

EUROPEAN FORUM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

WORKING GROUP 2

“LOCAL-LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION OF HFA”

4th EFDRR Meeting
Oslo, 24 September 2013

Italian National Civil Protection Department
International Relations Unit
www.protezionecivile.it - dr Italy@protezionecivile.it

BUSINESS OF WG 2

Working Group 2 Concepts and Objectives include:

1. Stimulating **exchange of information** among HFA focal points and NPs on initiatives and tools for facilitating the implementation of HFA at local level;
2. Benchmarking where **countries can seek guidance** from others who have already achieved desired results;
3. Facilitating **twining and joint initiatives** among local communities within Europe and, possibly, with other regions;
4. Fostering the use of **innovative technologies for DRR** at local level;
5. **Learning** from past experiences **and sharing** good practices;
6. Facilitating the identification of **common needs and action programmes**;
7. Providing **practical suggestions for initiatives** in support of community efforts to reduce disaster risk (e.g. a list of good practices, successful experiences, etc.);

COMPOSITION AND GOVERNANCE

Working Group 2 currently envisages the participation of:

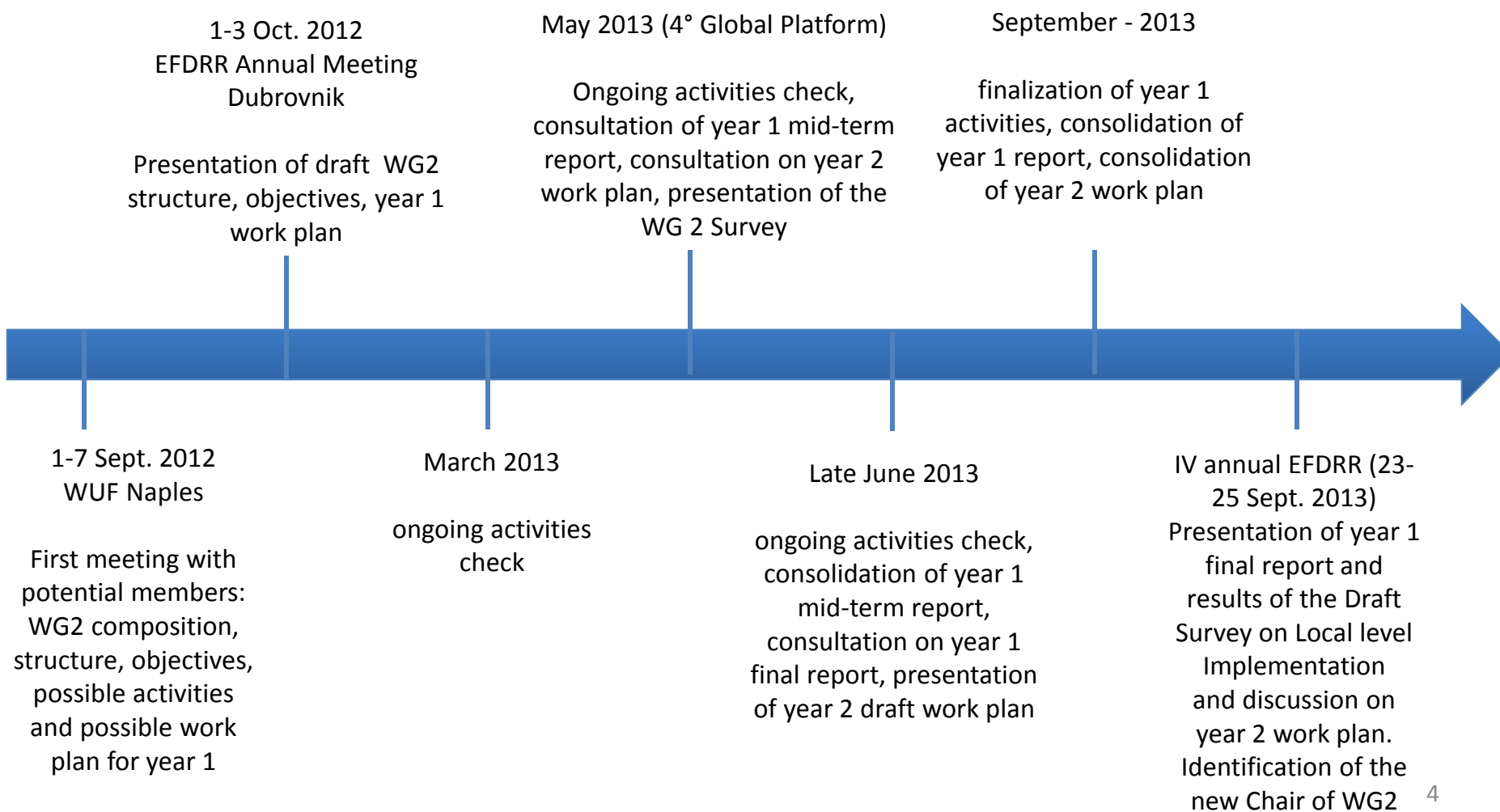
- Italy (current Chair)
- Austria
- Sweden
- UK
- Portugal
- UNISDR
- Council of Europe

