



# The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

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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

It has been recognized that full integration of DRR begins with the full integration of the basic doctrinary position into a general strategy, functional strategies and operational strategies for DRR. Such strategies are the basis for creating appropriate Multi- Hazard early warning systems, prevention, reaction and rehabilitation policies, such as sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels. Finally, the implementation of accident and disaster risk prevention policies (as well as programs and projects developed in this context) implies an appropriate normative framework.

A process of introducing of land-use planning, sexual and reproductive health services, applying building codes and capacity development is underway. Also, steps forward have been made regarding capacity building as a non-structural risk prevention measure, and conceptual improvement and structural modernization of the Multi- Hazard early warning systems is planned.

## Strategic Outcome For Goal 2

### Outcomes Statement

The strategic goal of the Republic of Macedonia is disaster prevention, functional Multi- Hazard early warning systems, mitigation and post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation. In order to fulfill these goals, the Government established a National Platform for DRR to further coordination and cooperation among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders on national, local and community levels.

## Strategic Outcome For Goal 3

### Outcomes Statement

There is progress regarding the implementation of the DRR mechanisms in practice through the improvement of the early warning and METEO-alarining systems and the introduction of the GIS platform. The NPDRR was established, among other things, to enhance the implementation of the emergency preparedness, response and recovery. There is some progress in terms of public awareness, confidence and stimulating DRR culture through educational material and campaigns.

In May 2012 the third revised edition of the National Platform of the Republic of Macedonia for Disaster Risk Reduction was published by the Crisis Management Center.

The third revised publication of the National Platform of the Republic of Macedonia is a national mechanism for disaster risk reduction that is based on the principle of inclusion, professionalism, foundation and efficiency. This issue harmonises the term “Disaster Risk Reduction-DRR”.

The inclusion is presented with the composition of the Council of the National Platform, where the representatives of the public administration bodies, the academic community, the religious communities, the business community, the NGO sector, the public media and other relevant factors take active part and it is a forum – an advisory body for exchanging experience, know-how and achievements in the area of disaster risk reduction.

# 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

DRR has important position in both national and local development plans. The incorporation of the DRR system into the sustainable development plans is a government policy.

The adopted basic doctrinary position for accidents and disaster risk reduction is: "Prevention and early warning are the basis for preventing in total or the disasterous consequences of natural hazards or man-made accidents, while the preparedness of each stakeholder and their capability for coordinated and rapid response are preconditions for reducing the consequences and rapid mitigation of such accidents."

One goal is the full integration of the basic doctrinary position into a general strategy, functional strategies and operational strategies for DRR. Such strategies are the basis for creating appropriate prevention, reaction and rehabilitation policies, such as sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels. Finally, the implementation of accident and disaster risk prevention policies (as well as programs and projects developed in this context) implies an appropriate normative framework. The full integration of the doctrinary position would enable more coherent approach to DRR.

## 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

A fully operative NPDRR implies developed and strengthened institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels. In this regard, the role of the Administrative level of the NPDRR is crucial, in particular of the Council of State Secretaries (presided by the Secretary-General of the Government) and the nine working groups working under its auspices:

- Normative-legal harmonization;
- Finances, insurance and procurement;

- Human resources planning, development and maintenance;
  - Info-networking and resources registry;
  - Standardization;
  - Terminological unification;
  - Public relations and public awareness;
  - International funds access unit;
  - International cooperation. Furthermore, the Inspection Council (headed by the Minister of Justice) has the task of intensifying the cooperation of inspection bodies to advance coordinated inspectoral supervision, thus closing the circle of responsibility. The Inspection Council was set up to further effective inspectoral supervision within the framework of the National Platform.
- The second strategic goal is to have fully operative NPDRR on all levels.

## 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 existence and implementation of effective DRR measures does not imply the complete elimination of threats. Despite taking prevention activities, some risk elements are difficult to remove. Furthermore, the multidimensional nature of accidents and disasters requires the engagement of many institutions which do not always cooperate under normal circumstances. As a result, strengthening coordination, information exchange and early warning mechanisms is essential to achieving effective and efficient accident management. In terms of all of this, the following is necessary: (1) Operative coordination, (2) Logistics coordination, (3) Institutional coordination, (4) Spatial coordination and, (5) Monitoring, early warning and alert

The following is also planned: Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems; Development of Flood and Drought risk assessment Capacities; Disaster Risk Reduction in a Changing Climate; Integration into European Meteorological Infrastructure; Upgrade institutional and technical capacity building.

# 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	No
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)	No
Civil defence policy, strategy and contingency planning	No

Have legislative and/or regulatory provisions been made for managing 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.

Some institutional commitment and capacities to achieving DRR but progress is not comprehensive or substantial.

NPDRR, has its roots in the following two key strategic documents, as well as in several institutional commitment and capacities to achieving DRR but progress is not comprehensive or substantial.

NPDRR, has its roots in the following two key strategic documents, as well as in several laws, one of which is crucial in this context: The National Security and Defense Conception(2003), the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia(2008) and the Law on Crisis Management(2005).

The key strategic documents and laws were adopted prior to the adoption of DRR concept and the establishment of the NPDRR. Hence, the DRR concept is not included as a whole, but the strategies and laws separately contain different DRR elements(such as prevention, early warning, preparedness.)

These documents are the fundamentals to what already is institutionalized as a NPDRR, which is entirely dedicated to providing an integrated, efficient and effective approach to prevention, early warning, management and mitigation of the consequences of natural and man-made accidents and disasters, while ensuring a functional unity of the state authorities, the local self-government, the NGO sector as well as the academic and business communities. Consequently, the above mentioned documents imply the development of a governing system, structure(institutional network)and functional linkages that guarantee timely, systematic and coordinated response by NPDRR stakeholders, as well as the planned buildup and optimal utilization of available resources(human, material-technical and financial).

The Ministry of Health developed the following:

National strategy for health adaptation to climate changes(2011)

Action Plan(AP) for prevention of harmful influences and consequences from cold weather and cold waves on the health of the population.

AP for prevention of harmful influences of heath waves upon the health of the population of the Republic of Macedonia

Strategy for health sector adaptation towards Climate change in the Republic of Macedonia with action plan 2011-2015

Action Plan for ensuring sexual and reproductive health services during emergencies 2015-2016.

Ministry of Interior has adopted by-law for crisis management.

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning had published the "Third national communication on climate change" in March 2014. This document provides comprehensive guidelines on the integration of climate change priorities into national policies, development strategies and programmes for relevant sectors. It aims to

strengthen dialogue, information exchange and cooperation amongst all the relevant stakeholders, including the governmental and non-governmental, academic and private sectors. This document was produced with the technical and financial support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

The full text of the document is available on the UNFCCC website ([http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/library/items/3599.php?rec=j&preref=7763#beg](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/library/items/3599.php?rec=j&preref=7763#beg))

Six years of experience of Crisis Management System (crisis situation in 2007 and number of exercises) imposed the need for adoption of a standardized tool for communication, coordination and cooperation between the subjects of the Crisis Management System (CMS) during a declared crisis situation.

In 2010 the obligation of the Republic of Macedonia for implementation of NATO Partnership Goal-0029, "Managing emergency situations including effects of terrorist acts" was summarized with the creation of SOPs.

