



# Bulgaria

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## National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015)

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# Outcomes

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## Strategic Outcome For Goal 1

### Outcomes Statement

Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted on 16 April 2014 based on Hyogo Framework for Action. The Strategy outlines one main strategic goal, which defines four priorities for action. Many different types of threats that occur in the Republic of Bulgaria, are taken into consideration. In addition to the Strategy a Road Map has been developed, where in a comprehensive way key activities are described along with deadlines and structures responsible for their implementation. The Strategy will cover the period 2014 – 2020. Moreover it is an important step towards building a comprehensive and coherent framework for disaster prevention in Bulgaria. The implementation of the Strategy will ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national priority and will contribute to disasters prevention and mitigation of the adverse consequences through active involvement of all levels of government and through a good coordination between the responsible institutions. The implementation of the activities laid down in the Strategy will raise the resilience of nation in case of disasters.

National Program for Disaster Protection for the period 2014-2018 was adopted on 7 May 2014. The Program defines the objectives, priorities and tasks for disaster protection in the country for a period of 5 years. It is also a main document for the policy in the field of disaster prevention, response and recovery from the adverse consequences from disasters and accidents and outlines guidelines for effective, resource and technical ensured national system for disaster prevention and response. The main priority of the National Program is analysis, assessment and mapping of disaster risks on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria. The annual plan for implementation of the National Program which defines measures and tasks for reducing the vulnerability is also adopted.

On 18.02.2013 Regulation for the identification and designation of European critical infrastructures in Bulgaria and measures for their protection was adopted.

## Strategic Outcome For Goal 2

### Outcomes Statement

National Plan for Disaster Protection was also adopted. The Plan describes the main responsibilities and interaction between different bodies and agencies in case of disasters or accidents.

DG Fire Safety and Civil Protection conducts trainings on external programs (volunteers, units of Integrated Rescue System, experts from Headquarters, etc), training of the population, organizing and conducting of national and international exercises and conducting scientific and methodological activities in the training Centre in Montana. The Centre is part of the training network of NATO and conducts also CBRN trainings.

Under the Union civil Protection Mechanism Bulgarian medium urban search and rescue team experts took part in different exercises some of which ModTTX, field exercise EU TARANIS 2013. Bulgaria also organized and hosted an International Field Exercise for Civil Protection Modules in 2013.

An all-embracing review of Bulgaria Nuclear Regulatory Agency's activities was implemented during the IRRS mission of the IAEA in April 2013. The corresponding action plan for implementation of suggestions and recommendations was created and the measures should be accomplished until December 2014.

A plan for systematic training of the staff of the Emergency Response Team in Nuclear Regulatory Agency is ongoing and will be finished by 2015. It will ensure the permanent preparedness for response of the designated emergency personnel in case of nuclear accident.

## **Strategic Outcome For Goal 3**

### **Outcomes Statement**

The requirements for emergency preparedness during operation of nuclear facilities are specified in the Act on the Safe Use of Atomic Energy (ASUNE). The measures for emergency planning are established by the emergency plans, as follows:

- for protection of the population (off-site emergency plan), which regulates the emergency planning zones and determines the actions to be taken by the competent authorities to protect the population, property and environment in case of an accident;
- for nuclear facility (on-site emergency plan), which determines the actions to be taken by the licensee or the permit holder to mitigate the accident and eliminate the consequences thereof, according to the off-site emergency plan.

The Regulation for Emergency Planning and Emergency Preparedness in Case of Nuclear and Radiation Accident sets:

- the conditions and the procedure for developing Emergency Plans, the persons responsible for their application and their obligations, the actions and measures for limitation (localization) and liquidation of the consequences of a nuclear or radiological accident, the methods for informing the general public, the procedure for maintaining and testing the emergency preparedness.
- risk categories of the sites, facilities and activities, as well as classification of the emergencies.
- the intervention levels, the dose rate and the specific activity values, whose reaching initiates the implementation of protective measures.

