

2nd meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR)

Outcome Document

10 -12 October 2011, Skopje

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The 2nd Annual meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) was attended by 50 participants from 25 European Countries and by representatives from regional organizations part of the EFDRR namely: Council of Europe (EUR-OPA), European Commission (EC), Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE) and Regional Cooperation Council for South Eastern Europe (RCC SEE). There are now 20 National Platforms (NPs) in Europe, 4 more than in 2010, and 37 countries with a Hyogo Framework for Action Focal point.

1. Opening

Pande Lazarevski, Chair EFDRR, welcomed the EFDRR members and adopted the 2nd Annual Meeting Agenda.

The 2nd Annual meeting of the EFDRR was opened by the Macedonian President, Dr. Gjorge Ivanov, and by Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG), UNISDR. President Ivanov stated that the rapid rise in the number, frequency and intensity of disasters requires three “R’s”: responsible individuals, responsible societies and responsible governments. “Individual responsibility means working on raising personal awareness, family preparedness and interpersonal networking as well as mutual support in neighbourhoods where people lived,” said President Ivanov. President Ivanov government responsibility entailed implementation of integrated risk reduction approaches supported by science and expertise, effective information sharing and appropriate use of financial Instruments.

Drawing on UNISDR’s 2011 Global Assessment Report, Ms. Wahlström said, “In 2010 Europe saw the biggest increase in disaster events - plus 18.2% - compared to the decade’s average. In terms of economic damages, it accounted for 14.3% of reported global disaster losses in 2010, with most of the damages caused by climatological and hydro meteorological events.” National reports, however, demonstrated a gradual evolution from a mind-set of crisis and response to one of proactive risk reduction and safety, noted Ms. Wahlström. Countries, which have or are going to establish NPs for disaster risk reduction, are reporting significant and on-going success in addressing cross cutting risk reduction issues - more than double compared to those countries without NPs.

2. EFDRR Presence in 2011

Damir Cemerin, Co-Chair of the EFDRR 2011, presented an overview of the key events that the Chair and the Co-Chair had organized and participated in during 2011.

In February, the UNISDR Europe Office hosted the ‘Friends of the Chair’ meeting to plan the annual meeting and other events for 2011. The Chair and Co-Chair participated at 5 international meetings:

- The Launch of the Mid-Term Review of the HFA¹ and a back-to-back meeting on reducing the vulnerability to Disasters in South Eastern Europe² (8-9 March 2011, Rome, Italy);
- The Meeting of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement (14-15 April 2011, Strasbourg, France);
- The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (8-13 May 2011, Geneva, Switzerland);
- The PROTEC: Civil and Environmental Defence Technologies and Services (2 July 2011, Turin, Italy)
- The International Workshop Governance of climate-related risks in Europe: the need for policy oriented research³ (8-9 September 2011, Brussels, Belgium).

¹ <http://preventionweb.net/go/18113>

² <http://preventionweb.net/go/18408>

On 29 June 2011, the Steering Committee held a teleconference to discuss updates on EFDRR activities as well as the draft agenda of the EFDRR annual meeting.

A brochure on the EFDRR was launched at the Global Platform for DRR in May 2011 in conjunction with the publication "Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action in Europe: advances and challenges 2009-2011". This publication was finalized with the support of UNISDR Europe, Sweden (former EFDRR Chair), the Chair and the Co-Chair.

In the context of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, EFDRR members participated actively to the Heads of International Governmental Organizations (IGOs) and Regional Platforms meeting and the EFDRR planning meeting. Further, the President included language related to the benefits of the EFDRR during its Global Platform opening statement.

