

# The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

## National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011)

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## Outcomes for 2007-2009

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### Area 1

*The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.*

#### **Outcomes:**

It has been recognized that full integration of DRR begins with the full integration of the basic doctrinary position into a general strategy, functional strategies and operational strategies for DRR. Such strategies are the basis for creating appropriate Multi- Hazard early warning systems, prevention, reaction and rehabilitation policies, such as sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels. Finally, the implementation of accident and disaster risk prevention policies (as well as programs and projects developed in this context) implies an appropriate normative framework.

A process of introducing of land-use planning, applying building codes and capacity development is underway. Also, steps forward have been made regarding capacity building as a non-structural risk prevention measure, and conceptual improvement and structural modernization of the Multi- Hazard early warning systems is planned.

### Area 2

*The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.*

#### **Outcomes:**

The strategic goal of the Republic of Macedonia is disaster prevention, functional Multi- Hazard early warning systems, mitigation and post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation. In order to fulfill these goals, the Government established a NPDRR to further coordination and cooperation among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders on national, local and community levels.

### Area 3

*The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.*

#### **Outcomes:**

There is progress regarding the implementation of the DRR mechanisms in practice through the improvement of the early warning and METEO-alarming systems and the introduction of the GIS platform. The NPDRR was established, among other things, to enhance the implementation of the emergency preparedness, response and recovery. There is some progress in terms of public awareness, confidence and stimulating DRR culture through educational material and campaigns.

# Strategic goals

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## Area 1

*The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.*

### **Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013:**

DRR has important position in both national and local development plans. The incorporation of the DRR system into the sustainable development plans is a government policy.

The adopted basic doctrinary position for accidents and disaster risk reduction is: "Prevention and early warning are the basis for preventing in total or the disasterous consequences of natural hazards or man-made accidents, while the preparedness of each stakeholder and their capability for coordinated and rapid response are preconditions for reducing the consequences and rapid mitigation of such accidents."

One goal is the full integration of the basic doctrinary position into a general strategy, functional strategies and operational strategies for DRR. Such strategies are the basis for creating appropriate prevention, reaction and rehabilitation policies, such as sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels. Finally, the implementation of accident and disaster risk prevention policies (as well as programs and projects developed in this context) implies an appropriate normative framework.

The full integration of the doctrinary position would enable more coherent approach to DRR.

## Area 2

*The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.*

### **Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013:**

A fully operative NPDRR implies developed and strengthened institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels. In this regard, the role of the Administrative level of the NPDRR is crucial, in particular of the Council of State Secretaries (presided by the Secretary-General of the Government) and the nine working groups working under its auspices:

- Normative-legal harmonization;
- Finances, insurance and procurement;
- Human resources planning, development and maintenance;
- Info-networking and resources registry;
- Standardization;
- Terminological unification;
- Public relations and public awareness;
- International funds access unit;
- International cooperation.

Furthermore, the Inspection Council (headed by the Minister of Justice) has the task of intensifying the cooperation of inspection bodies to advance coordinated inspectoral supervision, thus closing the circle of responsibility. The Inspection Council was set up to further effective inspectoral supervision within the framework of the National Platform.

Following the bringing of all 84 municipalities and the City of Skopje within the NPDRR, on the local, municipal level, Local Councils of the National Platform are being formed to assess local risks and

threats, coordinate resources and activities, organize rural and urban communities, and to cooperate with neighboring municipalities.

Particularly important is the fact that the entire concept heeds the rural and urban communities, whose position within the National Platform is clearly defined. Namely, apart from the fact that the presidents of the rural and urban communities are members of the Local Councils of the National Platform,

When the situation exceeds municipal boundaries, close cooperation with other affected municipalities and government structures (that have their local units and offices) is crucial. For this purpose, the so-called Regional Councils of the National Platform are set up, covering several geographically close municipalities.

The second strategic goal is to have fully operative NPDRR on all levels.

### **Area 3**

*The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.*

#### **Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013:**

The existence and implementation of effective DRR measures does not imply the complete elimination of threats. Despite taking prevention activities, some risk elements are difficult to remove. Furthermore, the multidimensional nature of accidents and disasters requires the engagement of many institutions which do not always cooperate under normal circumstances. As a result, strengthening coordination, information exchange and early warning mechanisms is essential to achieving effective and efficient accident management.

To further this end, an Emergency Operations System is planned within the National Platform. The harmonization of the different institutions is performed within the framework of the Emergency Operations System.

The system facilitates interagency harmonization during various danger phases, such as risk monitoring and assessment, but also during response phases, which require coordination in terms of providing emergency medical services, evacuation and sheltering, supply and critical infrastructure. Harmonization efforts continue up to the post-accident and disaster phases, including public works and debris removal, sanitation and decontamination, and psychological treatment.

In terms of each of the above-mentioned phases, the following is necessary: (1) Operative coordination, (2) Logistics coordination, (3) Institutional coordination, (4) Spatial coordination and, (5) Monitoring, early warning and alert

The following is also planned: Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems; Development of Flood and Drought risk assessment Capacities; Disaster Risk Reduction in a Changing Climate; Integration into European Meteorological Infrastructure; Upgrade institutional and technical capacity building.

## Priority for action 1

*Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.*

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### Priority for action 1: Core indicator 1

*National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.*

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

#### **Means of verification:**

- \* Is DRR included in development plans and strategies? Yes
- \* No: National development plan
- \* Yes: Sector strategies and plans
- \* Yes: Climate change policy and strategy
- \* No: Poverty reduction strategy papers
- \* No: Common Country Assessments (CCA)/ UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

#### **Description:**

The National Platform for DRR, has its roots in the following two key conceptual and strategic documents, as well as in several laws, one of which is crucial in this context: The National Security and Defense Conception(2003), the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia(2008) and the Law on Crisis Management(2005).

The key strategic documents and laws were adopted prior to the adoption of DRR concept and the establishment of the NPDRR. Hence, the DRR concept is not included as a whole, but the strategies and laws separately contain different DRR elements(such as prevention, early warning, preparedness etc.)

These documents are the fundamentals to what already is institutionalized as a NPDRR, which is entirely dedicated to providing an integrated, efficient and effective approach to prevention, early warning, management and mitigation of the consequences of natural and man-made accidents and disasters, while ensuring a functional unity of the state authorities, the local self-government, the NGO sector as well as the academic and business communities. Above mentioned documents imply development of governing system, structure(institutional network)and functional linkages that guarantee timely, systematic and coordinated response by NPDRR stakeholders, and planned buildup and optimal utilization of available resources(human, material-technical and financial).

As part of Council of State Secretaries, working groups on normative-legal harmonization, and terminological unification are responsible for harmonizing the laws and regulations related to DRR.

The Legal Council of NPDRR unites the highest decision-makers in the respective area with top representatives of the academic and business communities and NGOs.

The Ministry of Health developed the following:

Climate Change Health Adaptation Strategy, May 2010  
([http://www.toplotnibranovi.mk/en/en\\_strategija.asp](http://www.toplotnibranovi.mk/en/en_strategija.asp))

Heat Health Action Plan, November 2010,  
([http://www.toplotnibranovi.mk/en/en\\_akcionen\\_plan.asp](http://www.toplotnibranovi.mk/en/en_akcionen_plan.asp))

**Context & Constraints:**

Despite the achievements, there is still need for greater commitment, financial resources, catastrophe Insurance facility and financial risk transfer and operational capacities at all levels.