A revision and update of the regulatory requirements taking into account the lessons learned from the Nuclear Power Plant Fukushima Daiichi accident and the relevant new documents of the IAEA and the European Commission are implemented in the period 2012-2014 and that will ensure the up-to-date state of the regulatory framework and respectively – of the controlled nuclear infrastructure.

A review of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant (on-site) and the off-site Emergency Plans is being implemented to consider the potential effects of physical isolation due to external hazards:

- impeded access to the ECR of units 5 & 6;
- possible draining of the spent fuel storage sections at the wet SFSF followed by increase in the dose rate;
- provide alternative routes for evacuation, transport of necessary fuels and materials to the plant, and access of operational staff

This will make the basis of the emergency plans much more realistic.

An upgrade of the National System for Radiation Background Monitoring, BULRaMo is being implemented and will be finished in 2015. This will confirm and even raise additionally the existing possibility for very early registration and alarming in case of trans-boundary radioactive contamination of the Bulgarian territory.

# Strategic goals

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## Strategic Goal 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 2013-2015

The lack of strategic framework was one of the main challenges before adoption of Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy. The actions needed strategic direction because all activities often were not coordinated well enough. In this regard the adopted Strategy has to outline a coherent framework and to identify strategic priorities for disaster risk reduction and also to support the measures for their implementation at national, regional and municipal level. Moreover the Strategy will identify and prioritize specific areas for trans-boundary and regional cooperation as well as it will ensure coordinated solution of the problems with perspective for long-term strengthening the capacities for disaster risk reduction.

The main priority laid down in the National Program for Disaster Protection for 2014-2018 is carrying out of analysis, risk assessment and risk mapping. Moreover some of the main task laid down in it are:

- Completing the siren system as part of National early warning and alert system.
- Raising the resilience of the critical infrastructure objects in case of disasters;
- risk assessment and risk mapping of the risk of earthquake, nuclear or radiation accidents and geological risk;
- Completing of the floods risk assessment and development of hazard maps and risk maps;

## Strategic Goal 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 2013-2015

Fire Safety and Civil Protection Directorate-General, Mol conducts annual trainings, based on different disaster scenarios of first responders. Also every year exercises at national, regional and local level are organized with the main purpose to review the activities of the governing bodies, and local, regional and national plan for disaster protection. The personnel of the Directorate-General participates also in different international training, courses and exercises.

Fire Safety and Civil Protection Directorate-General elaborated Strategy for volunteers in case of disaster in Republic of Bulgaria. The Strategy was adopted in the end of 2012 and encompasses the period 2012-2020.

Bulgarian Red Cross organizes and conducts first-aid trainings for the population, trainings based on different disaster scenarios, raising awareness campaigns, trainings for volunteers and the decision-makers as well as it actively participates in many different exercises in order to improve its own capabilities and capacities. Also in regard to strengthen its capacities Bulgarian Red Cross carries out activities for implementation of Strategy for disaster management. Based on those actions Bulgarian Red Cross has formed 18 regional voluntary teams and 2 national teams. Bulgarian Red Cross has also succeeded in forming 32 rescue teams under the Mountain Rescue Service and has trained more than 1300 water rescuers and over 77 000 children accomplishing the programme for prevention of water traumatism.

Ministry of Education provides education on Disaster protection in the high-school. The methodology is based on interactive forms. On annual basis national competitions for disaster protection and fire safety for children are conducted. In order to improve the education in the field of disaster protection Mol and Ministry of Education interact actively with the other competent ministries, NGO's, media etc.

## **Strategic Goal 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 2013-2015**

The activities related to the preparedness are closely connected with the activities related to response and recovery. In this sense they provide a good opportunity to ensure coherence between disaster management activities through development of disaster risk reduction capacities at national, regional and local level. Elaboration of plans, programmes and strategies for disaster risk reduction envisages building of long-term capabilities.