The realization of a continuous process was commenced for drawing up plans and internal SOPs of the institutions (a process in progress), for printing a brochure with the SOPs, translating them in English and conducting training for the SOPs (a process that is in progress) .

Risks included in the SOPs:

1. Security (Larger scale demonstrations and strikes; Nationalism, religious intolerance and hatred; Terrorism, diversions and sabotage)
2. Natural (Earthquake, Fire, Flood, Land slide, intensive snow falls, drifts, avalanches, Dense fog, extremely low or high temperatures)
3. Technical-technological (Mine disasters, industrial accidents, disasters and major failures; Cracks, damages and destruction of dams; CBR contamination, including consequences from means for mass destruction)
4. Health (Epidemics, Epizootics, Epiphytotics, Mass food poisoning and chemicals poisoning)
5. Affiliated (SECURITY - Organized crime, illegal trafficking of drugs, guns and people; illegal migration; Possession of greater quantities of illegal weapons; Corruption; Airspace violation; Border incidents and delays on border crossings; Severe crime, including extortion, murders and attacks on citizens and their property; Unauthorized disclosure, publishing and security breach of information and communications; Activities of foreign special services and other activities aimed at worsening of the security situation; Consequences from conflicts of interest for the usage of sources and roads of strategic energy sources, as well as preventing and blocking of their import; NATURAL - Lightning strikes; High winds; Droughts; Larger scale environment degradation and destruction; Frost; Hail; Freezing of river flows and lakes; Heavy rain; TECHNICAL-TECHNOLOGICAL -Explosive demolition and destruction of unexploded lethal devices; Accidents in road, rail, marine and air transport; Disruptions in the regular conditions of the communal sphere - Electricity, oil, gas, water, communications; Status of blood supplies and blood products)

Content of the SOPs:

- Declaring a crisis situation
- Functions and tasks of the subjects of the CMS
- Analysis of the situation

- Decision making
- Dealing with the situation
- operational activities (template – decisions, recommendations and other acts)
- public relations
- international coordination (reception, allocation and distribution of international assistance)
- Situation reports
- Termination of the crisis situation

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.

Despite the achievements, there is still need for greater commitment, financial resources, catastrophe Insurance facility and financial risk transfer and operational capacities at all levels.

In this regard, DRR is still to be fully incorporated in many existing and future strategic concepts and development strategies, policies, laws, assessments and plans. For this purpose a review and further harmonization of the key documents is recommendable, so that all DRR elements could be incorporated, from prevention and early warning, through preparedness and response to mitigation.

## 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? 3

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

### 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		

## Decentralised / sub-national budget

USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)

### 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.

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

The National Budget and the budgets of the municipalities, there are resources planned for disaster reduction. In this regard, the resources are planned for recovery and mitigation in case of: natural hazards, epidemics and environmental disasters, and they cannot be used for other purposes than the above mentioned.

As part of the thematic working groups of the NPDRR, separate working groups have been established for cooperation with insurance companies, the economic chamber and the business community and the trade unions.

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.

Further improvement is needed.

## 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>	

**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 municipal level, multi-stakeholder Local NPDRR Councils are formed to assess local risks and threats, coordinate resources and activities, organize rural and urban communities, and cooperate with neighboring municipalities. The municipality, when necessary, establishes local rescue and protection HQs, and the municipality and its mayor have specific duties arising from the Law on Local Self-Government and the Law on Rescue and Protection.

Position of rural and urban communities is clearly defined. Presidents of rural and urban communities are members of Local NPDRR Councils, and are entitled to: (1) maintain regular communication with Mayor and CMC; (2) monitor risk conditions in rural and urban communities that could be harmful to life, health and property of citizens and infrastructure; (3) inform and prepare citizens for prevention and their participation in response to accidents and disasters; and, (4) organize citizens and to coordinate rural and urban community activities in event of accidents or disasters. When the situation exceeds municipal boundaries, Regional NPDRR Councils are set up, covering several municipalities with tasks to organize risk and threat assessment when local response resources are depleted, to coordinate municipal resources and activities in the regional context, and to provide coordination with competent government bodies on the national level.

A regional HQ is established within Regional NPDRR Council, which convenes on a regular basis and in case of need.

Local and regional councils brief municipal councils as well as the NPDRR Steering Committee. There has been established within the Strumica municipality activities a project of "Strengthening of the capacities and resilience of the local authorities in

case of natural disasters and catastrophes” in cooperation with UNDP and the Red Cross in Strumica. The project is financed by the budget of the Municipality of Strumica and UNDP.

The municipalities and the City of Skopje, within the frames of their competencies laid down by law, for their own needs have the responsibility to perform assessment of the risks and dangers at local level, to recognise the needs and plan the resources, for the purpose of efficient prevention and early warning from a potential crisis situation.

Working meetings at the local level are being held in order to determine the activities of the various stakeholders at the local level in the process of creating the separate part of the Assessment of the jeopardy to the security of the Republic of Macedonia from all risks and dangers.

The working meetings include determining the extent , dynamics and overall activities pertaining to the process of developing the Assessment , exchanging opinions as well as concrete and coordinated actions for timely and accurate implementation of the legal responsibilities, the structure and the content of the working versions of the Assessment in accordance with legal regulations, responsibilities and obligations of the Crisis Management Center and its branch offices .

Materials for their processing, merging the general and specific part of the Assessment, as well as inter-agency compliance will be submitted to the municipal councils for adopting official decisions.

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.

Understandably, implementation of the above-mentioned requires personnel equipping, preparation and financing of the necessary activities.

## **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>	
<b>national finance and planning institutions (specify absolute number)</b>	
<b>sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)</b>	
<b>private sector (specify absolute number)</b>	
<b>science and academic institutions (specify absolute number)</b>	
<b>women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)</b>	
<b>other (please specify)</b>	

**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>	Crisis Management Center

**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.

NPDRR consists of ministries and governmental agencies (32), inspectorates (21),

municipalities (85), public enterprises and services, NGOs (42), Institutes, research centers and observatories (79), laboratories (173), humanitarian organizations (9), stress and trauma treatment organizations (11), trading organizations relevant for DRR (21), the business community and religious communities.

NPDRR is organized on the interconnected and interdependent political, administrative, expert and operative levels

Political (decision-making) level: actively engaging the Government through the Steering Committee, the NPDRR managing body which consists of ministers, representatives of Parliament, President and Association of Municipalities.

Administrative level: consists of the Council of State Secretaries (CSS), the Inspection Council, the specialized platforms and the thematic working groups. CSS (headed by the Secretary-General of the Government) has the task to bridge over the problems and to mark out administrative-expert decisions affecting NPDRR.

Depending on the risk type, seven specialized platforms have been established and headed by competent ministries. Thematic working groups relate to interdisciplinary issues and link two or more specialized platforms.

Expert level: scientific-technical and expert backbone of NPDRR is composed of academic institutions, public and private universities and research centers, observatories, and the National Laboratory Network. Legal, Economic-Social, and Academic-Expert Councils, unite the highest decision-makers in the respective areas with top representatives of the academic and business communities and NGOs.

Position of a National Coordinator for NPDRR Implementation was established, with a task to further coordination and communication among NPDRR stakeholders and to control the implementation and functioning of the NPDRR. Currently we are in a phase of internal discussions regarding the further role of the National coordination structure and possibly an appointment of a new National Coordinator with strengthen capacity and responsibilities.