In this regard, DRR is still to be fully incorporated in many existing and future strategic concepts and development strategies, policies, laws, assessments and plans. For this purpose a review and further harmonization of the key documents is recommendable, so that all DRR elements could be incorporated, from prevention and early warning, through preparedness and response to mitigation.

**Priority for action 1: Core indicator 2**

*Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Means of verification:**

- \* Is there a specific allocation of budget for DRR in the national budget?
- \* 0 % allocated from national budget
- \* 0 USD allocated from overseas development assistance fund
- \* 0 USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)
- \* 0 USD allocated to stand alone DRR investments (e.g. DRR institutions, risk assessments, early warning systems)
- \* 0 USD allocated to disaster proofing post disaster reconstruction

**Description:**

The National Budget and the budgets of the municipalities, there are resources planned for disaster reduction. In this regard, the resources are planned for recovery and mitigation in case of: natural hazards, epidemics and environmental disasters, and they cannot be used for other purposes than the above mentioned.

Within the Council of State Secretaries, a working group on finances, insurance and procurements has been established.

As part of the thematic working groups of the NPDRR, separate working groups have been established for cooperation with insurance companies, the economic chamber and the business community and the trade unions.

**Context & Constraints:**

Further improvement is needed.

**Priority for action 1: Core indicator 3**

*Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Means of verification:**

\* Do local governments have legal responsibility and budget allocations for DRR? Yes

\* Yes: Legislation

\* Yes: Budget allocations for DRR to local government

**Description:**

On municipal level, multi-stakeholder Local Councils of NPDRR are formed to assess local risks and threats, coordinate resources and activities, organize rural and urban communities, and cooperate with neighboring municipalities. The municipality, when necessary, establishes local rescue and protection HQs, and the municipality and its mayor have specific duties arising from the Law on Local Self-Government and the Law on Rescue and Protection.

The position of rural and urban communities within the National Platform is clearly defined. The presidents of the rural and urban communities are members of the Local Councils of NPDRR, and are entitled to: (1) maintain regular communication with the Mayor and the CMC; (2) monitor risk conditions in the rural and urban communities that could be harmful to the life, health and property of citizens and infrastructure; (3) inform and prepare citizens for prevention and their participation in response to accidents and disasters; and, (4) to organize citizens and to coordinate rural and urban community activities in the event of accidents or disasters.

When the situation exceeds municipal boundaries, Regional Councils of the NPDRR are set up, covering several geographically close municipalities with tasks to organize risk and threat assessment when local (municipal) resources for response are depleted, to coordinate municipal resources and activities in the regional context, and to provide coordination with competent government bodies on the national level.

A regional HQ is established within Regional Council of the NPDRR, which depending on the risk and threat type convenes on a regular basis and in case of need.

The local and regional councils brief the municipal councils as well as the Steering Committee of the NPDRR of their work.

The Ministry of Local Self-Government is planned to lead a thematic working group on resilience of local communities.

**Context & Constraints:**

Understandably, implementation of the above-mentioned requires the personnel equipping, preparation and financing of the necessary activities.

**Priority for action 1: Core indicator 4**

*A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Means of verification:**

\* Are civil society organisations , national planning institutions, key economic and development sector organisations represented in the national platform? Yes

\* 42 civil society members (specify absolute number)

\* 53 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)

\* 2 women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)

**Description:**

NPDRR consists of ministries and governmental agencies(32), inspectorates(21), municipalities(85), public enterprises and services, NGOs(42), Institutes, research centers and observatories(79), laboratories(173), humanitarian organizations (9), stress and trauma treatment organizations (11), trading organizations relevant for DRR(21), the business community and religious communities.

NPDRR is organized on the interconnected and interdependent political, administrative, expert and operative levels

Political (decision-making) level: actively engaging the Government through the Steering Committee, (NPDRR managing body which consists of ministers, representatives of Parliament, President and Association of Municipalities.)

Administrative level: consists of the Council of State Secretaries(CSS), the Inspection Council, the specialized platforms and the thematic working groups. CSS(headed by the Secretary-General of the Government) has the task to bridge over the problems and to mark out administrative-expert decisions affecting NPDRR. Depending on the risk type, seven specialized platforms have been established and headed by competent ministries. Each platform has its Coordinative Council presided by the minister in charge, and each platform has a number of national risk prevention and management commissions. Thematic working groups relate to interdisciplinary issues and link two or more specialized platforms.

Expert level: scientific-technical and expert backbone of NPDRR is composed of academic institutions, public and private universities and research centers, observatories, and the National Laboratory Network. The Legal, Economic-Social, and Academic-Expert Councils, unite the highest decision-makers in the respective areas with top representatives of the academic and business communities and NGOs.

NPDRR is organized on national and municipal levels. However, when risks surpass municipal boundaries, Regional Councils covering several municipalities are established.

The position of a National Coordinator for Implementation of NPDRR was established, with a task to further coordination and communication among NPDRR stakeholders and to control the implementation and functioning of the Platform.

**Context & Constraints:**

Despite achievements, there is still need for sustained commitment and capacities at all levels.

The work of the Legal, Economic-Social and Academic-Expert Councils could be enhanced by establishing respective secretariats.

There is also need for strengthening the institutional capacities of the expert level, as well as the material-technical equipping of some of the laboratories consisting the National Laboratory Network.

Finally, the competences of the National Coordinator for Implementation of the NPDRR are yet to be determined.

## Priority for action 2

*Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.*

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### Priority for action 2: Core indicator 1

*National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.*

#### Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

#### Means of verification:

\* Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment available to inform planning and development decisions? No

\* No: Multi-hazard risk assessment

\* 0 % of schools and hospitals assessed

\* 0 schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)

\* No: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments

\* No: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments

#### Description:

The risk areas have been identified in the Spatial plan of the Republic, passed by the Parliament and made available. Within the crisis management system, the Assessment Group(AG) is responsible for the risk assessment. AG forwards its analysis, recommendations and conclusions to the Steering Committee, the Presidents of the Government, the Republic and Parliament.

Achievement has been made in fostering the risk assessment availability by setting networks that deal with specific risks and hazards. That is the case with the National Laboratory Network linking 173 labs nationwide that will address diseases and epidemics related hazards.

The implementation of the Geographic information system (GIS) network is underway that would enable spatial positioning and predicting possible hazard scenarios.

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, in collaboration with Hydrometeorological Service(HMS) established a River Monitoring System and Air Monitoring System(RIMSYS). Also, periodical and ad-hoc inspectoral control of potential polluters and specific, risk-prone industrial capacities and installations, potential sources of industrial accidents. All relevant data is disseminated and shared among involved NPDRR stakeholders.

HMS through World Meteorological Organization and European Commission has completed the project for Regional Cooperation in SEE for meteorological, hydrological and climate data Management and information exchange to support DRR.