Development and integration of voluntary movements at all levels is only possible through establishment of a favorable environment for education, training and realization. Update of the Guidelines and planning, conducting, and assessment of the trainings and exercises for disaster protection at national, regional and local level will contribute to considerable reduction of disaster risks.

Bulgaria through Ministry of Environment and Water has launched a process of elaboration Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. The first step to the document is to develop Analysis and assessment of the risk and vulnerability of the sectors from the Bulgarian economy from the climate changes. In result of those actions the most vulnerable sectors of the Bulgarian economy will be identified as well as the major risks for them. Once the strategy is adopted and started being implemented it will

contribute to raising the preparedness and considerably improving the level of response and recovery.

# 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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## 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? 4

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

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is disaster risk taken into account in public investment and planning decisions? Yes

National development plan	Yes
Sector strategies and plans	Yes
Climate change policy and strategy	Yes
Poverty reduction strategy papers	Yes
CCA/ UNDAF (Common Country Assessment/ UN Development Assistance Framework)	Yes
Civil defence policy, strategy and contingency planning	Yes

Have legislative and/or regulatory provisions been made for managing disaster risk?  
Yes

### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.



Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is in process of elaboration. Policies, strategies and ordinances are in place together with commitment from different state bodies and ministries.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Financial allocations for disaster risk reduction activities are not sufficient and should be encouraged.

## 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? 4

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

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

What is the ratio of the budget allocation to risk reduction versus disaster relief and reconstruction?

	Risk reduction / prevention (%)	Relief and reconstruction (%)
National budget	0,1 %	N/A
Decentralised / sub-national budget	N/A	N/A
USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)	N/A	

Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator

**(not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Funds from the reserve allocated for prevention, mitigation and overcome of consequences in case of disasters are being spent on the basis of an act of the Council of Ministers on proposal by the Intergovernmental Commission for Recovery and Support to the Council of Ministers

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Currently the disaster insurance for companies, public institutions and citizens is on voluntary basis but some measures on how to involve the social community and private sector in the process of DRR have been discussed.

**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.

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Do local governments have legal responsibility and regular / systematic budget allocations for DRR? Yes

<b>Legislation (Is there a specific legislation for local governments with a mandate for DRR?)</b>	Yes
<b>Regular budget allocations for DRR to local government</b>	Yes
<b>Estimated % of local budget allocation assigned to DRR</b>	N/A

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Municipal and Regional Plans for Disaster Protection have been developed. All the Regional Plans contain analysis of the possible disasters and forecast for their consequences as well as preventative measures and measures for disaster reduction. Regional Plans are approved by the Minister of Interior.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Not enough capacity at local level as well as financial constraints identified

**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.

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Are civil society organizations, national finance and planning institutions, key economic and development sector organizations represented in the national platform? Yes

<b>civil society members (specify absolute number)</b>	0
<b>national finance and planning institutions (specify absolute number)</b>	1
<b>sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)</b>	1
<b>private sector (specify absolute number)</b>	2

<b>science and academic institutions (specify absolute number)</b>	1
<b>women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)</b>	0
<b>other (please specify)</b>	1 NGO

**Where is the coordinating lead institution for disaster risk reduction located?**

<b>In the Prime Minister's/President's Office</b>	No
<b>In a central planning and/or coordinating unit</b>	No
<b>In a civil protection department</b>	No
<b>In an environmental planning ministry</b>	No
<b>In the Ministry of Finance</b>	No
<b>Other (Please specify)</b>	Ministry of Interior

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The Consultative Council for supporting the Council of Ministers in forming the state policy in the field of disaster protection is composed by relevant ministries and public authorities responsible for disaster protection, representatives of the private sector, NGOs and scientific and academic community.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Under the Consultative Council a scientific – expert group has been established. The group consists of members from universities in the Republic of Bulgaria and is chaired by the president of Bulgarian Academy of Science. The group supports the Council in forming scientific-technological policy in the field of disaster protection. The work of the group needs to be further encouraged.