As part of the NPDRR, Inter-sectorial Committee for updating the National Plan for Preparedness and Response of the Health System during emergencies has been established.

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.

Despite achievements, there is still a need for sustained commitment and capacities at all levels.

The work of the Legal, Economic-Social and Academic-Expert Councils could be enhanced by establishing respective secretariats.



# 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>	No
<b>% of schools and hospitals assessed</b>	
<b>schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)</b>	
<b>Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments</b>	No
<b>Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments</b>	No
<b>Risk assessment held by a central repository (lead institution)</b>	No
<b>Common format for risk assessment</b>	No
<b>Risk assessment format customised by user</b>	No
<b>Is future/probable risk assessed?</b>	No

**Please list the sectors that have already used disaster risk assessment as a precondition for sectoral development planning and programming.**

## **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 risk areas have been identified in the Spatial plan of the Republic, passed by the Parliament and made available. Within the crisis management system, the Assessment Group (AG) is responsible for the risk assessment. AG forwards its analysis, recommendations and conclusions to the Steering Committee, the Presidents of the Government, the Republic and Parliament.

Achievement has been made in fostering the risk assessment availability by setting networks that deal with specific risks and hazards. That is the case with the National Laboratory Network linking 173 labs nationwide that will address diseases and epidemics related hazards.

The implementation of the Geographic information system (GIS) network is underway that would enable spatial positioning and predicting possible hazard scenarios. The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, in collaboration with Hydrometeorological Service(HMS) established a River Monitoring System and Air Monitoring System(RIMSYS). Also, periodical and ad-hoc inspectoral control of potential polluters and specific, risk-prone industrial capacities and installations, potential sources of industrial accidents. All relevant data is disseminated and shared among involved NPDRR stakeholders.

HMS through World Meteorological Organization and European Commission has completed the project for Regional Cooperation in SEE for meteorological, hydrological and climate data Management and information exchange to support DRR.

Together with the WMO and UNISDR there is an ongoing project within the HMS and NPDRR's Coordination titled: "Building resilience to disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey".

Especially active in terms of earthquake risks are the Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology, IZIS, and the Seismological Observatory.

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.

Despite achievements, there is still need for sustained commitment and capacities at all levels.

Although assessments for certain hazards are being produced (for instance: seismic activities, water pollution, heath waves etc.) there is still need for a multi-hazard risk assessment for all key sectors.

In order to produce reliable risk assessments, it is necessary to develop three types of methodologies: (1) Risk assessment and risk consequence assessment methodologies; (2) Risk mapping methodology; (3) Risk monitoring methodology. These methodologies are basis for developing the following assessments: (1) Assessment of events implying risk and threat; (2) Communal resilience and vulnerability assessment; (3) Competent institutions' capacity assessment (both actual and required capacity); (4) Damage assessment, as well as additional vulnerability assessment; (5) Assessment of quality of overall respond to occurred accidents and disasters.

The established thematic working groups are still not operational.

## 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

<b>Disaster loss databases exist and are regularly updated</b>	Yes
<b>Reports generated and used in planning by finance, planning and sectoral line ministries (from the disaster databases/ information systems)</b>	No
<b>Hazards are consistently monitored across localities and territorial boundaries</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.

#### Macedonian Forest Fires Information System –MKFFIS

On 5 July 2013, the Crisis Management Center presented the "Macedonian Forest Fires Information System –MKFFIS" as a new tool within the crisis management system for reducing the risk of forest fires in the country, developed in the framework of the project for establishing "Integrated system of prevention and early warning of forest fires". The project is implemented in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation (JICA), under the technical cooperation between the Government of Republic of Macedonia and the Government of Japan and provides an integrated system to the relevant institutions for rapid communication and information sharing. The formal approval and signing of the project documents for the establishment of "Integrated system for prevention and early warning of forest fires" was in January 2011. The project has an implementation period of three years , and is expected to be completed in May 2014. With the establishment of such a system, Republic of Macedonia becomes a country that establishes high standards in this area, following the example of the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS), which is established at EU level .

The Crisis Management Center has a new tool for assisting with the dealing with crisis and disasters. It is an Android, iOS and Windows application through which disaster and crisis information can be shared.

This is highly innovative new mobile application that's set to make a major contribution to public safety. The app provides access to detailed information about dangerous events like earthquakes, floods and fires, and potential hazards such as violent thunderstorms and heavy snowfalls. Each verified event is located on a map with a link to detailed information about its current status, important emergency numbers and advice on how best to respond to the danger.

The application, which was promoted on 20.22.2012, was created with open government data by FINKI with US \$10,000 in support from UNDP's Innovation Fund, in collaboration with the Center for Crisis Management.

Access to timely information can save lives and prevent loss and damage of property. Raising public awareness and providing timely access to information about potential and existing dangers is one of the most effective ways not only of reducing the negative effects of disasters but of preventing current hazards from becoming future disasters.

Substantial achievement has been attained regarding the regular, systematic, appropriate processes for dissemination and archiving of data, as well as the monitoring of risks, with special focus on the seismic activities and floods in the country and the region.

NPDRR serves to improve the production of regular, timely, systematic dissemination of data and risks monitoring. A thematic working group on early warning is established.

Merging of the emergency call centers of the police, ambulance, firefighters and State

Operation Center (SOC, located at CMC) into Emergency Call Service 112 as part of the

E-112 System. In this regard, the Early Warning and Alert System (part of the SOC, and, as such, are to be thoroughly reconstructed and modernized in the implementation process of the E-112 system.

Implementation of national GIS network is underway, and will enable spatial positioning and predicting possible hazard scenarios. Once completed, GIS will be available online.

Seismic monitoring and disaster forecasting is performed by IZIS in the fields of:

(1) Strong motion network; (2) Special Site Monitoring - 3D Strong Motion Array; (3) Large scale qualitative and quantitative vulnerability, damage and loss assessments for defining preparedness and emergency response needs.

The Seismological Observatory systematically monitors seismic activity on the territory of the

Republic and Balkan seismic active regions. For the purpose of prevention and protection as well as for scientific and educational purposes, instrumental and macroseismic data are collected, archived, analyzed and published in seismological bulletins and catalogues as part of international seismological data exchange. The Observatory deals with seismic zonic, microseismic zonic, geology, engineering seismology, Urban plan, construction, rules for aseismic construction, ecology and software for many different problems in seismology; many local and international projects; permanent seismological researches.

HMS is the representative governmental institution for hydrometeorological monitoring, data management, weather forecasts and early warnings.

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 E-112 system, including GIS network, is still to be fully implemented and put into use.

The implementation of E-112 is an obligation of Republic of Macedonia, which comes out from the Directive on universal service and users' rights related to electronic communications networks and services (2002/22/EC), which the EU Member States are obliged to implement the European number for emergency calls E-112. The establishment of E-112 system and the introduction of the single number for emergency calls is determined by the crisis management law and, the law for electronic communications.