Especially active in terms of earthquake risks are the Institute of Earthquake Engineering and

Engineering Seismology, IZIS, and the Seismological Observatory. IZIS' completed projects include:

- Physical and Psychological Management of Earthquake Related Emergencies in Schools in Macedonia; UNICEF (Completed 2004)
- Seismic Vulnerability Assessment of Key Health Facility in Macedonia - Pediatric clinic, Clinical center, Skopje; WHO (Completed 2006)

Among IZIS's ongoing projects, is: Assessment of Seismic Site Amplification and Seismic Building Vulnerability in Republic of Macedonia, Croatia and Slovenia; NATO - Science for Peace Programme; Contract: SfP 980857

**Context & Constraints:**

Despite achievements, there is still need for sustained commitment and capacities at all levels.

Although assessments for certain hazards are being produced (for instance: seismic activities, water pollution, heath waves etc.) there is still need for a multi-hazard risk assessment for all key sectors.

In order to produce reliable risk assessments, it is necessary to develop three types of methodologies: (1) Risk assessment and risk consequence assessment methodologies; (2) Risk mapping methodology; (3) Risk monitoring methodology. These methodologies are basis for developing the following assessments: (1) Assessment of events implying risk and threat; (2) Communal resilience and vulnerability assessment; (3) Competent institutions' capacity assessment (both actual and required capacity); (4) Damage assessment, as well as additional vulnerability assessment; (5) Assessment of quality of overall respond to occurred accidents and disasters.

The established thematic working groups are still not operational.

**Priority for action 2: Core indicator 2**

*Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Means of verification:**

- \* Are disaster losses systematically reported, monitored and analysed? No
- \* No: Disaster loss database
- \* No: Reports generated and used in planning

**Description:**

Substantial achievement has been attained regarding the regular, systematic, appropriate processes for dissemination and archiving of data, as well as the monitoring of risks, with special focus on the seismic activities and floods in the country and the region.

NPDRR serves to improve the production of regular, timely, systematic dissemination of data and risks monitoring. A thematic working group on early warning is established.

Merging of the emergency call centers of the police, ambulance, firefighters and State Operation Center(SOC, located at CMC)into one Emergency Call Service 112 as part of the E-112 System. In this

regard, the Early Warning and Alert System(part of the SOC, and, as such, is to be thoroughly reconstructed and modernized in the implementation process of the E-112 system. Implementation of national GIS network is underway, and will enable spatial positioning and predicting possible hazard scenarios. Once completed, GIS will be available online.

Seismic monitoring and disaster forecasting is performed by IZIIS in the fields of: (1)Strong motion network; (2)Special Site Monitoring - 3D Strong Motion Array; (3)Large scale qualitative and quantitative vulnerability, damage and loss assessments for defining preparedness and emergency response needs.

Seismological Observatory systematically monitors seismic activity on the territory of the Republic and Balkan seismic active regions. For the purpose of prevention and protection as well as for scientific and educational purposes, instrumental and macroseismic data are collected, archived, analyzed and published in seismological bulletins and catalogues as part of international seismological data exchange. Observatory deals with seismic zonic, microseismic zonic, geology, engineering seismology, Urban plan, construction, rules for aseismic construction, ecology and software for many different problems in seismology; many local and international projects; permanent seismological researches.

HMS is the representative governmental institution for hydrometeorological monitoring, data management, weather forecasts and early warnings.

### **Context & Constraints:**

The E-112 system, including GIS network, is still to be fully implemented and put into use. To further this end, it is important to authorize the National Coordinator for Implementation of NPDRR to monitor the activities of E-112 implementation.

The Law on electronic communications obliges IT and Telecom operators to make their network and infrastructure available to the state for the purpose of rapid dissemination of info in case of large accidents and disasters.

Furthermore, in order to correctly monitor hazards, it is essential to develop three sets of methodologies:

- (1) risk assessment and risk consequence assessment methodologies;
- (2) risk mapping methodology, based on theoretical knowledge and models, as well as on historic data of the specific event, should (with a high level of probability) confirm the:
  - location (answering the question: WHERE?);
  - circumstances leading to the phenomena implying risk (answering the question: HOW?);
  - expected intensity (answering the question: HOW MUCH / TO WHAT EXTENT?).
- (3) risk monitoring methodology (and practice) which can indicate a potential accident or disaster risk. In the context of an occurring accident or disaster, rapid assessment methodology is very important because it should provide:
  - damage and threat rapid assessment;
  - rapid needs assessment.

### **Priority for action 2: Core indicator 3**

*Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.*

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### **Means of verification:**

\* Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events?

Yes

\* Yes: Early warnings acted on effectively

\* No: Local level preparedness

\* No: Communication systems and protocols

\* No: Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination

### **Description:**

A thematic working group on early warning is established within NPDRR with the purpose to enhance inter-institutional cooperation and coordination.

The EWS is an integral part of the system for public informing and alarming in case of emergencies(PIACE). Currently, EWS is composed of over 250 remote control sirens grouped into 30 independent PIACE's. A project for modernization and improvement of the EWS by replacing the old, outdated equipment while utilizing modern information technologies is underway.

HMS has established integrated EWS for the Extreme Weather Events, based on radar, satellite, surface observation network and numerical weather forecasting. HMS established internal early warning procedure and practices using a standard scientifically approved methodology for determination of threshold of adverse weather phenomena in Macedonia for a normal climate period.

Seismic monitoring and disaster forecasting is performed by IZIIS in the fields of: (1)Strong motion network; (2)Special Site Monitoring-3D Strong Motion Array; (3)Large scale qualitative and quantitative vulnerability, damage and loss assessments for defining preparedness and emergency response needs.

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, in cooperation with HMS established a River Monitoring System and Air Monitoring System. Also, periodical and ad-hoc inspectoral control of potential polluters and specific, risk-prone industrial capacities and installations, potential sources of industrial accidents. All relevant data is disseminated and shared among involved NPDRR stakeholders.

The Ministry of Health educates the public on climate change risks related to health through its "Protecting health from climate change" web portal (<http://www.toplotnibranovi.mk/en/>); the Institute for Public Health is educating the public through its "EWS for Communicable Diseases Surveillance" (<http://www.alert.mk/en/index.asp>); CMC, in cooperation with the Macedonian Radio-Television (the public broadcasting service) produced a series of 36 TV debates covering DRR in 2009/2010.

### **Context & Constraints:**

Currently, the PIACE has conventional and often outdated (from the 1970s and 1980s) equipment. Although the sirens are still functional, most of them don't have an independent power source. Instead of utilizing the modern technologies by using the wireless system for information dissemination, the old copper wire is still used.

Merging of the emergency call centers of the police, ambulance, firefighters and State Operation Center (SOC, located at CMC) into one Emergency Call Service 112 as part of the E-112 System. In this regard, the Early Warning and Alert System is to be thoroughly reconstructed and modernized in the implementation process of the E-112 system.