# Priority for Action 2

*Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning*

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## 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? 4

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

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment with a common methodology available to inform planning and development decisions? Yes

<b>Multi-hazard risk assessment</b>	Yes
<b>% of schools and hospitals assessed</b>	N/A
<b>schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)</b>	N/A
<b>Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments</b>	No
<b>Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments</b>	Yes
<b>Risk assessment held by a central repository (lead institution)</b>	Yes
<b>Common format for risk assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Risk assessment format customised by user</b>	No
<b>Is future/probable risk assessed?</b>	No
<b>Please list the sectors that have already used disaster risk assessment as a precondition for sectoral development planning and programming.</b>	N/A

## **Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

An analysis of extreme weather conditions on the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant site, using probabilistic methods according to the IAEA methodology, and considering combinations of extreme weather conditions is to be implemented in 2014-2015. An assessment of the possible damage on the regional road infrastructure surrounding the plant under the impact of extreme weather conditions (such as flooded or damaged roads, collapse of bridges, or demolition of other critical facilities) and evaluation of the reliability of routes ensuring accessibility to the plant site for machinery, supplies and personnel is being implemented in 2014. This will improve significantly the preliminary risk assessment.

Procedure for single and multi-risk scenarios in risk assessments is in progress and should be carried out until the end of 2015.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Financial constraints for elaboration of needed methodology for risk assessments in the different sectors.

## **Core indicator 2**

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

Level of Progress achieved? 4

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

### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Are disaster losses and hazards systematically reported, monitored and analyzed?  
Yes

**Disaster loss databases exist and are**

No

regularly updated	
Reports generated and used in planning by finance, planning and sectoral line ministries (from the disaster databases/ information systems)	Yes
Hazards are consistently monitored across localities and territorial boundaries	Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Lack of national disaster loss database. There are several databases within different institutions which comparability is questionable due to the different purposes of their use and the period that they cover.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

In the Republic of Bulgaria there are no common standards and criteria for recording losses.

**Core indicator 3**

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

Level of Progress achieved? 4

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

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

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



<b>Early warnings acted on effectively</b>	Yes
<b>Local level preparedness</b>	Yes
<b>Communication systems and protocols used and applied</b>	Yes
<b>Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination</b>	Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

In the period 2013 – 2014 in the Immediate protective measures area around Nuclear Power Plant, integrated radio communication system has been built. The system improves interaction during rescue activities. Also in the same area modern system for warning the population has been integrated with the National early warning and alert system.

Since 2009 in Bulgaria is being exploited National early warning and alert system which consists of two components – the first one is designed for automatic individual notification of the executive authorities by cell phone and the second one is designed for warning the population by sirens. The siren system covers the whole territory of the country and at the territory of 10 regional centres and the Immediate protective measures area of the Nuclear Power Plant is renewed with a new Early warning and alert system for warning the population. The system provides new functional options and higher reliability.

Information to the population is provided by means of mass media.

In the country Remote sensing centre is functional. The main task of the centre is observation of natural events on the territory of the country by real-time satellite monitoring.

In regard to the observation of the forestry territories and detection of forest fires, building of specialized systems is already in process. As of today app. 7 % are already covered by similar systems. Among the priorities of the Executive Forestry Agency to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is the building of integrated observation and forest fire detection system which should cover all territories with high fire risk irrespective of their ownership.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the

country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Enormous financial resource is needed for changing the old Automatic warning system with the new more reliable Early warning and alert system.

**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.

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional actions to reduce disaster risk? Yes

<b>Establishing and maintaining regional hazard monitoring</b>	Yes
<b>Regional or sub-regional risk assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Regional or sub-regional early warning</b>	Yes
<b>Establishing and implementing protocols for transboundary information sharing</b>	Yes
<b>Establishing and resourcing regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks</b>	Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The resigning of the bilateral agreements with the regulatory bodies for nuclear safety and radiation protection of Russia, Serbia, Greece and Romania that is envisaged to

be accomplished in 2013-2014 will warrant the timely notification and interaction between Bulgaria and these countries in case of a nuclear or radiation emergency.

