescue and climate data management systems and assisting in digitizing the meteorological variables. Procurement or upgrading the climate data management systems for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- Regional workshop on hydro-meteorological data management;
- Regional workshop on draught hazard analysis and mapping;
- Establishment of pilot project team and regional meeting to review existing practices and develop improved procedures for data management and exchange in the Sava River basin;
- Training on flood losses assessment.

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TASK 4: Enhance IPA Beneficiaries' capacity to forecast hazardous meteorological and hydrological phenomena and deliver timely warnings to support DRR

Background: One of the major contribution of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) to the disaster risk management comes through development and delivery of warnings, specialized forecasts and other products and services that are timely, understandable to those at risk, and driven by requirements of disaster risk reduction decision processes and operations.

Task description: This task targets the enhancement of the capacity of the NMHSs in providing better specialized products and services to the DRR stakeholders through extensive training of meteorological and hydrological forecasters in collaboration with training capacity of leading centres in Europe, thus ensuring transfer of knowledge, know-how and best practices. The aim of this task is to increase the availability and use of state-of-the-art forecasting methods and techniques with special emphasis on flood forecasting, introduction of quality management principles and culture, including further improvement of data quality and better cross-border collaboration in the forecasting and warning processes and dissemination of information.

Planned activities:

- On-the-job training at the National Meteorological Administration of Romania for forecasters on severe weather forecasting and warnings with the use of state-of-the-art technologies;
- Workshop on Severe Weather Forecasting at the ESSL Research and Training Centre;
- Upgrade of EUMETCast stations for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo (under UNSCR1244/99);
- Regional workshop on integrated flood management and flood forecasting;
- Continuation of integration of Meteoalarm (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- Regional workshop in Quality Managements Systems and their application in activities related to DRR;
- Assistance in calibration and maintenance of hydro-meteorological instruments (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

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Task 5: Develop the capacity needed to support climate risk management and climate change adaptation into national and regional DRR agenda

Background: Climate change and climate variations are affecting significantly the regime of the hydrometeorological hazards. The available climate projections for the South-East Europe indicate that the region would be affected by more frequent and severe disasters related to weather, water and climate, including floods and droughts. The mitigation of the related risks requires new capabilities for monitoring, assessing and predicting of hazardous conditions with longer lead time.

Task description: This task will concentrate on developing NMHSs capacities in drought monitoring and management, long-range forecasting with focus on seasonal forecasts, development and provision of specialized services and products in the field of insurance as well as development and provision of climate services for different economic sectors.

Planned activities:

- Secondment of experts from four beneficiaries to the Drought Management Centre for South-East Europe (DMC/SEE Ljubljana, Slovenia) for on-the-job training on specialized drought management tools
- Organisation of two sessions of the South-East Europe Climate Outlook Forum (SEECOF) including training on production of regional climate outlooks and interpretation of regional climate change scenarios;
- Regional training workshop in the use and interpretation of long-range forecasts, climate watch related aspects, and climate scenarios in application to various user sectors;
- Development of platform for provision of climate services in collaboration with the South-Eastern Europe Virtual Climate Change Centre (SEEVCCC) through secondment of two experts from beneficiaries to SEEVCCC;
- Workshop on activities related providing DRR related services for the insurance sector.

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Task 6: Design a regional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System composed of harmonized national Early Warning Systems within a regional cooperation framework

Background: In each country, the NMHS plays a key role in the establishment of an effective early warning system. Such systems should, with a multi-hazard approach, deliver accurate reliable and understandable warnings, in a timely fashion to authorities, emergency operations and the population at risk to enable preventative actions to reduce the impacts of potential disasters.

Task description: Within this task, a Design Team will be established to design a harmonized regional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS). The team will focus on the priority hazards affecting the region, including forest fires, heat waves, severe storms, floods and droughts. The design of the MHEWS will also be based on good practices that have been documented in detail by WMO. The main deliverable will be a design document which will be submitted to endorsement by relevant national and regional bodies, followed by presentation to potential donor organizations.

Planned activities:

- Gap analysis to identify the technological and institutional needs for building a regional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System;
- Establishment of the Design Team (consultants and experts from NMHSs) and conducting several meetings with an aim to produce design document for the regional MHEWS;
- Regional meeting on institutional collaboration regarding MHEWS and a forum to present the design document;
- Assistance for four NMHS Directors to attend the Informal Conference of South-east European Directors (ICSEED) of NMHSs.