## **Priority for action 2: Core indicator 4**

*National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.*

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

### **Means of verification:**

- \* Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional DRR programmes or projects? Yes
- \* Yes: Programmes and projects addressing trans-boundary issues
- \* Yes: Regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks
- \* No: Regional or sub-regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms
- \* No: Action plans addressing trans-boundary issues

### **Description:**

The establishment of the NPDRR gave new impetus to the sub-regional, regional and global involvement in DRR events, programs and projects. Following the establishment of the European Forum for DRR in London, 2009, the Republic of Macedonia was elected as Co-chair of the Forum with Sweden as Chair. In this capacity, the country headed the Advisory Group for Climate Change Adaptation & DRR. In October 2010, the Republic of Macedonia took over as Chair, with Croatia as Co-chair.

International cooperation with UN, EU, OSCE, NATO and foreign countries is endorsed. Especially important is the cooperation in the field of Environment and DRR with UNISDR, RENA, RCC, DPPI, CPM&MIC, within the project IPA Multi-beneficiary 2011-2013. Objective is to support alignment to environmental acquis and development of regional cooperation and capacity in the DRR area. IPA MB 2011-2013 has four strategic choices:

1. Enhancing the regional cooperation and capacity in addressing the DRR;
2. Developing the capacities for approximation, implementation and enforcement of the environmental acquis;
3. Enhancing the regional cooperation in managing hazardous materials during their life cycle (including CBRN);
4. Enhancing the regional cooperation in the area of climate change.

3-year Plan will be prepared by Program Manager, with direct support from RCC and the Republic of Macedonia (Lead Beneficiary for the Strategic Choice no.4), in consultation with other EC representatives and donors, taking into consideration proposals made by IPA Beneficiaries.

Within NPDRR Council of State Secretaries, working groups on international cooperation and international funds access unit have been established.

Cooperation is encouraged with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, other international humanitarian organizations, NGOs and other NPs.

There is Regional Cooperation in SEE for meteorological, hydrological and climate data management and information exchange to support DRR, including capacity building.

**Context & Constraints:**

The so-called “name issue” is more than an obstacle for the international cooperation and membership of the Republic of Macedonia in respective organizations. Due to that, we are out of the possibilities for enhanced cooperation and stability.

Although there is regional cooperation regarding natural hazards, further cooperation is always needed.

## Priority for action 3

*Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.*

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### Priority for action 3: Core indicator 1

*Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)*

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

#### **Means of verification:**

- \* Is there a national disaster information system publicly available? Yes
- \* Yes: Web page of national disaster information system
- \* No: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

#### **Description:**

Within the Council of State Secretaries, working group on info-networking and resources register, as well as a working group on public relations and public awareness have been established.

Certain achievements have been attained and a legal and institutional framework exists. The implementation of a national GIS network will enable spatial positioning and predicting possible hazard scenarios. Moreover, it is planned for GIS to be available online.

A National Laboratory network is launched that incorporates laboratories from universities, healthcare and other public and private institutions that will address diseases and epidemics related risks and hazards.

Also, there is progress on the implementation of E-112. Furthermore, there is a project on the introduction of a regional USWRN. The network will amplify the E-112 system and the EWS alarming system. It will also improve the coordination with all USW Radio systems in the country. The network of inspectorates will provide a coordinated and more efficient approach towards risk and disaster related issues.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

The information is partly available on the websites of the appropriate institutions. However, the hazard data is still not united and accessible from a united network.

Although many public and private institutions have the basic GIS software, they are not yet connected into a national GIS network that would enable rapid share and availability of data nationwide.

Supportive to E-112 is the concept of using media (TV and radio) and mobile phone operators by sending pre-fabricated messages providing pre-disaster warning, post-disaster announcement and messages containing information and guidelines for the citizens in the affected areas.

### Priority for action 3: Core indicator 2

*School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery*

*concepts and practices.*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Means of verification:**

\* Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum? Yes

\* Yes: Primary school curriculum

\* Yes: Secondary school curriculum

\* Yes: University curriculum

\* No: Professional DRR education programmes

**Description:**

The primary and high school curricula includes topics on risks and disasters, especially through the subject "Peace and tolerance".

Furthermore, as part of their program, CMC and RPD perform special training of teachers and members of the special task forces include DRR and recovery concepts and practices.

As part of the thematic working groups section of the NPDRR, it is planned for the Ministry of Education and Science to lead a multi-stakeholder thematic working group on prevention and disaster management in primary and secondary school curricula.

The Academic and expert council of the NPDRR brings together the highest decision-makers in the respective areas with top representatives of the academic and business communities and NGOs.

There is institutional framework for development of methods, techniques and standards, as well as training of professionals for reducing seismic and flooding risks (both M.A. and PhD) at the Institute of Seismological and Earthquake Engineering (IZIIS), the Seismological Observatory, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (both part of the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius-Skopje.) The present IZIIS Education Curricula is based on the actual needs in modern civil engineering, particularly in seismically active regions where the interest in structural engineering, earthquake engineering, engineering seismology and related scientific fields (static and seismic design, engineering seismology, static and seismic design of high-rises, static and seismic design of engineering structures, specific seismic problems in geotechnics, ecology in seismic regions) is increasing.

A process of setting up a national crisis management educational and training network has begun, including universities, vocational schools, and other educational institutions, such as the Military Academy and police training facilities by planning to interpolate crisis management modules in their existing curriculums.

**Context & Constraints:**

Currently, there is no systematic education and training of personnel on prevention and early warning for risks and hazards due to institutional overlapping of competences. To overcome these issues, it is planned for NPDRR to launch a multi-stakeholder thematic working group on prevention and disaster management in primary and secondary school curricula.

### Priority for action 3: Core indicator 3

*Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.*

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

#### **Means of verification:**

- \* Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget? Yes
- \* Yes: Research outputs, products or studies
- \* No: Research programmes and projects
- \* No: Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR

#### **Description:**

Under the NPDRR, the implementation of DRR policies, imply the development of methodologies based on which risk and threat assessments will be conducted and accident and disaster scenarios will be developed. Reliable assessments and scenarios are prerequisites for developing plans for preparedness, prevention and operations as well as standard operational procedures. The methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans and procedures are to be frequently checked through a system of drills and simulations, which assist in the development of institutional and civil response capacity and the verification and improvement of operative solutions.

In order to produce reliable risk assessments, it is necessary to develop three types of methodologies:

1. Risk assessment and risk consequence assessment methodologies;
2. Risk mapping methodology;
3. Risk monitoring methodology;

These methodologies are basis for developing the following assessments:

1. Assessment of events implying risk and threat;
2. Communal resilience and vulnerability assessment;
3. Competent institutions' capacity assessment (both actual and required capacity);
4. Damage assessment, as well as additional vulnerability assessment;
5. Assessment of quality of overall respond to occurred accidents and disasters.

The assessments are basis for developing escalation scenario.

In November 2009 the European Center on Vulnerability of Industrial and Lifeline Systems (ECILS) developed and published "Guidelines for development of methodologies for assessment of risks and hazards and their implications." The guideline, which serves as instruction on how to develop risk assessment, risk consequence assessment, risk mapping and risk monitoring methodologies, was distributed to all NPDRR stakeholders.

Integration into European Meteorological Infrastructure (EUMETSAT, EUMETNET and ECMWF).

Furthermore, a formal proposal for the National Coordinator for Implementation of NPDRR to organize and coordinate the development of methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans, procedures has been submitted to the Government.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

Despite the achievements, there is still need for substantial commitment in terms of research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis.