Close cooperation on risk reduction and critical infrastructure protection with all countries and relevant institutions in South Eastern Europe;  
Bilateral agreements for cooperation in case of disasters with most of the neighbouring countries

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Lack of financial resources

# Priority for Action 3

*Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels*

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## 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.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a national disaster information system publicly available? Yes

Information is proactively disseminated	Yes
Established mechanisms for access / dissemination (internet, public information broadcasts - radio, TV, )	Yes
Information is provided with proactive guidance to manage disaster risk	No

### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

On the territory of the country as a component of the National early and alert system is functioning Early warning and alert system of the executive authorities and main components of integrated rescue system. The system gives the opportunity to notify persons at national, regional and local level responsible for disaster and emergency response. Notification is carried out by automatic transmission of voice messages on the cell phone.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular,

highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

More financial resources are needed

## Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved? 4

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

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum? Yes

<b>primary school curriculum</b>	Yes
<b>secondary school curriculum</b>	Yes
<b>university curriculum</b>	Yes
<b>professional DRR education programmes</b>	No

### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Disaster protection education as well as education on first aid is carried out in school in compliance with programmes approved by the Minister of Education and Science. The education model is based on modern methodology using interactive forms, methods and means. The methodology includes 3 Teacher’s books for every stage of education – elementary, secondary and high school.

For children at secondary school educational boards and posters are created.

Out-of-school training activities for disasters protection are also carried out.

Annual competitions for disaster protection are conducted depending on the age of the students.

National Competition for Children Paintings “I saw the disaster with my eyes”. The competition is organized by DG Fire Safety and Civil Protection to the Ministry of Interior together with the Ministry of Education and Science and the National Palace of Children. The Competition has an International participation section which is conducted under the auspices of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement to the Council of Europe.

Upon approval of the National calendar of the extracurricular activities of the Ministry of Education and Science for the respective year and on an annual bases local, regional and national fire youth brigades competitions named "Young firefighter" as well as the student competitions "Protection from disasters, accidents and catastrophes" are conducted.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

The national and international participation in the competition “I saw the disaster with my eyes” should be encouraged with more attractive awards for the rewarded participants.

### **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.

#### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget? Yes

<b>Research programmes and projects</b>	Yes
<b>Research outputs, products or studies are applied / used by public and private institutions</b>	Yes

<b>Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR</b>	Yes
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### **Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Scientific-expert group to the Consultative Council provides suggestions to be included in its working program. The suggestions are for national scientific researches in the field of disaster protection. All the results from the scientific researches are presented at the Consultative Council. With the Decision of the Council of Ministers № 569/ 31.08.2014 the National Road map on the scientific infrastructure has been updated. It identifies priority scientific infrastructures of the country which to be built until 2020. One of them is the project to build a National Geo-information center.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Limited financial resources

## **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? 3

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial.

### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Do public education campaigns for risk-prone communities and local authorities include disaster risk? Yes

<b>Public education campaigns for enhanced</b>	Yes
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<b>awareness of risk.</b>	
<b>Training of local government</b>	Yes
<b>Disaster management (preparedness and emergency response)</b>	Yes
<b>Preventative risk management (risk and vulnerability)</b>	Yes
<b>Guidance for risk reduction</b>	Yes
<b>Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level</b>	Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Open doors days and information campaigns are conducted. Moreover the week of the fire safety and international disaster risk reduction day are being celebrated.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Financial constraints exist.



# Priority for Action 4

*Reduce the underlying risk factors*

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## 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.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

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

<b>Protected areas legislation</b>	Yes
<b>Payment for ecosystem services (PES)</b>	Yes
<b>Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)</b>	Yes
<b>Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)</b>	Yes
<b>Climate change adaptation projects and programmes</b>	Yes

### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Programme of measures for climate change adaptation of forests in the Republic of Bulgaria has been adopted.