The Chair of WG 2 rotates each year: participating Countries will choose annually the Country that will chair the WG.

The Chair will be supported by one Co-chair: the Country that chaired the WG the year before.

Next year Portugal will chair the WG and Italy will then become the Co-chair.

FIRST YEAR TIMETABLE



OUTCOMES AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Fostering the use of the Local Government Self Assessment Tool (LGSAT)

- Comparison of responses given by two European cities that are using the LGSAT: Lienz, (Austria) and Jönköping (Sweden)
- National Level/local level can submit a summary over each of the essentials/five areas of the HFA when the LGSAT is concluded in local language

Initiatives aimed at making local communities aware of the level of safety from disasters of schools, hospitals and other public buildings located in their territory

- Most of EU Countries are already running campaigns addressing structural security for strategic and public buildings (including schools). Benefits of the action are delayed by high costs of the measures. Examples of successful experiences will be identified and shared
- Italy is running a campaign addressing safety in schools. The objective is to improve risk awareness and training on best practises during emergencies. Drills in schools are linked to the general emergency plan of the municipalities

OUTCOMES AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Establishment, in the framework of the Making Cities Resilient campaign, of a network of [European] cities for mutual support (exchange of information, twinning, joint training, joint development of new tools, etc.)

- The city of Venice is running twinning projects with Dubrovnik (Croatia), Byblos (Lebanon, in itinere) and rising the awareness within the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation and the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change);
- Sweden and Italy are considering a twinning project (*Unione dei Comuni della Basilicata*)

Further measures for the protection of Cultural Heritage

- Italy has set up a training centre for the protection of movable cultural heritage; methodologies and procedures have been developed and performed during Italian earthquakes in 2009 and 2012. Successful experiences will be shared
- The city of Venice is currently promoting the subscription of an agreement on the protection of cultural heritage and adaptation to climate change

Strengthening integrated risks governance

- Empowerment of communities and local government to identify and manage their everyday risks, and to engage in the development of the DRR strategies, programmes and budgets provides a sound basis for building resilience;

OUTCOMES AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Supporting local-level implementation of the HFA: promotion and improvement of scientific-private-public partnerships

- Disasters happen locally and solutions should be found locally supported by national governments. Municipalities and local authorities are in unique position to lead and create opportunities for local partnership and to take risk-informed decisions protecting continued potential for economic and social development.
- The **private sector** recognises its crucial role to play in DRR. Resilient businesses and investments are strongly linked to resilient societies, ecosystems and the health and safety of employees. Private sector is developing resilient business practises centered on private-public partnerships.
- In Italy, after the Emilia Romagna earthquake joint action from private and public sectors were performed to restart industrial production. The Government delivered, by law, **technical guidelines** produced by the National Association of Engineers for retrofitting industrial buildings, implemented by private factories at their own expenses;
- Analysis of best practices from the UK Peer Review: setting up of Local Resilience Forums and delivery of guidelines on “Business continuity for Dummies”

OUTCOMES AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Encourage/facilitate a wider involvement of local NGOs in disaster risk prevention

- In Italy, groups of civil protection volunteers (Non Governative Organizations) are supporting disaster risk prevention activities at local level, according to guidelines delivered by the central Government. This experience is available for sharing with interested Countries.