In order to achieve harmonization and avoid overlapping, there is need for coordinated development of DRR related methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans and procedures.

Furthermore, there is currently no study on economic costs and benefits of DRR.

### **Priority for action 3: Core indicator 4**

*Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.*

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

#### **Means of verification:**

- \* Do public education campaigns on DRR reach risk-prone communities? Yes
- \* Yes: Public education campaigns.
- \* Yes: Training of local government
- \* Yes: Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level

#### **Description:**

NPDRR stakeholders organize public education campaigns, training of local government in their domain of work and often post DRR related information, manuals and publications.

For instance, the Ministry of Health educates the public on climate change risks related to health through its "Protecting health from climate change" web portal (<http://www.toplotnibranovi.mk/en/>); the Institute for Public Health is educating the public through its "Early Warning System for Communicable Diseases Surveillance" (<http://www.alert.mk/en/index.asp>); CMC, in cooperation with the Macedonian Radio-Television (the public broadcasting service) produced a series of (38) TV debates "Hello, 195" covering DRR through various risks in the period 2009/2010.

Several publications and booklets on DRR were published and distributed to NPDRR stakeholders and the general public, including:

- Lazarevski, P., Gjorgon, N., Taleski M., (ed.) National Platform of the Republic of Macedonia for Disaster Risk Reduction, CMC, Skopje, 2010, (in Macedonian and English);
- Manual for citizens: crisis management system, UNDP, Skopje, 2009;

Following the adoption of NPDRR, Local Councils of NPDRR were established, and training and workshops for the Mayors and other members of the Local Councils were held. The purpose was to inform them of the NPDRR, the obligations and competences of the Local and Regional Councils of the NPDRR.

Within the Council of State Secretaries, a working group on public relations and public awareness has been established. Furthermore, one of the thematic working groups that is planned to be created within

NPDRR is a thematic working group on media and public awareness. In this regard, NPDRR implies the creation of a second working group on resilience of local communities, led by the Ministry of Local Self-government.

**Context & Constraints:**

Despite the achievements, there is need for sustained commitment and capacities at all levels. For this purpose, a public awareness strategy on DRR related issues is needed, that would be developed with involvement of all relevant stakeholders, especially the local communities.

The thematic working group on media and public awareness is yet to be established in accord with the Government adopted NPDRR.

## Priority for action 4

*Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.*

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### Priority for action 4: Core indicator 1

*Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.*

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

#### **Means of verification:**

\* Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc) Yes

\* Yes: Protected areas legislation

\* No: Payment for ecosystem services (PES)

\* No: Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)

\* Yes: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)

\* Yes: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes

#### **Description:**

Within NPDRR, Platform on Environmental Risks has been established and led by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MEPP), incorporating national commissions in the fields of: air pollution; waters pollution; soil pollution; bio-diversity; global warming and climate change (CC); dumpfields incidents; industrial facilities and refineries incidents; dangerous materials storage incidents.

Within the thematic working groups, a "Working Group on CC/Repercussions and Adaptation" is led by the National Committee for Climate Change. A thematic working group on Forestation is led by "Tree Day-Plant your Future" civic initiative.

Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) is high on the agenda. The lead beneficiary for the 4th strategic choice within IPA-MB-2011-2013 (enhancing the regional cooperation in the area of CC), is the Republic of Macedonia. As Co-chair of the European Forum for DRR in 2010, Macedonia leads the Advisory group on CCA&DRR.

Integration of risk reduction in environmental policies and plans is addressed by the Law on environment, which transposes SEVESO II Directive. Achievements have been made in providing consolidated national guidelines on carrying out the Strategic Environmental Assessment-SEA and applying SEA directive, drawing on the available "best practices" within current EU member-states and experience from the possible conduct of pilot cases in the country.

Progress has been made through prepared the guidelines and improved the practice of introduction of risk and safe management issues in the EIA and Land-use Planning Policies. There is also flood risk

management. Government adopted a unified EIA form and EIAs are being prepared, updated and adopted. Agency for State Roads prepared an EIA study for the highway E-75(Corridor10)

Ministry of Health developed a Climate Change Health Adaptation Strategy and Heat Health Action Plan.

Appropriate legislation exists for the protection and preservation of the three national parks.

**Context & Constraints:**

It is recognized that additional progress on the incorporation of DRR strategies in the environmental policies is always needed.

Achievements are been made in providing consolidated national guidelines on carrying out the Strategic Environmental Assessment-SEA and applying SEA directive, drawing on the available "best practices" within current EU member-states and experience from the possible conduct of pilot cases in the country. Prescribing the contents of the environmental report in secondary legislation. Prescribing in secondary legislation public consultation procedures; Carry out training of relevant staff in MEPP and other relevant ministries; and in enterprises accredited to prepare urban and spatial plans.

**Priority for action 4: Core indicator 2**

*Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Means of verification:**

- \* Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities? No
- \* Yes: Crop and property insurance
- \* Yes: Employment guarantee schemes
- \* No: Conditional cash transfers
- \* No: DRR aligned poverty reduction, welfare policy and programmes
- \* No: Microfinance
- \* No: Micro insurance

**Description:**

The social development and social vulnerability issues fall within the competences of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, which gives the institutional backing.

The legal framework is the Law for social protection, which regulates the preconditions and procedures for granting financial (up to two average monthly wages) and other assistance (such as clothes, food, and other necessities) to those individuals and families who were in a vulnerable position due to hazards and epidemics and other social crisis.

The NPDRR has a multisectoral cooperation network that includes governmental (such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Planning and the Ministry of Health) and non-governmental stakeholders (like the Macedonian National Council of the Organizations of the Disabled, the Macedonian Red Cross, the Macedonian Medical Association, etc.)

Within NPDRR, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy is leading the thematic working groups responsible for institutional coordination the field of protection of the following vulnerable populations in case of accidents and disasters: children, elderly people, people with physical disabilities, psychical and mental disabilities, as well as working groups related to gender issues and preschool institutions.

Responsible for coordinating the efforts in term of insurance, is the working group on finances, insurance and procurements.

Furthermore, one of the Advisory councils of NPDRR is the Economic and Social Council that brings together the highest decision-makers in the respective areas with top representatives of the academic and business communities and the NGO sector.

Finally, the CMC, in collaboration with the UNDP and the Government of Japan, implements a project on strengthening the capacities of the CMC in terms of gender perspective and human rights. One of the key activities is the “drafting of a national plan for crisis management in accordance with gender issues.

**Context & Constraints:**

Further improvement of the laws and mechanisms is needed.

**Priority for action 4: Core indicator 3**

*Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Means of verification:**

- \* Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment? No
- \* No: National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.
- \* No: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

**Description:**

There is institutional commitment regarding the implementation of the economic and productive sectorial policies and plans for reduction of the vulnerability of the development areas (such as water resource management, poverty alleviation and development planning.) Also, systematic socio-economic impact and loss analysis is carried out.

The role of the Inspection Council within NPDRR is crucial in terms of intensifying the cooperation among inspectorates in order to advance coordinated inspectoral supervision, thus closing the circle of responsibility. The Inspection Council was set up to further effective inspectoral supervision within the framework of the NPDRR.