Third National Action Plan for Climate Change for the period 2013 – 2020 has been adopted. The main objective of the plan is to outline a framework for action against climate change for the period 2013-2020 and to direct the efforts of the country to

actions which will lead to mitigation of adverse consequences of the climate change. A Framework Document “Analysis and assessment of risks and vulnerability of economy sectors to climate change” has been elaborated and it is expected in near future to come into force.

An Ordinance on determination of the indemnity for the benefits of the public ecosystems is in process of elaboration, in compliance with the Forestry Act. The Ordinance should envisage elaboration of methodology for determination of the rate of the indemnity for the benefits of the different types public ecosystems from the forestry territories. The public ecosystem benefits are paid when they are in favour of economic activities in the forestry territories. With the regional development plans of the forestry territories are defined the concrete forestry territories which are providing such benefits as well as the type of the benefits to the economic activities.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Still lack of adopted Climate Change Adaptation Strategy but actions are taken in order to be elaborated.

## 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.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities? Yes

<b>Crop and property insurance</b>	Yes
<b>Temporary employment guarantee schemes</b>	Yes
<b>Conditional and unconditional cash transfers</b>	Yes
<b>Micro finance (savings, loans, etc.)</b>	Yes
<b>Micro insurance</b>	Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Ministry of Labor and Social Policy elaborated a National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Promotion of Social Engagement up to 2020 which is in force. Achievement of high and resilient economic growth, stable macro-economical environment and public finances are essential prerequisites and have direct influence to fulfill the priorities of the poverty reduction and promotion of social engagement policies.

A National Concept for promotion of active life of old people 2012 – 2030 is in force.

A Law for integration of people with disabilities exists.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Insufficient financial resources.

**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.

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment? No

<b>National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.</b>	No
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**Please provide specific examples: e.g. public infrastructure, transport and communication, economic and productive assets** N/A

<b>Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals</b>	Yes
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**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The topic has been discussed at the meetings of the Consultative Council, but decisions are to be expected.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

More commitment is needed.

## **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.

### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements? Yes

<b>Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas</b>	Yes
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<b>Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas</b>	Yes
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<b>Training of masons on safe construction technology</b>	Yes
<b>Provision of safe land and housing for low income households and communities</b>	Yes
<b>Risk sensitive regulation in land zoning and private real estate development</b>	Yes
<b>Regulated provision of land titling</b>	Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

In 2013 an Ordinance for designing, building and exploitation of the sanitation systems was adopted.

Moreover in 2014 a Strategy for development and management of water supply and sanitation in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2014 – 2023 was adopted.

A National Strategy for Regional Development of the Republic of Bulgaria 2012-2022 was adopted.

Ordinance for Designing of the building structures through the implementation of the European system, including through implementation of Designing of structures on earthquake impacts is in force. National applications were developed for designing according to Constructive Euro code system. For the implementation of the Bulgarian State Standard European Norm 1998 new cards for seismic zoning of Republic of Bulgaria were developed.

In compliance with an adopted ordinance a technical passport for each new building should be created before its entering in exploitation. The passport includes all parameters for seismic resistance of the building.

Ordinance for designing of buildings in areas prone to earthquakes is in force. The ordinance ensures higher reliability of the constructions under operating and seismic impacts.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

According to some predictions the mega cities of the developing world are expected to experience increasing rates of growth in the coming decades. The mega-cities of the future would be "giant potential flood and disaster traps" if insufficient action is taken.

## Core indicator 5

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

Level of Progress achieved? 3

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do post-disaster programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR for resilient recovery? Yes

<b>% of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR</b>	N/A
<b>DRR capacities of local authorities for response and recovery strengthened</b>	Yes
<b>Risk assessment undertaken in pre- and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction planning</b>	Yes
<b>Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery</b>	No

### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Growing urbanization and settlement at risk-prone areas, number of people and important economic infrastructure exposed to natural hazards is rising. Raising the awareness and knowledge in the aftermath of disaster, recovery and reconstruction planning presents an important opportunity to change practices that have led to underlying vulnerabilities.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Enormous financial resources needed in the phases of recovery and reconstruction are clear evidence of the urgent need for augmentation of disaster risk reduction allocations

**Core indicator 6**

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

Level of Progress achieved? 3

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial.