Fostering participation of local communities in the definition of the needs and auspices for the post-2015 Framework for Action.

- Several Swedish “Resilient cities” participated in a POST-HFA national consultation to bring up their needs and accomplishments. Outcomes are available for sharing.

OTHER EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Definition of minimum services for the support to Local Authorities that should be provided by NPs;

☐ Urban development and spatial planning should pay more attention to informal settlements, migration, safe, infrastructure and social services;

☐ Identification of guiding principles for stimulating and facilitating participation of Local Authorities in National Platforms.

HOW TO GET THERE – ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR YEAR 2

Organization of events at local level for awareness rising on DRR and promotion of the adhesion of cities and local communities to the Making Cities Resilient and other DRR campaigns.

- Cities will be encouraged to participate in UNISDR Campaigns and to arrange an event on the International DRR day, on October 2013.
- UNISDR will identify good examples that will be summarized and presented to EFDRR participating Countries

Proposing periodical meetings at local level, with a programme distributed in advance, to inform and train city clerks and local administration employees on the aims of DRR, objectives, contents, National and international initiatives and opportunities, interactions with other public policies etc.

- One or more cities will be involved in arranging such meetings. They will then prepare a summary including which stakeholders participated as well as topics discussed, issues arisen, results achieved, that will be presented to EFDRR participating Countries

HOW TO GET THERE – ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR YEAR 2

Ensuring that in each participating Country there is a web based information tool, through which each NPs or HFA FPs can disseminate documents produced at both international and National level.

- One or more cities will be involved in setting up DRR websites to be presented as good examples of information tools for local-level DRR.

Reinforcing the Making Cities Resilient network by setting up schemes for supporting twinning, reciprocal training, exchange of information and experts, exchange of technology etc. with the support of NPs and/or HFA FPs.

- Inspiring examples will be identified and presented to EFDRR members.

HOW TO GET THERE – OTHER TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED

Preparation and dissemination of an informative package, in native language, for local administrators and members of local administrations, targeting the non-political (and more stable) part of them such as city clerks, hi- and middle-ranking officials.

Facilitate the setting up of low-cost National campaigns to support local administrations that success in one or more areas of DRR.

WG2 AND THE POST-2015 FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

Working Group 2 is fully committed to ensuring that the Post-2015 Framework for Action fully meets the needs and expectations of cities and local communities.

The main priority of WG 2 is understanding how to improve the support that Governments can offer to the local level to facilitate the implementation of disaster risk reduction measures.

Strong efforts are also being made to identify additional channels for promoting sharing experience among cities (twinning programmes, identification of model-cities that may help other in developing their own DRR policies, tools and practices).

In order to benchmark results achieved so far, to identify common needs and views expressed by cities and local communities and to react accordingly by bringing their voice into the debate on the Post-2015 Framework for Action, WG 2 has also **launched a Survey on local-level implementation of HFA.**

THE SURVEY : the Questionnaire

The Survey on local level implementation of HFA is based on a Questionnaire that has been filled by **19** adhering Countries (both EFDRR Countries and others) out of 38 invited to participate.

The Questionnaire envisages **19 questions** that have been answered by National Platform Coordinators or HFA Focal Points in a participatory manner with the involvement of local authorities that are implementing the HFA (i.e. cities and role-model cities adhering to the “Making Cities Resilient” Campaign promoted by UNISDR).

The questionnaire has been circulated via e-mail to representatives of all EFDRR Member Countries and to interested people from other Countries and regions that have expressed their interest to adhere.

The deadline for sending feedbacks was originally scheduled by **July 15**, but due to the large commitment expressed by the adhering Countries, it was postponed until **mid-September**.

THE SURVEY – Structure

- The Survey focused on three main areas:
 1. who the main disaster risk reduction stakeholders are in each adhering Country;
 2. what is being accomplished in Disaster Risk Reduction at the local level;
 3. how the work is accomplished in order to motivate other Countries.