In that respect, the CMC is improving the intersectoral cooperation with all governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations such as the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

**Context & Constraints:**

Further improvement and implementation is always needed.

**Priority for action 4: Core indicator 4**

*Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Means of verification:**

- \* Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements? Yes
- \* Yes: Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas
- \* No: Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas
- \* No: Training of masons on safe construction technology
- \* No: Provision of safe land for low income households and communities

**Description:**

There are systematic, appropriate processes and legal frameworks that define the construction procedures and standards regarding the seismic activities, especially in the aftermath of the great Earthquake of 1963. Following independence, the quality of building construction had declined due to the decrease of the economic potentials, the privatization of the large construction companies as well as the weakening of the control system. In recent years, there is greater control in terms of enforcement of building codes, especially public buildings.

In order to achieve earthquake risk reduction, based on the proposals of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Government is currently amending the legislation by making seismic project compulsory for any future buildings, thus strengthening the building codes.

There is a legal framework and certain achievements in terms of flood prevention by the construction of proper protection facilities (dams, river banks etc.), as well as planning of preventive measures. Although landslides related issues are not regulated by a special law, they are addressed in the Law on spatial and urban planning. The landslides and floods prone areas are excluded from urbanization by the plans for urban planning in order to minimize the damages.

In order to improve the process of planning and managing of human settlements by incorporating DRR elements, a intersectoral network of state inspectorates headed by the Inspection Council of the NPDRR, was established The Inspection Council was set up to further effective inspectoral supervision within the framework of the NPDRR.

In order to achieve earthquake risk reduction, based on the proposals of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Government is currently amending the legislation by making seismic project compulsory for any future buildings, thus strengthening the building codes.

The principles and activities are included and implemented through the national, regional and local Spatial Plans.

**Context & Constraints:**

Although there are systematic, appropriate processes and legal frameworks that define the construction procedures and standards regarding the seismic activities, in the last two decades, the quality of building construction has declined due to the decrease of the economic potentials, the privatization of the large construction companies as well as the weakening of the control system. The Inspection network, headed by the Inspectoral Council should be the correction tool that will improve the process of planning and managing of human settlements by incorporating DRR.

**Priority for action 4: Core indicator 5**

*Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Means of verification:**

- \* Do post-disaster recovery programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR? Yes
- \* 0 % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR
- \* Yes: Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery

**Description:**

Substantial achievements have been attained. A legal framework and rehabilitation and post disaster recovery processes exist. Good practices in disaster risk reduction in the Republic of Macedonia exist. After the great Skopje flood of 1979, flood control solutions have been applied, consisting of systematic measures for regulation of the riverbanks and the river bed of Vardar through the City of Skopje as well as the construction of dam-reservoir for collection of flooding waves.

Following the great wildfires of 2007, a process of forestation was initiated, supported by the Government and NGO sector resulting with mass participation. Annually, two working days are `days of the tree`, during which all citizens are encouraged to plant a tree, in order to renew the forests, improve the environment, thus introducing disaster risk reduction in practice. Over 20 million trees have been planted in the past 3 years(in six days, two days per year). In the next decade, the Macedonian forests will expand by additional 100.000ha of currently arid land. Once they reach the right age, these 100.000ha of forests will annually absorb at least 250.000 tons of CO2.

A legal framework exists and technical basis, expert and scientific capacities are included in the rehabilitation process, depending on the urgency and need for action. For instance IZIIS provides assistance in mitigating the earthquake consequences and post-disaster recovery:

- Post disaster needs assessment, damage surveys, assessment of physical, functional and economic losses;

- Assessment of social effects of disasters, effective planning of measures and mechanisms for economic revitalizations and compensation to victims;
- Planning of all-level immediate-, short-, medium- and long term measures and activities for disaster response, recovery, re-development and seismic protection of disaster struck regions.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

Although a National Concept exists, reforms and amendment of the existing laws, regulations as well as organizational and institutional recomposing of the crisis management system is needed.

#### **Priority for action 4: Core indicator 6**

*Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.*

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

#### **Means of verification:**

\* Are the impacts of major development projects on disaster risk assessed? Yes

\* Yes: Assessments of impact of projects such as dams, irrigation schemes, highways, mining, tourist developments etc on disaster risk

\* No: Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

#### **Description:**

There is institutional commitment as well as substantial achievements regarding the risk assessment process on the public infrastructure, such as dams and roads.

Also, there are systematic, appropriate processes and legal frameworks that define the construction procedures and standards regarding the seismic activities, especially in the aftermath of the great earthquake of 1963.

There is a legal framework and certain achievements in terms of flood prevention by the construction of proper protection facilities (dams, river banks etc.), as well as planning of preventive measures.

Although landslides related issues are not regulated by a special law, they are addressed in the Law on spatial and urban planning. The landslides and floods prone areas are excluded from urbanization by the plans for urban planning in order to minimize the damages.

NPDRR secures coordination among stakeholders in terms of incorporating DRR measures in existing procedures, and developing appropriate strategies, policies, legislation, methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans and procedures.

Within NPDRR, the Ministry of Transport and Communications coordinates the Specialized Platform on Risks in the domain of infrastructure, dealing with: earthquakes; landslides; security of telecom and IT networks; water safety; electric power and gas; sewage; floods; traffic accidents; railway accidents; air traffic accidents; lake accidents; public and residence buildings.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management is coordinating the Specialized Platform on Risks in the Domain of agriculture, forestry and water management, including: epizooties; ephythies; forest fires; channels and dams; low and high temperature extreme weather conditions.

The Ministry of Health is responsible for coordinating the Platform on health related risks: epidemics; mass injuries; stress and trauma; food safety; water safety; safety and availability of medicines, materials and equipment.

**Context & Constraints:**

Although there are systematic, appropriate processes and legal frameworks that define the construction procedures and standards regarding the seismic activities, in the last two decades, the quality of building construction has declined due to the decrease of the economic potentials, the privatization of the large construction companies as well as the weakening of the control system.

Also, due to legal and institutional gaps there was a lack of coordination between the relevant institutions, which resulted with overlapping of competences and poor quality in the process of control of development and construction of crucial infrastructure.

## Priority for action 5

*Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.*

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### Priority for action 5: Core indicator 1

*Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.*

#### Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

#### Means of verification:

- \* Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies? No
- \* No: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety
- \* No: Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness

#### Description:

Substantial achievement has been attained regarding the strengthening of the capacities among NPDRR stakeholders.

#### Context & Constraints:

Further progress needed

### Priority for action 5: Core indicator 2

*Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.*

#### Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

#### Means of verification:

- \* Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster? No
- \* No: Contingency plans with gender sensitivities
- \* Yes: Operations and communications centre
- \* Yes: Search and rescue teams
- \* No: Stockpiles of relief supplies
- \* Yes: Shelters
- \* No: Secure medical facilities

\* No: Dedicated provision for women in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities

**Description:**

Disaster preparedness and response planning is in progress on all administrative levels (national, regional, local, as well as within public and private enterprises, public institutions and the state administration.)

The plans are made available to the national and local rescue and protection forces as well as to the other units responsible for the protection of the people and goods. They are also provided with special crisis management training courses that have been tested on drills.