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Are the impacts of disaster risk that are created by major development projects assessed? Yes

Are cost/benefits of disaster risk taken into account in the design and operation of major development projects? Yes

<b>Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)</b>	Yes
<b>By national and sub-national authorities and institutions</b>	No
<b>By international development actors</b>	No

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

According to the Spatial Development Act the strategic planning of the spatial development includes preparation of documents which outline integrated spatial development including territorial potential and principles of balanced sustainable development.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Environment impact assessment includes only the impact from development projects and investment suggestions.



# Priority for Action 5

*Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels*

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## 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? 4

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

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are there national programmes or policies for disaster preparedness, contingency planning and response? Yes

<b>DRR incorporated in these programmes and policies</b>	Yes
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<b>The institutional mechanisms exist for the rapid mobilisation of resources in a disaster, utilising civil society and the private sector; in addition to public sector support.</b>	Yes
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Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies? Yes

<b>Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety</b>	No
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<b>Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness</b>	Yes
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Are future disaster risks anticipated through scenario development and aligned preparedness planning? No

<b>Potential risk scenarios are developed taking into account climate change projections</b>	No
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<b>Preparedness plans are regularly updated based on future risk scenarios</b>	No
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**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Training and mock drills in schools and hospitals for emergency preparedness and evacuation are conducted on regular basis.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Monitoring systems with an option for real time disaster scenarios and future disasters can be used to support the decision makers and first responders but financial resources and strong commitment are needed.

**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? 4

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

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster? Yes

<b>Plans and programmes are developed with gender sensitivities</b>	No
<b>Risk management/contingency plans for continued basic service delivery</b>	Yes
<b>Operations and communications centre</b>	Yes
<b>Search and rescue teams</b>	Yes

<b>Stockpiles of relief supplies</b>	Yes
<b>Shelters</b>	Yes
<b>Secure medical facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Dedicated provision for disabled and elderly in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities</b>	No
<b>Businesses are a proactive partner in planning and delivery of response</b>	Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

An analysis of the existing and development of new procedures, instructions and methodologies for actions of the emergency teams in line with the National Emergency Plan is done in the period 2011-2014 that will assure a higher level of preparedness including in the case of nuclear or radiation emergencies.

Fire Safety and Civil Protection Directorate-General, as a consortium partner together with FALCK NUTEC Holland, organized and conducted in the period 22 - 25 march 2013 r. in the area of city of Montana and its surroundings an International field exercise for EU civil protection modules. In 2013 Bulgarian Search and Rescue Module in CBRN environment took part in the International field exercise EC – EU TARANIS 2013.

Participation in ModTTX table-top exercises, organized and conducted in other countries.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

More financial allocations for trainings, drills and exercises are needed.

**Core indicator 3**

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

## Level of Progress achieved? 4

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

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

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

<b>National contingency and calamity funds</b>	Yes
<b>The reduction of future risk is considered in the use of calamity funds</b>	Yes
<b>Insurance and reinsurance facilities</b>	No
<b>Catastrophe bonds and other capital market mechanisms</b>	No

### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Bulgarian Red Cross maintain a financial fund for immediate assistance of affected population in case of disasters.

Financial funds for immediate assistance of affected population are available at national and regional level.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Development of strong insurance policy which will support the country and population in case of disasters is needed.

## 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? 4

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

#### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur? Yes

<b>Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available</b>	Yes
<b>Post-disaster need assessment methodologies</b>	Yes
<b>Post-disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects</b>	No
<b>Identified and trained human resources</b>	Yes

#### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Commissions for damage and loss assessments operate at local, regional and national level.