3. Global Platform Recommendations currently being addressed in Europe

Paola Albrito, UNISDR, provided an overview on Global Platform recommendation and analysis of the HFA Report for Europe. This overview highlighted a number of Global Platform recommendations currently addressed in Europe:

- Account for disaster losses in a consistent and standardized manner: this includes advice provided to countries and partners by UNISDR, Global Assessment Report Team (GAR), and the European Commission (EC);
- Encourage and increase dedicated budget allocations for disaster risk reduction (DRR);
- Measure the effectiveness of DRR at all levels: the European Commission and UNISDR are developing standards and indicators;
- Support the Making Cities Resilient: "My city is getting ready" Campaign: National Platform Coordinators and HFA Focal Points are increasing investments in DRR at the local level;
- Raise public awareness of disaster risks: the EC, Council of Europe EUR-OPA, UNISDR are engaging in such activities on a continuous basis;
- Take into account emerging risks (which will include technological hazards). Emerging risks will be addressed in the post-HFA process and by the research projects financed by the European Commission

4. Update from Regional Organizations

Panellist: Eladio Fernandez Galiano, Council of Europe, EUR-OPA; Thomas de Lannoy, European Commission; Ivana Ljubojevic, DPPI; Jovan Tegovski, RCC..

Regional organizations are strongly engaging and supporting DRR with upcoming full agendas:

Council of Europe (EUR-OPA): Recommendations on ethical principles, forest fires and radiological information have been adopted. Lessons learned on psycho-social assistance and on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and DRR governance have been published in 2011⁴.

³ <http://preventionweb.net/go/22160>

⁴ <http://preventionweb.net/go/20591>

The EC: is improving its knowledge base on DRR. Furthermore, EU guidelines on risk assessment and mapping have been published and the EC will publish an “EU overview of risks” in 2013 based on Member States national risks assessments which will be submitted by the end of 2012. Innovative solutions are being established for financing disaster prevention and the EU guidelines on minimum standards for disaster prevention are being developed. Finally, the EC is strongly supporting efforts and cooperation on DRR issues at the international level.

DPPI has highlighted its DRR capacity building at national and regional level and cross border collaboration activities. The next DPPI regional meeting will take place on the 7-8 November 2011 in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina.

RCC is supporting the IPA Multi beneficiary Programme, the World Bank / UNISDR in its insurance/reinsurance initiative in South Eastern Europe and DPPI. RCC is also supporting the next Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which will take place on 18 November 2011, Belgrade, Serbia.

5. EFDRR Working Group - Outcomes

5.1 Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction - Working Group 1

Panellists: Dag Olav Hogvold, Norway (Chair Working Group 1); Natasa Holcinger, Croatia; Camilo Vazquez Bello, Spain; Eladio Fernandez Galiano, Council of Europe, EUR-OPA; Stefanie Dannenmann-Di Palma, UNISDR.

Experiences were shared from Spain, Croatia, Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) and UNISDR.

Spain highlighted the different measures in place to address forest fires prevention and the necessity to link such efforts to climate change long term planning.

The need to increase investments in climate modelling, forecasting and analysis to support planning in the sectors facing risk has been emphasized by the Croatian presenter.

Council of Europe introduced PEDRR, which is an informal, collaborative platform for coordination, information sharing and conducting policy advocacy, scientific research and implementation of ecosystem based DRR activities. Through the support of PEDRR, NPs can promote DRR activities at the national level based on ecosystems, share and offer best practices in ecosystem based DRR globally.

Finally, UNISDR provided an overview on how European NP coordinators and HFA Focal Points could engage in the international arena on linking climate change adaptation (CCA) and DRR.

Outcomes of the Working Group 1:

- Agreed on a survey undertaken by Working Group 1 involving all European HFA focal points and NPs coordinators to review if European Countries include in their climate change adaptation plans/strategy issues related to disaster risk reduction.
- Agreed on the need to analyse by Working Group 1 the outcome of the Special Report for Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) and to explore possible implications for Europe in its work on DRR and CCA.

Both results will be shared during the 3rd Annual meeting of the EFDRR in 2012.

5.2 Information Sharing and Exchange and Using Financial Instruments - Working Group 2

Panellist: Mette Lindahl Olsson, Sweden (Chair of WG 2); Nikolay Grigoryan, Republic of Armenia; Thomas de Lannoy, DG ECHO, Civil Protection Unit; Stefanie Dannenmann-Di Palma, UNISDR; Janet Edwards, Sweden.

Armenia shared its experience in building public information and awareness, through activities such as awareness raising for school children by using storytelling to change people's attitude. The Armenian presentation the use of modern social media as it is for example the use of fire fighters towards school awareness raising.