Thus far, many institutions have preparedness plans. For instance, the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the WHO, is developing response plans for the local hospitals. The Ministry of Health is also preparing the reorganization of the First Aid Services in accordance with E-112.

Within NPDRR, a process of defining methodologies, assessments and scenarios is under way. Depending on the assessments and scenarios, the following plans are to be prepared:

- Preparedness plans;
- Prevention plans;
- Operations plans.

The implementation of all plans requires clear and precise procedures. Successful achievement of the goals requires the following standard operative procedures: (1) Internal S.O.Ps in usual activities, (2) Internal S.O.Ps in a case of emergency, (3) Interoperability S.O.Ps in a case of emergency. All this should provide clear understanding of the threat and organized respond with maximal effect with the available resources.

**Context & Constraints:**

Although many institutions have preparedness plans, due to certain legal inconsistencies, there is institutional overlapping of the competences in terms of the creation of disaster and contingency plans and conduct of drills. For this purpose, it is necessary to follow the logical and methodical framework of the NPDRR. This implies defining the appropriate methodologies, assessments and scenarios before developing the plans and procedures.

**Priority for action 5: Core indicator 3**

*Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Means of verification:**

\* Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster? Yes

\* Yes: National contingency funds

\* No: Catastrophe insurance facilities

\* No: Catastrophe bonds

**Description:**

In order to enable households, farmers and small and medium companies to use insurance from natural disasters, thus enabling effective protection from losses caused by natural disasters, the establishment of "EUROPA RE", a specialized regional company for reinsurance of disaster risks has been initiated. In December 2010 the Government led negotiations with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development – World Bank for signing a Loan Agreement for financing the Regional Project for Disaster Risk Insurance and will join other countries from Southeastern Europe and the Caucasus.

Financial reserves for the CMS needs are dedicated from the state Budget (Law on Crisis Management, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, no. 64/2005, 4/2008)

The executive branch is actively involved in the process of distribution and use of the DRR designated resources. In that respect, there is mutual cooperation and involvement of the private sector and the Government in the disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, the Parliament finances the system by amending the state budget. Finally, on national level, financial resources can be acquired from other sources as well.

As part of their budgets, the municipalities and the local public institutions are ought to have emergency assigned resources. However, the DRR budget, especially regarding the prevention, alleviation, development and preparedness is largely dispersed and insufficient.

Within the Council of State Secretaries of the NPDRR, a working group on finances, insurance and procurements is established.

**Context & Constraints:**

While the institutional setting has been well defined, the full implementation faces some challenges regarding the attaining of financial resources.

**Priority for action 5: Core indicator 4**

*Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Means of verification:**

- \* Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur? Yes
- \* Yes: Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available
- \* Yes: Post disaster need assessment methodologies
- \* No: Post disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects
- \* No: Identified and trained human resources

**Description:**

In order to produce reliable risk assessments, it is necessary to develop three types of methodologies:

- Risk assessment and risk consequence assessment methodologies;
- Risk mapping methodology;
- Risk monitoring methodology;

These methodologies are basis for developing the following assessments:

- Assessment of events implying risk and threat;
- Communal resilience and vulnerability assessment;
- Competent institutions' capacity assessment (both actual and required capacity);
- Damage assessment, as well as additional vulnerability assessment;
- Assessment of quality of overall respond to occurred accidents and disasters.

In November 2009 the European Center on Vulnerability of Industrial and Lifeline Systems (ECILS) developed and published "Guidelines for development of methodologies for assessment of risks and hazards and their implications." The guideline, which serves as instruction on how to develop risk assessment, risk consequence assessment, risk mapping and risk monitoring methodologies, was distributed to all NPDRR stakeholders.

The assessments are basis for developing escalation scenario. SOPs that enable constant and timely communication and coordination are fully implemented within various institutions. Each public and private institution and enterprise has internal SOPs. However, there is need for multi-sectorial SOPs, which would be the result of previously defined methodologies, assessments, scenarios and plans.

Furthermore, a formal proposal for the National Coordinator for Implementation of NPDRR to organize and coordinate the development of methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans, procedures has been submitted to the Government.

In terms of human resources identification, a Working group within the Council of State Secretaries is responsible for human resources.

**Context & Constraints:**

Some institutional challenges exist, such as overlapping competences and institutional dualism.

The multi-sectoral methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans and procedures are yet to be defined and implemented.

Although many institutions have preparedness plans, due to certain legal inconsistencies, there is institutional overlapping of the competences in terms of the creation of disaster and contingency plans and conduct of drills. For this purpose, it is necessary to follow the logical and methodical framework of the NPDRR. This implies defining the appropriate methodologies, assessments and scenarios before developing the plans and procedures.

## Drivers of Progress

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### a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

#### Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

#### Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?:

Yes

#### If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy?:

Yes

#### Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

There is partial reliance regarding the multi-hazard integrated approach to DRR and development. The legal framework entrusts the Government to define the security threats assessment for the Republic of Macedonia from all hazards and dangers. One of the purposes of NPDRR is the development of a set of assessments:

- Assessment of events implying risk and threat;
- Communal resilience and vulnerability assessment;
- Competent institutions' capacity assessment (both actual and required capacity);
- Damage assessment, as well as additional vulnerability assessment;
- Assessment of quality of overall respond to occurred accidents and disasters.

The institutional set of the multi-hazard system is embodied through the NPDRR which consists of seven Specialized Platforms (health-related risks; haz-mat risks; environmental risks; industrial accidents; risks in the domain of agriculture, forestry and water management; risks in the domain of cultural heritage) covering 40 specific risks. The coordinative councils of the Specialized Platforms bring together all relevant stakeholders.

Furthermore, the multi-hazard approach of the NPDRR is strengthened through the thematic working groups which relate to issues and problems that are interdisciplinary in character and whose different aspects fall into the scope of interest of various government and non-government structures on both local and national levels, and, as such, are linked to two or more specialized platforms.

### b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized

#### Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

#### Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

There is partial reliance regarding the gender perspectives on DRR and institutionalization. Among the 42 national federations of NGOs and professional associations that are part of the NPDRR, two are gender related: National Women's Council and the Macedonian Women's Lobby.

The CMC, in collaboration with the UNDP and the Government of Japan, implements a project on strengthening the capacities of the CMC in terms of gender perspective and human rights. One of the

key activities is the “drafting of a national plan for crisis management in accordance with gender issues.”

### **c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened**

#### **Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

#### **Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

Capacity developments requires identification, strengthening and linking of existing resources, while acquiring new resources where needed. For this purpose, a set of risk assessment and risk consequence assessment methodologies are to be developed, referring to: (1)Risk assessment related to the occurrence of phenomena implying risk; (2)Communal resilience and vulnerability assessment; (3)Competent institutions' capacity assessment (both actual and required capacity); (4)Damage assessment, as well as additional vulnerability assessment (the possibility of additional damages and losses) of occurred accidents and disasters; (5)Response assessment; (6)Financial implications assessment for prevention, response and rehabilitation (both direct and immediate assessments and indirect assessments from a time distance).

