



# **BUILDING RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY**

**C.N. IPA/2012/290-552**

## THE PROGRAMME AND ITS OBJECTIVES

UNISDR and WMO started in May 2012 the joint implementation of the project “Building Resilience to Disasters in the Western Balkans and Turkey”, with the support of the European Commission (DG Enlargement) under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). The project will be implemented in partnership with the relevant national agencies responsible for disaster risk management and hydrometeorology of the IPA beneficiaries in South-East Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, and Kosovo\*. The project builds upon the results of previous interventions carried out in the beneficiary region by international organizations such as WMO, UNDP (with IPA support), UNISDR and the World Bank.

The overall objective of the project is to build the resilience of IPA beneficiaries to disasters caused by the impact of natural hazards in line with the priorities set by the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 - Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA)* Specifically, the project aims at:

- enhancing the regional cooperation and capacity in developing and implementing disaster risk reduction measures,

- addressing emerging disaster risks posed by the changing climate,
- strengthening the cross-border cooperation in disaster risk management, and
- enhancing the national and regional capacity to monitor and predict hazardous conditions and share respective data and products to enable a regional approach to disaster risk reduction.

The Project activities are structured in 8 tasks: 4 of them are led by UNISDR and focus on disaster risk reduction capacity building, knowledge management, disaster risk transfer capacities (insurance for disasters) and community based disaster management. The other 4 tasks are led by WMO and focus on risk assessment, meteorological and hydrological forecast capacities, enabling climate risk management in decision-making, and designing a region-wide harmonized early warning system.

The project has a duration of 24 months and will end in May 2014.

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

## FOCUS AREAS



**BUILD CAPACITIES FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE**



**SHARE KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO REDUCE RISKS**



**TRANSFER DISASTER RISKS**



**COMMUNITY-BASED RESILIENCE**



**HAZARD ANALYSIS AND MAPPING**



**HAZARDOUS PHENOMENA FORECASTING**



**CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION**



**MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM**

## UNISDR'S TASKS

**Enhance regional institutional capacity and coordination with respect to disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change.**

Exchange of experiences between IPA beneficiaries and EU countries is of key importance to enhance disaster resilience. The activities under this task promote peer's learning among officers who have responsibilities in disaster prevention, preparedness and risk reduction. The relevant learning elements acquired by IPA Beneficiaries will be documented in a final report.

**Strengthen regional capacity and cooperation towards data and knowledge sharing on risks.**

There is a wealth of knowledge produced in the beneficiary countries in disaster risk management. The project supports the development of a web portal which shall host documents, publications and media on a multiple language interface to promote dissemination of disaster risk reduction knowledge from the national to the community level.

**Promote Insurance and reinsurance products for disaster risk transfer among the IPA beneficiaries.**

Catastrophe and weather risk insurance products for homeowners, farmers and small-medium enterprises are needed to ensure adequate financial protection of their assets and business revenues in case of disasters. The project contributes to build the capacity of IPA Beneficiaries to in disaster risk insurance and enhances awareness of these products among the general public.

**Increase public awareness on disaster risk reduction**

Citizens' awareness of risks is a crucial element of any risk reduction intervention. The project supports activities aiming at developing a culture of risk among the communities living in urban areas by supporting the "Making Cities Resilient Campaign: My City is Getting ready!" at the local level.



## WMO'S TASKS

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

Efforts will be undertaken on supporting the historical meteorological and climate data rescue and enhancement of climate data management systems emphasizing also on enhancing the hydrometeorological data quality, homogenization and standardization. Activities will be carried out to improve the drought hazard analysis and mapping as well as flood hazard management which will include establishment of the Sava River pilot project to enhance hydrological data management and exchange of procedures at the basin level.

**Enhance IPA beneficiaries' capacity to forecast hazardous meteorological and hydrological phenomena and deliver timely warnings to support DRR**

Beneficiaries' severe weather forecasting capabilities will be enhanced in support of Early Warning Systems through extensive training of meteorological and hydrological forecasters. The aim is also to enhance the cross-border exchange of data and improvement of the quality of the data supporting meteorological and hydrological disaster risk reduction.