The Law on electronic communications obliges IT and Telecom operators to make

their network and infrastructure available to the state for the purpose of rapid dissemination of info in case of large accidents and disasters. Furthermore, in order to correctly monitor hazards, it is essential to develop three sets of methodologies:

- (1) risk assessment and risk consequence assessment methodologies;
- (2) risk mapping methodology, based on theoretical knowledge and models, as well as on historic data of the specific event, should (with a high level of probability) confirm the:
  - location (answering the question: WHERE?);
  - circumstances leading to the phenomena implying risk (answering the question: HOW?);
  - expected intensity (answering the question: HOW MUCH / TO WHAT EXTENT?).
- (3) risk monitoring methodology (and practice) which can indicate a potential accident or disaster risk. In the context of an occurring accident or disaster, rapid assessment methodology is very important because it should provide:
  - damage and threat rapid assessment;
  - rapid needs assessment.

### Core indicator 3

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

#### Level of Progress achieved? 3

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

#### 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>	No
<b>Local level preparedness</b>	No
<b>Communication systems and protocols used and applied</b>	Yes
<b>Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination</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.

A thematic working group on early warning is established within NPDRR with the purpose to enhance inter-institutional cooperation and coordination.

EWS is integral part of the system for public informing and alarming in case of emergencies (PIACE). EWS is composed of 250 remote control sirens grouped into 30 independent PIACE's. A project for modernization is underway.

One of our significant developments in Republic of Macedonia - the establishment of Early warning system for cold-waves with support from the World Health Organization. Implementation began in December 2012 in which the health sector, the Hydrometeorological Institute and other organizations collaborate to ensure the timely announcement of cold-waves.

HMS has established integrated EWS for Extreme Weather Events, based on radar, satellite, surface observation network and numerical weather forecasting. HMS established internal early warning procedure and practices using a standard scientifically approved methodology for determination of threshold of adverse weather phenomena in Macedonia for a normal climate period.

Seismic monitoring and disaster forecasting is performed by IZIIS in the fields of: (1) Strong motion network; (2) Special Site Monitoring-3D Strong Motion Array; (3) Large scale qualitative and quantitative vulnerability, damage and loss assessments for defining preparedness and emergency response needs.

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, in cooperation with HMS established a River Monitoring System and Air Monitoring System. Periodical&ad-hoc inspectorial control of potential polluters and specific, risk-prone industrial capacities and installations, potential sources of industrial accidents. Relevant data is disseminated and shared among involved NPDRR stakeholders.

Ministry of Health and Institute for Public Health educate the public on climate change health risks. Ministry of Health:

1. Assessment of possible health effects on climate change in the country has been build.

2. Study related to monitoring the effects of warm waves on diseases of the population has been conducted.

3. Study on occurrence of salmonella food poisoning in relation to rapid weekly high temperatures changes has been done.

4. Study on the impact of climate change on pollen micro flora in relation to respiratory allergies in the adult population in the area of Skopje has been 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.

Currently, the PIACE has conventional and often outdated (from the 1970s and 1980s) equipment. Although the sirens are still functional, most of them don't have an independent power source. Instead of utilizing the modern technologies by using the wireless system for information dissemination, the old copper wire is still used.

Merging of the emergency call centers of the police, ambulance, firefighters and State Operation Center (SOC, located at CMC) into one Emergency Call Service 112 as part of the E-112 System. In this regard, the Early Warning and Alert System is to be thoroughly reconstructed and modernized in the implementation process of the E-112 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>	No
<b>Regional or sub-regional risk assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Regional or sub-regional early warning</b>	No
<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.

Trilateral Program for regional cooperation in the field of crisis and emergency management

The main objective of the program is to reduce the vulnerability of Republics of Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo to natural disasters by strengthening national and regional capacities for disaster and climate risk reduction. The tripartite agreement, signed by the Department of Civil Emergencies (DCE) - Republic of Albania, the Crisis Management Center (CMC) - Macedonia, and the Agency for Emergency Management (AEM) - Kosovo, will serve as the basis to further strengthen the institutional ties and collaboration between the three national counterparts.

The foreseen cooperation is in a form of a trilateral cooperation between Republic of Albania, Republic of Kosovo and Republic of Macedonia that will not only raise the efficiency of risk reduction and disaster prevention, but also will develop and strengthen the regional cooperation between the three countries.

The regional cooperation in the field of crisis and emergency management will be realized through the implementation of (7) seven independent projects:

1. Integrated frameworks and capacities for multi-hazard, multi-risk and multi-sector risk assessment developed
2. Capacities of the authorities and resilience of the population through development and implementation of innovative measures for disaster risk reduction on national and local level strengthened
3. Networking as a forum for promotion of a cooperation and coordination in DRR established
4. Joint technical capacities for knowledge sharing and technical assistance in the area of major natural hazards developed
5. Public trust for disaster and climate risk reduction increased and knowledge of the targeted audience improved, particularly among the most vulnerable
6. Situational Awareness System (SAS)
7. Regional Fire Fighting Training Facility

The new regional project Enhancing Capacity, Knowledge and Technology Support to Build Disaster and Climate Resilience in Armenia, Macedonia and Moldova (2014 – 2016) will increase institutional capacity, mobilize knowledge and transfer appropriate best-practice innovation technologies within the three countries. A number of innovative techniques and methodologies will be piloted/tested. These actions will support the development of a new dimension of international co-operation in the areas of disaster and climate risk reduction and contribute to a conceptual transition in Armenia, Macedonia and Moldova from a response-focused towards a more prevention-oriented approach.

Cooperation is continuing with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, other international humanitarian organizations, NGOs and other NPs.

There is Regional Cooperation in SEE for meteorological, hydrological and climate

data management and information exchange to support DRR, including capacity building.

Macedonia is chairing the Steering Committee of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health during Emergencies, supported by UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) covering 19 countries in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region

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 so-called "name issue" is more than an obstacle for the international cooperation and membership of the Republic of Macedonia in respective organizations. Due to that, we are out of the possibilities for enhanced cooperation and stability. Although there is regional cooperation regarding natural hazards, further cooperation is always needed.

# 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

<b>Information is proactively disseminated</b>	Yes
<b>Established mechanisms for access / dissemination (internet, public information broadcasts - radio, TV, )</b>	Yes
<b>Information is provided with proactive guidance to manage disaster risk</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.

The city of Strumica, in collaboration with the UNISDR Regional Office for Europe On 24 October 2013 organized an expert meeting with local and national authorities involved in disaster risk reduction. Strumica celebrated its participation in the UNISDR "Making Cities Resilient" Campaign and increase the awareness of its citizens on the actions that have been undertaken to raise public awareness on disaster resilience. The event was co-sponsored by the UNISDR-WMO project "Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey" which is supported by the European Commission, DG Enlargement through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). Strumica is member of the "Making Cities Resilient"

network from December 2011.

Strumica has been working in partnership with local and national actors such as the Crisis Management Centre and the Protection and Rescue Directorate, and with the support of UNDP, to map and assess risks and take measures to improve school safety and that of other critical public infrastructure.

Certain achievements have been attained and a legal and institutional framework exists. The implementation of a national GIS network will enable spatial positioning and predicting possible hazard scenarios. Moreover, it is planned for GIS to be available online.

A National Laboratory network is launched that incorporates laboratories from universities, healthcare and other public and private institutions that will address diseases and epidemics related risks and hazards.

Also, there is progress on the implementation of E-112. Furthermore, there is a project on the introduction of a regional USWRN. The network will amplify the E-112 system and the EWS alarming system. It will also improve the coordination with all USW Radio systems in the country. The network of inspectorates will provide a coordinated and more efficient approach towards risk and disaster related issues.