Based on these methodologies, the following relevant assessments should be developed:

(1)Assessment of events implying risk and threat; (2)Communal resilience and vulnerability assessment; (3)Competent institutions' capacity assessment (both actual and required capacity); (4)Damage assessment, as well as additional vulnerability assessment; (5)Assessment of quality of overall respond to occurred accidents and disasters.

To further this end, the Council of State Secretaries has nine working groups: (1)Normative-legal harmonization; (2)Finances, insurance and procurement; (3)Human resources planning, development and maintenance; (4)Info-networking and resources registry; (5)Standardization; (6)Terminological unification; (7)Public relations and public awareness; (8)International funds access unit; (9)International cooperation.

### **d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities**

#### **Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

#### **Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

There is partial reliance regarding the integration of human security and social equity into DRR and recovery activities.

NPDRR has a section dedicated to vulnerable populations. Thematic working groups responsible for institutional coordination the field of protection of the following vulnerable populations in case of accidents and disasters: children, elderly people, people with physical disabilities, psychical and mental disabilities, as well as working groups related to gender issues and preschool institutions.

Among the NPDRR stakeholders, there are 42 national federations of NGOs and professional associations, some of which deal with socially vulnerable populations, such as the Red Cross, the National Council of Organizations dealing with Physical Disabilities, the National Woman's Council, the Macedonian Women's Lobby, the Alliance of Association of Retired People. Furthermore, among

NPDRR's stakeholders are 9 humanitarian organizations dealing with socially vulnerable populations.

Also, a joint UNDP and CMC project puts focus on the socially vulnerable groups, including good practices, such as bringing the attention of the groups through flyers printed on all languages of the ethnic communities.

### **e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels**

#### **Levels of Reliance:**

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

#### **Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

NPDRR is fully dedicated to engaging the non-governmental actors. To further coordination and cooperation in dealing with specific accidents, disasters, risks and threats, NPDRR consists of 42 national federations of NGOs and professional associations (including the National Organization of the Red Cross and Red Crescent); 9 humanitarian organizations; 79 institutes, research centers and observatories; 173 laboratories; 11 stress and trauma treatment organizations; 21 trading organizations relevant for DRR; the business community and; last but not least, all religious communities.

The cooperation with the NGOs, the civil society, the private business is done within several institutional frameworks:

Three Advisory Councils: the Legal, the Economic-Social, and the Academic-Expert Council, as a framework uniting the highest decision-makers in the respective areas with top representatives of the academic and business communities and the NGO sector.

The thematic working groups represent a special part of the National Platform for DRR. They relate to issues and problems that are interdisciplinary in character and whose different aspects fall into the scope of interest of various government and non-government structures on both local and national levels, and, as such, are linked to two or more specialized platforms.

### **f) Contextual Drivers of Progress**

#### **Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

#### **Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

There is partial reliance regarding the contextual drivers of progress.

First and foremost, the institutional framework of NPDRR is determined by a governmental decision. The NPDRR serves as a mechanism for governmental and non-governmental coordination on national, local and community levels. It is a framework uniting the highest decision-makers in the respective areas with top representatives of the academic and business communities and the NGO sector.

The second level consists of the development of general strategy, functional strategies, policies, operative strategies, programmes and projects, as well as specific legal solutions should be determined for each specific risk considering each risk (e.g. epidemics or earthquakes), followed by development of methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans and procedures. Certain achievements have been attained on all three levels.

# Future outlook

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## Area 1

*The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.*

### **Overall Challenges:**

The Republic of Macedonia faces certain challenges in the implementation of the Disaster Risk Reduction strategies into the sustainable development plans and programs.

The key strategic documents and laws were adopted prior to the adoption of DRR concept and the establishment of the NPDRR. Hence, the DRR concept is not included as a whole, but the strategies and laws separately contain different DRR elements (such as prevention, early warning, preparedness etc.)

### **Future Outlook Statement:**

DRR has important position in both national and local development plans. The incorporation of the DRR system into the sustainable development plans is a government policy.

One goal is the full integration of the basic DRR doctrinary position into a general strategy, functional strategies and operational strategies for DRR. Such strategies are the basis for creating appropriate prevention, reaction and rehabilitation policies, such as sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels. Finally, the implementation of accident and disaster risk prevention policies (as well as programs and projects developed in this context) implies an appropriate normative framework.

The planned full integration of the doctrinary position would enable more coherent approach to DRR, hence more effective integration of DRR considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels.

## Area 2

*The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.*

### **Overall Challenges:**

The Republic of Macedonia faces a number of legal, institutional, operational and capacity challenges. Thus far, there are some limitations due to institutional overlapping of competences, leading to lack of cooperation and coordination. Therefore, legislative reform is needed.

### **Future Outlook Statement:**

A fully operational NPDRR will serve as a mechanism for governmental and non-governmental coordination on national, local and community levels. It is a framework uniting the highest decision-makers in the respective areas with top representatives of the academic and business communities and the NGO sector.

## Area 3

*The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.*

**Overall Challenges:**

The Republic of Macedonia faces some challenges regarding the implementation of the DRR mechanisms in practice. The emergency preparedness depends on the level of technical and operational. The Early Warning System is outdated and needs to be modernized. The methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans and procedures need to be defined in order to avoid the institutional overlapping which leads to incoherent decision making. The resources for emergency preparedness, response and recovery are often dispersed and insufficient.

**Future Outlook Statement:**

It is necessary to follow the logical and methodical framework of the NPDRR. This implies defining the appropriate methodologies, assessments and scenarios before developing the plans and procedures. In this regard, a process of defining methodologies, assessments and scenarios is under way.

Depending on the assessments and scenarios, the following plans are to be prepared:

- Preparedness plans;
- Prevention plans;
- Operations plans.

The implementation of all plans requires clear and precise procedures. Successful achievement of the goals requires the following standard operative procedures: (1) Internal S.O.Ps in usual activities, (2) Internal S.O.Ps in a case of emergency, (3) Interoperability S.O.Ps in a case of emergency. All this should provide clear understanding of the threat and organized respond with maximal effect with the available resources.

Also, further progress will be done regarding the implementation of the DRR mechanisms in practice through the improvement of the EWS, the merging of the E-112, and the introduction of the GIS platform. Moreover, by rising the public awareness and stimulating a DRR culture through educational material and campaigns. Also, the DRR will be further integrated in the environmental policies, human settlement plans and mitigation.

# Stakeholders

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## Departments/organizations that have contributed to the report

- \* Office of NC for the Implementation of the NPDRR (Gov) - Dr. Pande Lazarevski, National Coordinator
- \* Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (Gov) - Teodora Obradovic-Grnarovska, State Counselor
- \* Ministry of Finance (Gov) - Kristina Pavlovska, Assistant Head of Department
- \* Ministry of Transport and Communications (Gov) - Harita Pandovska, Head of IPA Unit
- \* Ministry of Economy (Gov)
- \* Ministry of Education and Science (Gov)
- \* Hydrometeorological Service (Gov) - Kosta Lazaroski, State Councillor
- \* Institute of Earthquake Engineering&Eng Seismology (Acad & Research) - Prof.Dr. Mihail Garevski, Director
- \* Seismological Observatory (Acad & Research)