In compliance with Ordinance 8/2012 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Executive Forestry Agency maintains integrated database for all identified forest fires in the country. Part of it includes the information on the damages caused by forest fires over the last years.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Lack of national database with loss, damages etc. from disasters



# 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)

In 2014 a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy was adopted. Some of the actions laid down in the annex - Road Map to the Strategy are:

1. to perform assessment of the existing human resources for disaster risk reduction at all levels and to strengthen the administrative capacity for disaster risk assessment.
2. Elaboration of methodology for complex risk assessment with different combinations of multi-risk scenarios.

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

### Levels of Reliance

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

Is gender disaggregated data available and being applied to decision-making for risk reduction and recovery activities?: Yes

Do gender concerns inform policy and programme conceptualisation and implementation in a meaningful and appropriate way?: Yes

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

Ministry of Labor and Social Policy works on Programmes for equal possibilities for men and women.

### **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.

Do responsible designated agencies, institutions and offices at the local level have capacities for the enforcement of risk reduction regulations?:  
Yes

Are local institutions, village committees, communities, volunteers or urban resident welfare associations properly trained for response?: Yes

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

National Disaster Protection Programme identifies objectives, priorities and measures for disaster risk reduction which to be implemented in the period 2014 – 2020 at local, regional and national level.

Training and education for volunteers is envisaged in the Strategy for development of the volunteers in Republic of Bulgaria.

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

Levels of Reliance

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

Do programmes take account of socio-environmental risks to the most



vulnerable and marginalised groups?: Yes

Are appropriate social protection measures / safety nets that safeguard against their specific socioeconomic and political vulnerabilities being adequately implemented?: Yes

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

DG Fire Safety and Civil Protection, MoI ensures the protection of the population in case of “wartime” or “emergency situation” in compliance with the Geneva Conventions.

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

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.

Are there identified means and sources to convey local and community experience or traditional knowledge in disaster risk reduction?: Yes

If so, are they being integrated within local, sub-national and national disaster risk reduction plans and activities in a meaningful way?: Yes

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

The Consultative Council for assisting the Council of Ministers in forming the state policy in the field of disaster protection is composed of relevant ministries and public authorities responsible for disaster protection, representatives of the private sector, NGOs and scientific and academic community including the National Association of Municipalities.

## **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)

Main priority in the field of disaster risk reduction for the years ahead is available and precise analysis, risk assessments and risk mapping that could occur on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria.

Further disaster risk reduction trainings and education for the staff at all levels are needed.

# Future Outlook

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## Future Outlook 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

Elaboration and adoption of Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which to complement and to be connected with the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy.

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### Future Outlook Statement

Development of Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy will ensure smart and sustainable development of all important sectors of the country, adequate risk reduction and civil protection.

## Future Outlook 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

Encourage the work of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Platform and needed commitment of all relevant stakeholders for more active and fruitful disaster risk reduction activities.

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### Future Outlook Statement

Strengthening disaster risk reduction capacities at all levels of the relevant stakeholders.

## Future Outlook 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

Most of the needed legislation is already in place but more financial allocations for disaster risk reduction measures and activities are needed.

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### Future Outlook Statement

Improvement of the common work of institutions and closer cooperation within the disaster management cycle should be encouraged.

# Stakeholders

*Organizations, departments, and institutions that have contributed to the report*

Organization	Organization type	Focal Point
DG Fire Safety and Civil Protection, Ministry of Interior	Governments	Mrs Antoaneta Boycheva
Nuclear Regulatory Agency	Governments	
Ministry of Environment and Water	Governments	
Ministry of Education and Science	Governments	
Ministry of Finances	Governments	
Ministry of Health	Governments	
State Agency National Security	Governments	
State Agency State reserve and War-Time Stocks	Governments	
Bulgarian Red Cross	Non-Governmental Organizations	
Ministry of Economy and Energy	Governments	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Governments	
Ministry of Youth and Sports	Governments	
Ministry of Defence	Governments	
Executive Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture and Food	Governments	