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 information is partly available on the websites of the appropriate institutions.

However, the hazard

data is still not united and accessible from a united network.

Although many public and private institutions have the basic GIS software, they are not yet connected

into a national GIS network that would enable rapid share and availability of data nationwide. Supportive to E-112 is the concept of using media (TV and radio) and mobile phone operators by

sending pre-fabricated messages providing pre-disaster warning, post-disaster announcement and messages containing information and guidelines for the citizens in the affected areas.

## **Core indicator 2**

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

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 educational curriculum? Yes

<b>primary school curriculum</b>	Yes
<b>secondary school curriculum</b>	No
<b>university curriculum</b>	No
<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.

The primary and high school curricula includes topics on risks and disasters, especially through the subject “ Peace and tolerance”.

Furthermore, as part of their program, CMC and RPD perform special training of teachers and members of the special task forces include DRR and recovery concepts and practices.

As part of the thematic working groups section of the NPDRR, it is planned for the Ministry of Education and Science to lead a multi-stakeholder thematic working group on prevention and disaster management in primary and secondary school curricula. There is institutional framework for development of methods, techniques and standards, as well as training of professionals for reducing seismic and flooding risks (both M.A. and PhD) at the Institute of

Seismological and Earthquake Engineering (IZIIS), the Seismological Observatory, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (both part of the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius- Skopje.) The present IZIIS Education Curricula is based on the actual needs in modern civil engineering, particularly in seismically active regions where the interest in structural engineering, earthquake engineering, engineering seismology and related scientific fields (static and seismic design, engineering seismology, static and seismic design of high-rises, static and seismic design of engineering structures, specific seismic problems in geotechnics, ecology in seismic regions) is increasing.

A process of setting up a national crisis management educational and training network has begun, including universities, vocational schools, and other educational institutions, such as the Military Academy and police training facilities by planning to interpolate crisis management modules in their existing curriculums.

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, there is no systematic education and training of personnel on prevention and early warning for risks and hazards due to institutional overlapping of competences. To overcome these issues, it is planned for NPDRR to launch a multi-stakeholder thematic working group on prevention and disaster management in primary and secondary school curricula.

### 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>	No
<b>Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR</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.

Under the NPDRR, the implementation of DRR policies, imply the development of methodologies based on which risk and threat assessments will be conducted and accident and disaster scenarios will be developed. Reliable assessments and scenarios are prerequisites for developing plans for preparedness, prevention and operations as well as standard operational procedures. The methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans and procedures are to be frequently checked through a system of drills and simulations, which assist in the development of institutional and civil response capacity and the verification and improvement of operative solutions. In order to produce reliable risk assessments, it is necessary to develop three types of methodologies:

1. Risk assessment and risk consequence assessment methodologies;
2. Risk mapping methodology;
3. Risk monitoring methodology;

These methodologies are basis for developing the following assessments:

1. Assessment of events implying risk and threat;
2. Communal resilience and vulnerability assessment;
3. Competent institutions' capacity assessment (both actual and required capacity);
4. Damage assessment, as well as additional vulnerability assessment;
5. Assessment of quality of overall respond to occurred accidents and disasters. The assessments are basis for developing escalation scenario.

Integration into European Meteorological Infrastructure (EUMETSAT, EUMETNET and ECMWF).

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.

Despite the achievements, there is still need for substantial commitment in terms of research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis.

In order to achieve harmonization and avoid overlapping, there is need for coordinated development of DRR related methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans and procedures.

Furthermore, there is currently no study on economic costs and benefits of DRR.

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

<b>Public education campaigns for enhanced awareness of risk.</b>	Yes
<b>Training of local government</b>	Yes
<b>Disaster management (preparedness and emergency response)</b>	No
<b>Preventative risk management (risk and vulnerability)</b>	No
<b>Guidance for risk reduction</b>	No
<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.

"Building a culture of safety and resilience"  
International Day for Disaster Reduction "Disability does not prevent us to be prepared"

As part of activities to mark the theme of the International Day for Disaster Reduction, the Crisis Management Center, Ministry of Education and Science and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) prepared a series of activities motivated by the fact that "involvement saves lives and it enables people with disabilities to be prepared for their own safety, and thus the safety of the community."

For initial practical support of this campaign several activities were conducted in cooperation with the state school for the rehabilitation of children and youth with visual impairments "Dimitar Vlahov" in Skopje. Materials will be developed that will allow people with no vision and a low vision a training to deal with different crisis situations. The preparation of manuals in Braille and texts adapted for persons with low vision takes place in cooperation with professional staff from the "Dimitar Vlahov" in Skopje.

The Crisis Management Center, the Ministry of Education and Science and UNDP, in cooperation with relevant institutions and organizations plan for continued cooperation and preparation of other categories of persons with disabilities for dealing with disasters.

NPDRR stakeholders organize public education campaigns, training of local government in their domain of work and often post DRR related information, manuals and publications.

For instance, the Ministry of Health educates the public on climate change risks related to health through its "Protecting health from climate change" web portal (<http://www.toplotnibranovi.mk/en/>); the Institute for Public Health is educating the public through its "Early Warning System for Communicable Diseases Surveillance" (<http://www.alert.mk/en/index.asp>); CMC, in cooperation with the Macedonian Radio-Television (the public broadcasting service) produced a series of (38) TV debates "Hello, 195" covering DRR through various risks in the period 2009/2010.

New internet portal: [www.macefdr.gov.mk](http://www.macefdr.gov.mk) has been established with an aim to inform the public and all interested parties in regard to the newest information in DRR activities at all levels.

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.

Despite the achievements, there is need for sustained commitment and capacities at all levels. For this purpose, a public awareness strategy on DRR related issues is needed, that would be developed with involvement of all relevant stakeholders, especially the local communities.

The thematic working group on media and public awareness is yet to be established in accord with the Government adopted NPDRR.

# 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

Protected areas legislation	No
Payment for ecosystem services (PES)	No
Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)	Yes
Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)	Yes
Climate change adaptation projects and programmes	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 project Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction (2011 – 2014) aims to strengthen disaster and climate risk assessment capacities and identify priorities at the national level to inform country disaster risk and climate risk management strategies and program development. This is done through preparation of a comprehensive Disaster and Risk Assessment for the 81 municipalities and the country, creation of web-

based software applications for E-assessment and disaster risk maps. In parallel, actions are taken at the local level with increased co-financing from the municipalities to reduce vulnerabilities and strengthen capacities to manage disaster and climate risks at local levels. Targeted capacity building and public awareness/advocacy/education activities are carried out countrywide including different needs of different categories of citizens. In addition, social innovation in DRR was introduced through development of first mobile DRR application for timely information on disasters and accidents and expected behaviors, using of social media for DRR analysis as well as using of big data for disaster resilience. In addition, the project is supporting the preparation and adoption of the first National DRR Strategy and Action Plan.