The EC presented, on behalf of WG2, a proposal on the potential role of peer reviews to enhance disaster risk reduction in Europe. The peer review process could inter alia focus on analysing the progress in the implementation of the HFA on analysing on-going national policy developments within the EU disaster prevention framework.

UNISDR highlighted that European countries have been using PreventionWeb increasingly since its establishment in 2008. Furthermore, European countries input to PreventionWeb have been consolidated in the monthly bulletin for Europe. A workspace for EFDRR members has been created on PreventionWeb.

Finally, WG2 has undertaken a survey among the NPs coordinators and HFA focal points on the type of exchanges they have participated in 2010. Armenia, Croatia, Hungary, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, and Sweden have provided good examples on such exchanges.

Outcomes of the Working Group 2:

- Agreed for the EFDRR members to use common workspace and to contribute to the update of the webpage;
- Discussed the Peer review proposal and welcomed UK's volunteering to be the first country to undergo such peer review process for the HFA Monitoring Report;
- Recommended to share further good examples and answers from survey on the EFDRR work space;
- Encouraged to continue providing information on exchanges in the EFDRR bulletin and on the EFDRR web page;
- Agreed on the promotion of exchanges on a few current themes (such as: building NPs, risk mapping and risk assessments, data exchanges, lessons learnt, public awareness and media, HFA at the local level);
- Highlighted the need for more active exchanges between actors from different sectors working with DRR (including scientists and local experts);
- Agreed on the continuation of Working Group 2 in 2012 with Sweden being the Chair. During 2012 will be decided if WG2 will continue and if so then seek a new chair for the group.

5.3 Local Level Implementation of HFA (DRR Campaign) – Working Group 3

Panellists: Luigi D'Angelo, Italy (session chair); Andreas Koler, Austria; Leo Muller, France; Demet Şahin, Turkey.

Austria, France, Italy and Turkey have shared their experiences on local level implementation of DRR practices during the Working Group 3 session.

The Austrian example demonstrated simple technical and political information addressed to the end users and highlighted its bottom up and cost effective approach to DRR.

France developed a «resilience index» to major natural and industrial hazards for prevention, planning, preparedness, risk education, emergency management, economic and social resilience and recovery.

Italy shared its strong success on several Italian Cities joining the Resilient Cities Campaign thanks to the support of the NP.

Finally, Turkey shared its experiences in merging different institutions to undertake activities at local level such as retrofitting of old buildings.

Outcomes of the Working Group 3:

- Agreed on the need to continue the exchanges on local level implementation of DRR among the EFDRR;
- Recommended the need to further strengthen Working Group 3 in order to become fully functional by the next EFDRR;
- Agreed on the need to review by Working Group 3 on how NPs experiences engage local municipality and Cities (e.g. use of existing Mayors networks) and sharing of good practices.

6. Additional Presentations

6.1 TV Debate

Margareta Wahlström, (SRSG, UNISDR), Pande Lazarevski (Chair EFDRR, National Platform Coordinator), Damir Cemerin, (Co-Chair EFDRR, Deputy Assistant Director), Eladio Fernandez-Galiano (Executive Secretary, EUR-OPA, Major Hazards Agreement, Council of Europe), Thomas de Lannoy (Policy Officer, European Commission, DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection) and Mihail Garevski (President of the European Association for Earthquake Engineering) participated in a national TV debate that was broadcasted on national television on 10 October 2011.

Experiences were shared on the following questions:

- Where and what are the risks?
- What are the DRR measures in place at local level to reduce the risk?
- How can local governments integrate future risks in current DRR policies?

An important outcome of the TV debate was the need to raise citizens' awareness on DRR. Furthermore, the debate highlighted the need to continue raising awareness at local level also through the highest political engagement. It was pointed out that one of the simplest disaster risk reduction measures one can possibly take is to empower young people and to ensure they are actively involved in disaster risk reduction and part of making their cities and communities resilient.