**Develop the capacity needed to support climate risk management and climate change adaptation into a national and regional DRR agenda**

Beneficiaries' capacities in drought risk management, use and interpretation of long-range forecasting and application of climate watches and scenarios will be enhanced. In addition the focus will be on development and provision of specialized services and products related to meteorological and hydrological risk management in the field of insurance as well as development and provision of climate services for different economic sectors.

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

The task will concentrate on designing a regional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to deliver accurate, reliable and understandable warnings, in a timely fashion to authorities, emergency operations and the population at risk to enable preventative actions to reduce the impacts of potential disasters. The focus will be on the priority hazards affecting the region, including forest fires, heat waves, severe storms, floods and droughts.

## CONTACTS

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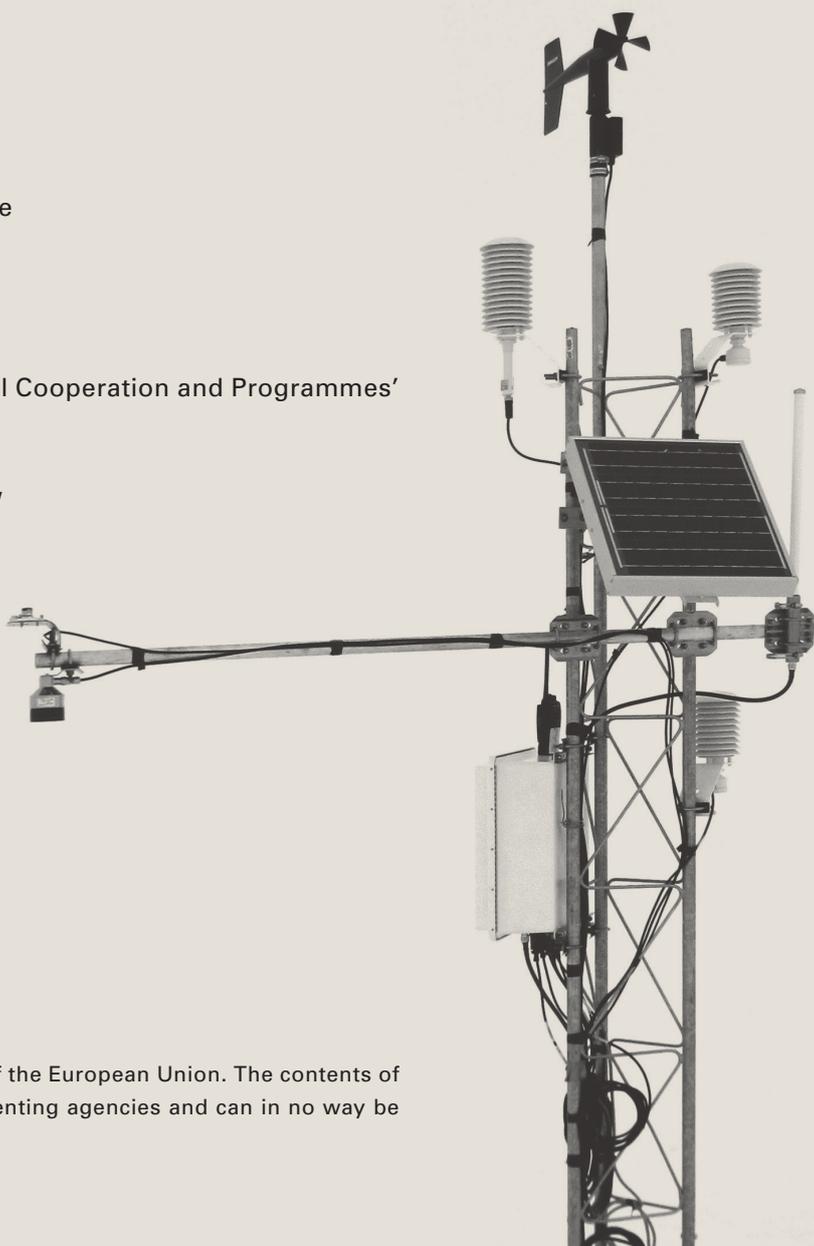


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