Following the forest fire in Strumica in 2012, the project Emergency Coordination Support to the Municipality of Strumica (2012 – 2013) helped the municipality to strengthen the local capacities for better coordination, preparation of needs assessments and support of early recovery response measures. Special attention was dedicated to the many vulnerable groups, particularly the Turkish and the Roma communities living in informal housing settlements in the Strumica area. Within NPDRR, Platform on Environmental Risks has been established and led by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MEPP), incorporating national commissions in the fields of: air pollution; waters pollution; soil pollution; bio-diversity; global warming and climate change(CC); dumpfields incidents; industrial facilities and refineries incidents; dangerous materials storage incidents.

Within the thematic working groups, a “Working Group on CC/Repercussions and Adaptation” is led by the National Committee for Climate Change. A thematic working group on Forestation is led by “Tree Day–Plant your Future” civic initiative.

Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) is high on the agenda. The lead beneficiary for the 4th strategic choice within IPA-MB-2011-2013(enhancing the regional cooperation in the area of CC), is the Republic of Macedonia. As Co-chair of the European Forum for DRR in 2010, Macedonia leads the Advisory group on CCA&DRR. Integration of risk reduction in environmental policies and plans is addressed by the Law on environment, which transposes SEVESO II Directive. Achievements are been made in providing consolidated national guidelines on carrying out the Strategic Environmental Assessment-SEA and applying SEA directive, drawing on the available "best practices" within current EU member-states and experience from the possible conduct of pilot cases in the country. Progress has been made through prepared the guidelines and improved the practice of introduction of risk and safe management issues in the EIA and Land-use Planning Policies.

There is also flood risk management. Government adopted a unified EIA form (<http://vlada.mk/?q=node/3520>) and EIA's are being prepared, updated and adopted.

Appropriate legislation exists for the protection and preservation of the three national parks in the country (Pelister, Mavrovo and Galicica).

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.

It is recognized that additional progress on the incorporation of DRR strategies in the environmental policies is always needed.

Achievements are been made in providing consolidated national guidelines on carrying out the Strategic Environmental Assessment-SEA and applying SEA directive, drawing on the available "best practices" within current EU member-states and experience from the possible conduct of pilot cases in the country. Prescribing the contents of the environmental report in secondary legislation. Prescribing in secondary legislation public consultation procedures; Carry out training of relevant staff in MEPP and other relevant ministries; and in enterprises accredited to prepare urban and spatial plans.

## 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>	No
<b>Conditional and unconditional cash transfers</b>	Yes
<b>Micro finance (savings, loans, etc.)</b>	No
<b>Micro insurance</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.

The social development and social vulnerability issues fall within the competences of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, which gives the institutional backing.

The legal framework is the Law for social protection, which regulates the preconditions and procedures for granting financial (up to two average monthly wages) and other assistance (such as clothes, food, and other necessities) to those individuals and families who were in a vulnerable position due to hazards and epidemics and other social crisis.

The NPDRR has a multisectoral cooperation network that includes governmental (such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Planning and the Ministry of Health) and non-governmental stakeholders (like the Macedonian National Council of the Organizations of the Disabled, the Macedonian Red Cross, the Macedonian Medical Association, etc.)

Within NPDRR, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy is leading the thematic working groups responsible for institutional coordination the field of protection of the following vulnerable populations in case of accidents and disasters: children, elderly people, people with physical disabilities, psychical and mental disabilities, as well as working groups related to gender issues and preschool institutions. Responsible for coordinating the efforts in term of insurance, is the working group on finances, insurance and procurements.

Finally, the CMC, in collaboration with the UNDP and the Government of Japan, implements a project on strengthening the capacities of the CMC in terms of gender perspective and human rights. One of the key activities is the “drafting of a national plan for crisis management in accordance with gender issues.”

With regards to public health services, UNFPA has supported the Ministry of Health to develop and include a separate chapter for sexual and reproductive health services in emergencies, during the revision of the National Plan for Preparedness and Response of the Health System in Crises.

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.

Further improvement of the laws and mechanisms is needed.

## 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

**National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.**

No

**Please provide specific examples: e.g. public infrastructure, transport and communication, economic and productive assets**

**Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals**

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.

There is institutional commitment regarding the implementation of the economic and productive sectorial policies and plans for reduction of the vulnerability of the development areas (such as water resource management, poverty alleviation and development planning). Also, systematic socio- economic impact and loss analysis is carried out.

CMC is improving the intersectoral cooperation with all governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations such as the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

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.

Further improvement and implementation is always 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
<b>Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas</b>	No
<b>Training of masons on safe construction technology</b>	No
<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.

There are systematic, appropriate processes and legal frameworks that define the construction procedures and standards regarding the seismic activities, especially in the aftermath of the great Earthquake of 1963. Following independence, the quality of building construction had declined due to the decrease of the economic potentials, the privatization of the large construction companies as well as the weakening of the control system. In recent years, there is greater control in terms of enforcement of building codes, especially public buildings.

In order to achieve earthquake risk reduction, based on the proposals of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Government has adopted an improved legislation by making seismic project compulsory for any future buildings, thus strengthening the building codes.

There is a legal framework and certain achievements in terms of flood prevention by the construction of proper protection facilities (dams, river banks etc.), as well as planning and performing of preventive measures. Although landslides related issues are not regulated by a special law, they are addressed in the Law on spatial and urban planning. The landslides and floods prone areas are excluded from urbanization by the plans for urban planning in order to minimize the damages.

In order to achieve earthquake risk reduction, based on the proposals of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Government has adopted the changes within the legislation by making seismic project compulsory for any future buildings, thus strengthening the building codes.

The principles and activities are included and implemented through the national, regional and local Spatial Plans.

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.

There are systematic, appropriate processes and legal frameworks that define the construction procedures and standards regarding the seismic activities. In the last two years there has been strong improvement in safety construction and strengthening inspector activities related to utilizing seismically standards.

## **Core indicator 5**

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

## 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 post-disaster programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR for resilient recovery? No

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

Substantial achievements have been attained. A legal framework and rehabilitation and post disaster recovery processes exist. Good practices in disaster risk reduction in the Republic of Macedonia exist. After the great Skopje flood of 1979, flood control solutions have been applied, consisting of systematic measures for regulation of the riverbanks and the river bed of Vardar through the City of Skopje as well as the construction of dam-reservoir for collection of flooding waves.

Following the great wildfires of 2007, a process of forestation was initiated, supported by the Government and NGO sector resulting with mass participation. Annually, two working days are `days of the tree`, during which all citizens are encouraged to plant a tree, in order to renew the forests, improve the environment, thus introducing disaster risk reduction in practice.

A legal framework exists and technical basis, expert and scientific capacities are included in the rehabilitation process, depending on the urgency and need for action. For instance

## IZIIS

provides assistance in mitigating the earthquake consequences and post-disaster recovery:

- Post disaster needs assessment, damage surveys, assessment of physical, functional and economic losses;
- Assessment of social effects of disasters, effective planning of measures and mechanisms for economic revitalizations and compensation to victims;
- Planning of all-level immediate-, short-, medium- and long term measures and activities for disaster response, recovery, re-development and seismic protection of disaster struck regions.

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.

Although a National Concept exists, reforms and amendment of the existing laws, regulations as well as organizational and institutional recomposing of the crisis management system is needed.

## Core indicator 6

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

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 impacts of disaster risk that are created by major development projects assessed? No

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

**Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)**

No

**By national and sub-national authorities and**

Yes

## institutions

By international development actors

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.