6.2 Earthquake protection of historical buildings

Professor Elena Dumova-Jovanoska, Vice-Rector of “Ss. Cyril and Methodius University”, Faculty of Civil Engineering in Skopje, shared experiences on earthquake protection of historical building. The presentation highlighted the importance of science and expertise in protection of historical buildings and protection of historical buildings. Increasing risk leads to a loss of cultural assets that are felt by the population of immense importance. The ability of affected individuals and communities to regain equilibrium in their lives after a disaster, depend very much on efforts to retrieve and strengthen those heritage elements and symbols that have traditionally given meaning, order and continuity to life.

6.3 Special session on Sciences and Arts

Professor Pop Jordanov, from the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, presented on the need to include the social and psychological dimension into disaster risk reduction practices. Special reference was made towards pressure indicators related to psychological stress, information overflow and corruption pressure, together with the corresponding response actions.

Professor Virginia Murray, Member of the ISDR Science and Technical Committee, presented the key activities of the report on Science and Technology for the Third Session of the Global Platform for DRR 2011- particularly GAR 2011, Mid-Term Review of the HFA 2011 and the *IPCC Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation* (2012). Professor Murray also included WHO/ISDR safe Hospitals programme, WHO/HPA/ISDR Disaster Risk Management for Health advocacy sheets, the new WHO Collaborating Centre on Mass Gatherings and Extreme Events at the Health Protection Agency, UK and the new HPA Extreme Events and health Protection Section at HPA, the National Hazards Partnership and PLoS Currents Disasters.

Professor Sálvano Briceño, Chair-elect, Science Committee, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR), introduced the work by Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) on integrated research on disaster risk for effective sustainable development policies. The IRDR, an ICSU/ISSC/ISDR initiative, was launched by the scientific community to promote integrated research with a transdisciplinary approach to identify root causes of disasters and propose policy recommendations to governments.

There has been a call for the identification of a Scientific Representative to be identified for each NP to join on supporting the call from the Global Platform 2011 Chair's Summary “7.4 Actively engage and support scientific and technical communities to inform decision-making”.

6.4 Institute for Earthquake Engineering and Seismology special session

Initiatives undertaken by the Institute for Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IEES) have been shared from Prof. Garevski, President of the European Association for Earthquake Engineering, Prof. Sálvano Briceño and members of the IEES team. Prof Briceño informed of the pioneering work carried out by the Global Earthquake Model (GEM), an OECD initiative that develops global standards for earthquake risk assessments in a collaborative manner among the expert community worldwide with active participation of governments, private sector, professional associations and international organizations, among which the UNISDR. This session emphasized the increased understanding about the contribution of the scientific knowledge in the risk reduction agenda. In order to apply for DRR in building safety and retrofitting there is the need to ensure the consultation and use of science.

6.5 Official Web Page of the 2nd Session of the EFDRR

The official web page dedicated to the 2nd session of the EFDRR was presented to the participants: www.macefdrr.gov.mk.

7. EFDRR 2012: Next Steps and highlights

7.1 Main elements and highlights for EFDRR - inputs for 2012

In 2012, several international events are taking place where EFDRR Members can put forward the DRR dimension through their country Representatives attending those international events linked to sustainable development issues:

- The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Durban, South Africa, 28 Nov - 9 Dec 2011
- UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-24 June 2012 Rio+20)
- UNHABITAT Sixth World Urban Forum (Naples, Italy 1-7 September 2012)
- Post HFA process starting in 2012 through direct involvement and consultations of NP coordinators and HFA Focal Points

For each of these events Paola Albrito, UNISDR, shared key messages related to DRR for the use and the integration of the EFDRR members in preparation of such event. These key messages are posted on the website as part of the EFDRR meeting procedure.

Outcome:

Agreed on the opportunity to include the DRR dimensions presented by international on-going processes related to the sustainable development agenda. In these regards, the key DRR messages shared by UNISDR can be used by national and regional actors to address the topic internally (e.g. HFA – Minister of Foreign Affairs represented at these events) and/or directly at the international events.

7.2 EFDRR Logo

A draft EFDRR logo was proposed for adoption to the EFDRR members. Although Members agreed for the need of a logo and appreciated the shown design it was considered slightly complex. During the course of 2012, a simplified draft design of the logo will be shared with the EFDRR Members for approval.