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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, Europa Re and the South Eastern Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility

Background: Catastrophe and weather risk insurance products for homeowners, farmers and small-medium enterprises are crucial for ensuring adequate financial protection of their assets and business revenue in the case of natural disasters and to reduce government fiscal exposure to catastrophic events. To address the problem of almost non-existent catastrophe insurance penetration UNISDR and the World Bank supported the creation Europa Reinsurance (Europa Re – also known as South Eastern Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility), a specialty insurance services and reinsurance company which provides market infrastructure services and reinsurance to support sales of disaster insurance products in several IPA beneficiaries such as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Task description: In collaboration with the World Bank and Europa Re, UNISDR will build the capacity of beneficiary countries to develop catastrophe risk insurance markets through enhancing public risk and insurance awareness among homeowners and SMEs; train insurance agents in these countries on the key features of Europa Re web-based production platform and insurance products that will be supported by the platform; and will organize a regional conference to enhance the visibility and awareness on disaster risk transfer instruments available for the IPA beneficiaries.

Planned activities: Inter alia, the project will finance the development of a training package (in local languages) for insurance agents that would promote Europa Re insurance products in IPA states participating in Europa Re program. Based on the training material training sessions for insurers and insurance agents will be organized in the relevant IPA beneficiaries. The training module will be developed under the supervision of the World Bank and UNISDR experts and it will target insurance regulators and agents in the IPA beneficiaries included in the Europa Re scheme.

To enhance the awareness of Europa Re supported disaster insurance products, the project will also finance the production of flyers, brochures and other hand-out materials (in local languages) on Europa Re Program services and disaster insurance. This awareness material shall be distributed by insurance agents to their clients (including homeowners, farmers, businesses and SMEs) and be available for main conferences, meetings and events that in the region deal with DRR and climate change adaptation. Moreover a promotional video clip in local languages for internet media will be developed to promote catastrophe insurance and DRM in IPA countries participating in Europa Re program. The above mentioned activities will be carried out by a specialized insurance services company with advanced expertise in managing the risk of natural disasters.

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Task 8 Increase public awareness in relation to disaster risk reduction

Background: Citizen awareness of risks is a crucial element of any DRR intervention. The project will support activities aiming at developing a “culture” of risk among the IPA beneficiaries urban communities. It will do so supporting awareness initiatives such as the “Making Cities Resilient Campaign: My City is Getting ready!” and it will target mayors as entry point for local awareness of disaster risks.

Task description: The outcome of this task shall contribute to increase the awareness of the citizens living in urban areas and enhance their consciousness of the importance of disaster risk reduction to preserve their livelihoods and assets. On the other hand, local governments’ officials and local decision makers will be given the opportunity to enhance their knowledge on DRR through the development of specific knowledge products on DRR at community level such as a compendium of practices adopted to mitigate disaster risk in the cities of Western Balkans and Turkey.

The activities will build on the existing opportunities offered by the global UNISDR campaign on Making Cities Resilient and will develop awareness material such as flyers and media material in local languages for awareness rising in schools, hospitals and other public locations.

The project will also provide the support for mayors or representatives of local governmental unit to attend events related to urban planning for risk reduction and main regional and international events which promote the UNISDR campaign and urban safety.

Planned activities: Support to the implementation of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2011-2012 "Making Cities Resilient: My City Is Getting Ready" in the Western Balkans and Turkey through specific launching events in collaboration with the mayors and local authorities.

Development of brochures, flyers and other communication/visibility material to be published on web social networks and PreventionWeb on the importance of DRR for IPA countries citizens. The flyers will be distributed on major events in the region and through the contribution of the local governments in schools, hospitals and other centres of community aggregation to enhance awareness on DRR.

Support mayors and LGUs representatives to attend main event on reducing urban risks regionally and internationally and organization of a press conference with community representatives on awareness of community based DRR interventions.

Development of a compendium of good practices in urban risk reduction collected from the experiences of the Western Balkans and Turkish cities which participated in the World Disaster Reduction campaign

Finally relevant material concerning DRR will be translated in the IPA beneficiaries languages for information and awareness of the general public.