There is an institutional commitment as well as substantial achievements regarding the risk assessment process on the public infrastructure, such as dams and roads. Also, there are systematic, appropriate processes and legal frameworks that define the construction procedures and standards regarding the seismic activities, especially in the aftermath of the great earthquake of 1963.

There is a legal framework and certain achievements in terms of flood prevention by the construction of proper protection facilities (dams, river banks etc.), as well as planning of preventive measures.

Although landslides related issues are not regulated by a special law, they are addressed in the Law on spatial and urban planning. The landslides and floods prone areas are excluded from urbanization by the plans for urban planning in order to minimize the damages. NPDRR secures coordination among stakeholders in terms of incorporating DRR measures in existing procedures, and developing appropriate strategies, policies, legislation, methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans and procedures.

Within NPDRR, the Ministry of Transport and Communications coordinates the Specialized Platform on Risks in the domain of infrastructure, dealing with: earthquakes; landslides; security of telecom and IT networks; water safety; electric power and gas; sewage; floods; traffic accidents; railway accidents; air traffic accidents; lake accidents; public and residence buildings.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management is coordinating the Specialized Platform on Risks in the Domain of agriculture, forestry and water management, including: epizooties; epyphities; forest fires; channels and dams; low and high temperature extreme weather conditions.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management is coordinating the Specialized Platform on Risks in the Domain of agriculture, forestry and water management, including: epizooties; epyphities; forest fires; channels and dams; low and high temperature extreme weather conditions.

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.

Although there are systematic, appropriate processes and legal frameworks that define the construction procedures and standards regarding the seismic activities, in the last two decades, the quality of building construction has declined due to the decrease of the economic potentials, the privatization of the large construction companies as well as the weakening of the control system. Also, due to legal and institutional gaps there was a lack of coordination between the relevant institutions, which resulted with overlapping of competences and poor quality in the process of control of development and construction of crucial infrastructure.

# 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? 3

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

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are there national programmes or policies for disaster preparedness, contingency planning and response? No

**DRR incorporated in these programmes and policies**

No

**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.**

Yes

Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies? No

**Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety**

No

**Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness**

No

Are future disaster risks anticipated through scenario development and aligned preparedness planning? No

**Potential risk scenarios are developed taking into account climate change projections**

Yes

**Preparedness plans are regularly updated**

No

based on future risk scenarios

### **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.

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

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.

Further improvement and implementation is always 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? 3

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

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

Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster? No

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

Search and rescue teams	No
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Stockpiles of relief supplies	No
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Shelters	No
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Secure medical facilities	No
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Dedicated provision for disabled and elderly in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities	No
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Businesses are a proactive partner in planning and delivery of response	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.

Disaster preparedness and response planning is in progress on all administrative levels (national, regional, local, as well as within public and private enterprises, public institutions and the state administration.)

The plans are made available to the national and local rescue and protection forces as well as to the other units responsible for the protection of the people and goods. They are also provided with special crisis management training courses that have been tested on drills.

Thus far, many institutions have preparedness plans. For instance, the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the WHO, is developing response plans for the local hospitals. The Ministry of Health is also preparing the reorganization of the First Aid Services in accordance with E-112.

Additionally, the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with UNFPA, has included a separate chapter for sexual and reproductive health services in emergencies, during the revision of the National Plan for Preparedness and Response of the Health System in Crises. The National Plan revision process is supported by WHO.

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.

Although many institutions have preparedness plans, due to certain legal

inconsistencies, there is institutional overlapping of the competences in terms of the creation of disaster and contingency plans and conduct of drills.

### **Core indicator 3**

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

Level of Progress achieved? 3

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

#### **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>	No
<b>Insurance and reinsurance facilities</b>	Yes
<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.

In order to enable households, farmers and small and medium companies to use insurance from natural disasters, thus enabling effective protection from losses caused by natural disasters, the establishment of "EUROPA RE", a specialized regional company for reinsurance of disaster risks has been initiated.

Financial reserves for the CMS needs are dedicated from the state Budget (Law on Crisis

Management, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, no. 64/2005, 4/2008)

The executive branch is actively involved in the process of distribution and use of the DRR designated resources. In that respect, there is mutual cooperation and involvement of the private sector and the

Government in the disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, the Parliament finances the system by amending the state budget. Finally, on national level, financial resources can be acquired from other sources as well.

As part of their budgets, the municipalities and the local public institutions are ought to have emergency assigned resources. However, the DRR budget, especially regarding the prevention, alleviation, development and preparedness is largely dispersed and insufficient.

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.

While the institutional setting has been well defined, the full implementation faces some challenges regarding the attaining of financial resources

**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? 3

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

**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>	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.

In order to produce reliable risk assessments, it is necessary to develop three types of methodologies:

- Risk assessment and risk consequence assessment methodologies;
- Risk mapping methodology;
- Risk monitoring methodology;

These methodologies are basis for developing the following assessments:

- Assessment of events implying risk and threat;
- Communal resilience and vulnerability assessment;
- Competent institutions' capacity assessment (both actual and required capacity);
- Damage assessment, as well as additional vulnerability assessment;
- Assessment of quality of overall respond to occurred accidents and disasters.

The assessments are basis for developing escalation scenario. SOPs that enable constant and timely communication and coordination are fully implemented within various institutions. Each public and private institution and enterprise has internal SOPs. However, there is need for multi-sectorial SOPs, which would be the result of previously defined methodologies, assessments, scenarios and plans.

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.

Some institutional challenges exist, such as overlapping competences and institutional dualism.

The multi-sectoral methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans and procedures are yet to be defined and implemented.

Although many institutions have preparedness plans, due to certain legal inconsistencies, there is institutional overlapping of the competences in terms of the creation of disaster and contingency plans and conduct of drills.

# Drivers of Progress

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## a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

### Levels of Reliance

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

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia, at its forty eighth session, held on 21 February 2012 adopted the Standard Operative Procedures for Communication, Coordination and Cooperation among the Crisis Management System entities in situation of declared emergency, number 51-8531/1-11 dated 21 February, 2012.

The second ammended edition was published in August 2014 in Macedonian, English and Albanian.

There is partial reliance regarding the multi-hazard integrated approach to DRR and development.

The legal framework entrusts the Government to define the security threats assessment for the Republic of Macedonia from all hazards and dangers. One of the purposes of NPDRR is the development of a set of assessments:

- Assessment of events implying risk and threat;
- Communal resilience and vulnerability assessment;
- Competent institutions' capacity assessment (both actual and required capacity);
- Damage assessment, as well as additional vulnerability assessment;
- Assessment of quality of overall respond to occurred accidents and disasters.

The institutional set of the multi-hazard system is embodied through the NPDRR which consists of seven Specialized Platforms (health-related risks; haz-mat risks; environmental risks; industrial accidents; risks in the domain of agriculture, forestry and water management; risks in the domain of cultural heritage) covering 40 specific risks. The coordinative councils of the Specialized Platforms bring together all relevant stakeholders.

Furthermore, the multi-hazard approach of the NPDRR is strengthened through the thematic working groups which relate to issues and problems that are interdisciplinary in character and whose different aspects fall into the scope of interest of various government and non-government structures on both local and national levels, and, as such, are linked to two or more specialized platforms.

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

### 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.

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)

There is partial reliance regarding the gender perspectives on DRR and institutionalization. Among the 42 national federations of NGOs and professional associations that are part of the NPDRR, two are gender related: National Women's Council and the Macedonian Women's Lobby.