7.3 EFDRR Chair and Co -Chair in 2012

The meeting concluded with the change of Chairs of the EFRR. Croatia is the new Chair and Norway was nominated Co-Chair. The EFDRR 2nd meeting Chair will be a new member of the 'Friends of the Chair' group.

8. Key Outcomes and Challenges

The 2nd EFDRR confirmed the high level engagement in risk reduction in Europe including through the opening of the meeting by President Gjeorge Ivanov and the SRSR, Margareta Wahlström.

The added value of National Platforms emerged in the meeting exchanges and shared good practices indicating the importance for the EFDRR members to encourage the developments of new National Platforms.

The need to ensure the presence at EFDRR meetings of all NPs and HFA Focal Points was highlighted.

A main challenge has been identified in the involvement of NPs and HFA focal points representatives within the established EFDRR Working Groups. This challenge is particularly evident within the Working Group 3.

Main Outcomes and Actions:

- Agreed on a survey undertaken by Working Group 1 involving all European HFA focal points and NPs coordinators to review if European Countries include in their climate change adaptation plans/strategy issues related to disaster risk reduction. *(Implementation: Working Group 1 with input from EFDRR members)*
- Agreed on the need to analyse by Working Group 1 the outcome of the Special Report for Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) and to explore possible implications for Europe in its work on DRR and CCA. Similarly, the ICSU/IRDR Science Plan for Integrated Research on Disaster Risk, addressing the challenge of natural and human-induced environmental hazards. *(Implementation: Working Group 1 to be completed by EFDRR meeting 2012)*
- Agreed for the EFDRR members to use common workspace and to contribute to the update of the webpage; *(Implementation: EFDRR members - on-going)*
- Discussed the Peer review proposal and welcomed UK's volunteering to be the first country to undergo such peer review process for the HFA Monitoring Report; *(Implementation: UK, EC, UNISDR, Working Group 2 by 2013)*
- Encouraged to continue providing information on exchanges in the EFDRR bulletin and on the EFDRR web page; *(Implementation: EFDRR members - on-going)*
- Agreed on the promotion of exchanges on a few current themes (such as: building NPs, risk mapping and risk assessments, data exchanges, lessons learnt, public awareness and media, HFA at the local level); *(Implementation: EFDRR members - on-going)*
- Agreed on the continuation of Working Group 2 in 2012 with Sweden being the Chair. During 2012 will be decided if WG2 will continue and if so then seek a new chair for the group. *(Implementation: Working Group 2)*
- Highlighted the need for more active exchanges between actors from different sectors working with DRR (including scientists and local experts); *(Implementation: EC, CoE, UNISDR, Scientific and Technical Committee)*
- Highlighted the need for more active interaction and team efforts among policy-makers and scientists as a basis for more sustainable DRR. In this regard, European scientists and experts participating also in the IRDR and GEM

international programmes could provide most relevant advice and support to DRR policies in each of their countries (*Implementation: EFDRR members - on-going*)

- Agreed on the need to continue the exchanges on local level implementation of DRR among the EFDRR; (*Implementation: UNISDR, EFDRR members – on-going*)
- Recommended the need to further strengthen Working Group 3 in order to become fully functional by the next EFDRR; (*Implementation: UNISDR, EFDRR members needed to volunteer and chair*)
- Agreed on the need to review how NPs experiences engage local municipality and Cities (e.g. use of existing Mayors networks) and sharing of good practices. (*Implementation: UNISDR with support of established Working Group 3*)
- Request to identify a Scientific Representative for each NP to join on supporting the call from the Global Platform 2011 Chair's Summary "7.4 Actively engage and support scientific and technical communities to inform decision-making". (*Implementation: UNISDR, National Platforms by next EFDRR meeting in 2012*)
- Agreed on the opportunity to include the DRR dimensions presented by international on-going processes related to the sustainable development agenda. (*Implementation: UNISDR with support from EFDRR members*)
- Agreed on the use of an EFDRR logo. The final format of the logo will be adopted in 2012. (*Implementation: UNISDR agreed by EFDRR Members in 2012*)