BUILDING AN ARK

EUROPEAN FORUM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Rome, 08-09 March 2011

Macedonian Chairmanship 2011

Ljupco RISTOVSKI

State Counsellor

Macedonian Government
1. Make Disaster Risk Reduction a Priority
   - Ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

2. Know the Risks and Take Action
   - Identify, assess, monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

3. Build Understanding and Awareness
   - Use knowledge, innovation, and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

4. Reduce Risk
   - Reduce the underlying risk factors

5. Be Prepared and Ready to Act
   - Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels
European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Formally established in London 2009
- Representatives from European National Platforms and HFA Focal Points
- Supported by UNISDR, Council of Europe, European Commission and DPPI
- 1st annual meeting of the EFDRR – Gothenburg, Sweden (6-8 October 2010)
- 2nd annual meeting of the EFDRR - Skopje, Macedonia (October 2011)
European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction
- General Goals & Overall Objectives

- Contribute to the implementation of the HFA

- Forum for exchanging information and knowledge in the field of DRR and HFA

- Provide advocacy for effective action to reduce disasters

- Promote and support creation of new National Platforms

- Create a safer Europe by reducing the impact of natural hazards to reduce vulnerability and by increasing the ability to minimize consequences of disasters
EFDRR Priorities

- Support the development of national platforms as multi-stakeholder structures
- Support the implementation of the HFA
- Facilitate the link between climate change adaptation (CCA) and DRR
- Share good practices and lessons learnt from European countries, sub-regions and local level
- Enhance information sharing and exchange between existing national platforms and focal points
- Promote exchange of experiences and dialogue between regions
- Share information about the activities of other international/regional organizations and EU in the field of DRR
- Prepare for the Global Platform sessions
Focus areas and activities identified by NPs and HFA Focal Points

• Adaptation to Climate Change and extreme weather events
• Critical infrastructures (such as hospitals and schools)
• Local level / Community level approach
• Safety level standards
• Harmonize risk mapping and assessments including data collection
How the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction works...

- Bottom-up and participatory approach
- Building on existing institutions/organizations
- Avoid the creation of bureaucratic layers and rigid structures
- Meet on an annual basis
- Not act as a political forum and the forum can not speak for the interests of the member countries
16 European countries with established platforms & focal point for HFA: Bulgaria, Croatia*, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia*, Monaco*, Poland, Russian Federation*, Switzerland*, Spain, Sweden and UK

20 European countries with focal points for HFA: Albania*, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia Herzegovina*, Cyprus, Denmark, Georgia, Greece, Iceland*, Malta, Moldova*, Montenegro*, Norway*, Portugal, Romania, Serbia*, Slovenia, Turkey* and Ukraine*.

Total 36

*Not EU members
List updated October 2010
Organisation 2011

- Chair and Co-Chair
- Steering group (Chair, Co-Chair, UNISDR, Council of Europe)
- “Friends of Chairs group” (Chair, Co-Chair, UNISDR, Council of Europe, DPPI, EU Commission, France, Germany, UK, Sweden)
- Open to National Platforms and HFA Focal Points in Europe and regional/sub regional partners
- UNISDR provides secretariat
- Working groups for identified areas and for preparing the annual meetings
Main question: How to achieve all these?

An old British wisdom:

An ounce prevention = pound medicine

- First – wise prevention
- Second – steady preparedness
- Third – timely response
- Forth – properly managed recovery
Question still remains...

- System approach on all levels and among them:
  - Local
  - National
  - Regional
  - Global

- Central point of each system are institutions

- The foundation of institutions is knowledge that should be based on values, valid principles, strong attitudes, and firm and steady commitment

- UNISDR & EFDRR – for more knowledge and better understanding of risk

- If something is not happening at the moment does not mean that do not exist as a threat.
What is the Macedonian Government doing...?

- Accompanying all international DRR&CCA efforts from the very beginning fully aware of the seriousness of the moment
- Accompanied the HFA 2015
- Appointed National HFA focal point
- Involved in the UNISDR & EFDRR activities from the very beginning
- Adopted the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Republic of Macedonia
- Introduced in the system position National coordinator for the implementation of the National platform
Macedonian national DRR concept

NATIONAL DOCTRINE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

BASIC DOCTRINAL POSTULATE:
PREVENTION & EARLY WARNING ARE THE BASIS FOR PREVENTING IN TOTAL OR FOR PREVENTION OF DISASTEROUS CONSEQUENCES BY NATURAL HAZARDS OR MAN-MADE ACCIDENTS, WHILE THE PREPAREDNESS OF EACH STAKEHOLDER & THE CAPABILITY FOR THEIR COORDINATED & RAPID RESPOND ARE A PRECONDITION FOR REDUCTION OF THE CONSEQUENCES & RAPID MITIGATION.