- In the analysis and comparison of answers, the following elements have been taken into consideration:

organizational structure for DRR and implementation of HFA, legal and financial instruments, public-private partnerships, involvement of the civil society (including NGOs and individuals), distribution of information, scientific research, disaster risk reduction programmes and initiatives, participation in the UN “Making Cities Resilient” Campaign, implementation of the Local Government Self Assessment Tool (LGSAT), events on DRR, protection of cultural heritage, debate on the Post-2015 Framework for Action.

THE SURVEY – Structure

Based on answers provided by adhering Countries, it was agreed by the WG2 the following structure:

- **AREA 1 (WHO) – Stakeholders**

- Subsection 1: General framework and connections to the National Platform for DRR

- Subsection 2: Role of local authorities

- Subsection 3: Involvement of the society

- **AREA 2 (WHAT) – Local achievements towards DRR**

- Subsection 1: HFA & Post-2015 HFA

- Subsection 2: cultural heritage

- Subsection 3: implementation through research and other initiatives

- **AREA 3 (HOW) - Implementation strategies**

- Subsection 1: Legal and financial framework

- Subsection 2: Information and events

- Subsection 3: International tools

- **TRENDS AND BEST PRACTICES**

- **HOW TO GET THERE**

SURVEY RESULTS: AREA 1 (WHO) – Stakeholders

Sub. 1 - General framework and connections to the National Platform for DRR

- The majority of the Countries have established a National Platform for DRR. Others are on their way to develop a NP.
- Active Platforms : have a focus at national or regional level, but maintain a strong relationship with local communities; are composed by the representative of Ministries and local authorities, according to the Governmental structure.

Sub.2 - Role of local authorities

- In the majority of the Countries local authorities are part of the network of stakeholders implementing DRR, with different degrees of involvement (participation in preparation/preparation/proactive role in implementing DRR and information exchange through dedicated networks).

Sub. 3 – Involvement of the society

- The public-private partnership play a key fruitful role in the field of DRR implementation.
- NGOs participation in DRR activities is significant.

SURVEY RESULTS: AREA 2 (WHAT) – LOCAL ACHIVEMENT TOWARDS DRR

Sub. 1: HFA& Post 2015 HFA

- Identified main priorities for local level implementation, mostly related to: early warning; provision of financial resources; flood risk mapping/management; experience/information sharing and partnership; provision of guidance, tools and methodologies, expertise and education materials.

Sub.2: Cultural Heritage

- Local authorities play a significant role towards the protection of the cultural heritage from disasters. It is a pivotal role, but the minority only wishes to implement it with specific laws and financial support.

Sub. 3: Implementation through research and other initiatives

- Assessed a strong involvement of national/regional level with different degrees of participation of local authorities, national and international partners. The majority of the Countries reported that large scale or had hoc initiatives have been carried out in order to promote the implementation of DRR at local level.

SURVEY RESULTS: AREA 3 (HOW) – IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Sub. 1: Legal and financial framework

- DRR elements and concepts are included within the Countries' legal framework. However there is no dedicated legislation specific for DRR. Concerning budget allocation, funds for DRR are included into budget lines for disaster prevention/preparedness and other policies.

Sub.2: Information and events

- Institutional campaigns, workshops and dedicated events are the main tools to spread DRR knowledge at local level.

Sub. 3: International tools

- In almost all the countries there are cities involved in the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, carrying out activities to spread knowledge about international campaign to the local level. At the same time, almost all the countries have reported no use of the LGSAT tool.

THE SURVEY – SUMMARY

- **Economic and financial constrains;**
- **Need of gathering lessons learned on the local level implementation;**
- **Data collected are the result of cross cutting factors:**
 - differences related to governmental structures and competencies;
 - different level of involvment/commitment;
 - general backgrounds of respondents.
- **NGOs and volunteers play an added value in spreading the knowledge and culture of DRR issues towards the civil society using their networks (?)**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

**For inquiries and proposals, please write to:
drriItaly@protezionecivile.it**

**4th EFDRR Meeting
Oslo, 24 September 2013**

**Italian National Civil Protection Department
International Relations Unit
www.protezionecivile.it - drriItaly@protezionecivile.it**