EXAMPLE:
RISK: FLOODS

GENERAL STRATEGY REGARDING THE SPECIFIC RISK
(how the doctrine will be implemented in relation to the specific risk)

FUNCTIONAL STRATEGIES

PREVENTION STRATEGY
How will the general strategy be implemented in terms of prevention

REACTION STRATEGY
How will the general strategy be implemented in terms of respond to the occurred situation

REHABILITATION STRATEGY
How will the general strategy be implemented in terms of rehabilitation

POLICIES
(how will the strategies be implemented in relation to the specific domains, or, how will they transform in specific steps)

PREVENTION POLICIES
REACTION POLICIES
REHABILITATION POLICIES

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

POLICY IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMMES & PROJECTS

LEGISLATIVE (PASSING LAWS AND REGULATIONS)
 transformation of the policies in laws and regulations

PREVENTION RELATED LEGISLATIVE
REACTION RELATED LEGISLATIVE
REHABILITATION RELATED LEGISLATIVE
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION – METHODOLOGIES, ASSESSMENTS, SCENARIOS, PLANS & S.O.P (IN THE CONTEXT OF EACH OF THE SPECIALIZED PLATFORMS)

- METHODOLOGIES
- ASSESSMENTS & SCENARIOS
- PLANS
- PROCEDURES

- RISK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES & RISK CONSEQUENCE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES
- RISK MAPPING METHODOLOGIES
- RISK MONITORING METHODOLOGY

- RISK & THREAT ASSESSMENT

- SCENARIOS ON POSSIBLE TRANSITION OF RISKS INTO ACCIDENTS & DISASTERS

- PREPAREDNESS PLANS
- PREVENTION PLANS
- OPERATIONS PLANS

- PREPAREDNESS & PREVENTION PROCEDURES
  - Internal SOPs in usual activities
  - Internal SOPs in a case of emergency
  - Interoperability SOPs in a case of emergencies

- DEVELOPMENT OF RISK MAPPING & RISK MONITORING METHODOLOGIES & ASSESSMENTS TO BE SUPPORTED WITH NEW TECHNOLOGIES

- RAPID ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY
  - DAMAGE & THREAT RAPID ASSESSMENT
  - RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- OPERATIONS PLAN (ADJUSTED TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES)
2nd Annual meeting of the EFDRR in Macedonia

Data: 05 – 07 October 2011
Place: Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

- Topics:
  - Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation
  - Information sharing and exchange & using financial instruments
  - Local level implementation of HFA or Risk assessment methodology (TBC/to be confirmed)
  - Global platform & Global assessment report outcomes
  - Update of the activities of other international/regional organizations in the DRR field
What are our advantages and what do we lack?

**Advantage Is:**
- To be open both to new ideas and old experiences
- To make system works both on paper and in real life
- To be aware on risks and personal responsibility

**Challenges to face:**
- Limited resources (human, technical, financial) for response and recovery
- Institutional coordination and management of available resources
- Public awareness (in general) and understanding by politicians and media (in particular)
Macedonian step forward...

In favor of pro-active DRR approach:

All Macedonian religious leaders, Christian, Muslim and Jewish, signing a document supporting Macedonia’s National Platform for DRR.
Holy books as a reminder...

Lessons from Biblical times that should be learnt*
(BE PRO-ACTIVE, BE DECISIVE, DO NOT HESITATE)

- **Noah case**  (Message: You better believe God’s signs!)
- **Lot case**    (Message: “Do not argue with God – You better listen His voice!”)
- **Jonah case**  (Message: “God loves the people as His creation and He has
  sorrow even for a single soul!”)
- **Joseph case** (Message: “God has a plan - We better trust that plan!”)

*All these cases are mentioned in similar ways in
the Bible, in the Koran and in the Torah.

DRR & CCA efforts might be considered as our joint respond as pro-active approach to that
God’s providence for our joint future.

WE SHOULD SIMPLY DO OUR BEST AND GOD WILL DO THE REST!