The CMC, in collaboration with the UNDP and the Government of Japan, implements a project on strengthening the capacities of the CMC in terms of gender perspective and human rights. One of the key activities is the "drafting of a national plan for crisis management in accordance with gender issues."

With regards to addressing sexual and reproductive health services' needs and rights, the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with UNFPA, has included a separate chapter for sexual and reproductive health services in emergencies, during the revision of the National Plan for Preparedness and Response of the Health System in Crises. This chapter includes: coordination; prevention of sexual violence; prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS; and , maternal and newborn health.

## **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)

Capacity developments requires identification, strengthening and linking of existing resources, while acquiring new resources where needed. For this purpose, a set of risk assessment and risk consequence assessment methodologies are to be developed, referring to: (1) Risk assessment related to the occurrence of phenomena implying risk; (2) Communal resilience and vulnerability assessment; (3) Competent institutions' capacity assessment (both actual and required capacity); (4) Damage assessment, as well as additional vulnerability assessment (the possibility of additional damages and losses) of occurred accidents and disasters; (5) Response assessment; (6) Financial implications assessment for prevention, response and rehabilitation (both direct and immediate assessments and indirect assessments from a time distance).

Based on these methodologies, the following relevant assessments should be developed: (1) Assessment of events implying risk and threat; (2) Communal resilience and vulnerability assessment; (3) Competent institutions' capacity assessment (both actual and required capacity); (4) Damage assessment, as well as additional vulnerability assessment; (5) Assessment of quality of overall respond to occurred accidents and disasters.

To further this end, the Council of State Secretaries has nine working groups: (1) Normative- legal harmonization; (2) Finances, insurance and procurement; (3) Human resources planning, development and maintenance; (4) Info-networking and resources registry; (5) Standardization; (6) Terminological unification; (7) Public relations and public awareness; (8) International funds access unit; (9) International cooperation.

We need further improvement of the visibility of the DRR system in the society particularly among the political elites. Additionally there is a need for further institutional strengthening of the DRR capacities in the country as well as inter institutional coordination.

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

### 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 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)

There is partial reliance regarding the integration of human security and social equity into DRR and recovery activities.

NPDRR has a section dedicated to vulnerable populations. Thematic working groups responsible for institutional coordination the field of protection of the following vulnerable populations in case of accidents and disasters: children, elderly people, people with physical disabilities, psychical and mental disabilities, as well as working groups related to gender issues and preschool institutions.

Among the NPDRR stakeholders, there are 42 national federations of NGOs and professional associations, some of which deal with socially vulnerable populations, such as the Red Cross, the National Council of Organizations dealing with Physical Disabilities, the National Woman's Council, the Macedonian Women's Lobby, the Alliance of Association of Retired People. Furthermore, among NPDRR's stakeholders are 9 humanitarian organizations dealing with socially vulnerable populations.

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

## Levels of Reliance

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

NPDRR is fully dedicated to engaging the non-governmental actors. To further coordination and cooperation in dealing with specific accidents, disasters, risks and threats, NPDRR consists of 42 national federations of NGOs and professional associations (including the National Organization of the Red Cross and Red Crescent); 9 humanitarian organizations; 79 institutes, research centers and observatories; 173 laboratories; 11 stress and trauma treatment organizations; 21 trading organizations relevant for DRR; the business community and; last but not least, all religious communities.

The cooperation with the NGOs, the civil society, the private business is done within several institutional frameworks:

Three Advisory Councils: the Legal, the Economic-Social, and the Academic-Expert Council, as a framework uniting the highest decision-makers in the respective areas with top representatives of the academic and business communities and the NGO sector.

The thematic working groups represent a special part of the National Platform for DRR. They relate to issues and problems that are interdisciplinary in character and whose different aspects fall into the scope of interest of various government and non-government structures on both local and national levels, and, as such, are linked to two or more specialized platforms

## 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)

There is partial reliance regarding the contextual drivers of progress. First and foremost, the institutional framework of NPDRR is determined by a governmental decision. The NPDRR serves as a mechanism for governmental and non-governmental coordination on national, local and community levels. It is a framework uniting the highest decision-makers in the respective areas with top representatives of the academic and business communities and the NGO sector.

The second level consists of the development of general strategy, functional strategies, policies, operative strategies, programmes and projects, as well as specific legal solutions should be determined for each specific risk considering each risk (e.g. epidemics or earthquakes), followed by development of methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans and procedures. Certain achievements have been attained on all three levels.

# 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

The Republic of Macedonia faces certain challenges in the implementation of the Disaster Risk Reduction strategies into the sustainable development plans and programs.

The key strategic documents and laws were adopted prior to the adoption of DRR concept and the establishment of the NPDRR. Hence, the DRR concept is not included as a whole, but the strategies and laws separately contain different DRR elements (such as prevention, early warning, preparedness etc.)

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### Future Outlook Statement

DRR has important position in both national and local development plans. The incorporation of the DRR system into the sustainable development plans is a government policy.

One goal is the full integration of the basic DRR position into a general strategy, functional and operational strategies for DRR. Such strategies are the basis for creating appropriate prevention, reaction and rehabilitation policies, such as sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels. Finally, the implementation of accident and disaster risk prevention policies (as well as programs and projects developed in this context) implies an appropriate normative framework.

The planned full integration of the doctrinary position would enable more coherent approach to DRR, hence more effective integration of DRR considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels.

## 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

The Republic of Macedonia faces a number of legal, institutional, operational and capacity challenges.

Thus far, there are some limitations due to institutional overlapping of competences, leading to a lack of cooperation and coordination.

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## Future Outlook Statement

A fully operational NPDRR will serve as a mechanism for governmental and non-governmental coordination on national, local and community levels. It is a framework uniting the highest decision-makers in the respective areas with top representatives of the academic and business communities and the NGO sector.

## 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

The Republic of Macedonia faces some challenges regarding the implementation of the DRR mechanisms in practice. The emergency preparedness depends on the level of technical and operational. The Early Warning System is outdated and needs to be modernized. The methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans and procedures need to be defined in order to avoid the institutional overlapping which leads to incoherent decision making. The resources for emergency preparedness, response and recovery are often dispersed and insufficient.

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## Future Outlook Statement

It is necessary to follow the logical and methodical framework of the NPDRR. This implies defining the appropriate methodologies, assessments and scenarios before developing the plans and procedures.

In this regard, a process of defining methodologies, assessments and scenarios is under way. Depending on the assessments and scenarios, the following plans are to be prepared:

- Preparedness plans;
- Prevention plans;
- Operations plans.

The implementation of all plans requires clear and precise procedures. Successful achievement of the goals requires the following standard operative procedures: (1) Internal S.O.Ps in usual activities, (2) Internal S.O.Ps in a case of emergency, (3) Interoperability S.O.Ps in a case of emergency. All this should provide clear understanding of the threat and organized respond with maximal effect with the available resources.

Also, further progress will be done regarding the implementation of the DRR mechanisms in practice

through the improvement of the EWS, the merging of the E-112, and the introduction of the GIS platform. Moreover, by rising the public awareness and stimulating a DRR culture through educational material and campaigns. Also, the DRR will be further integrated in the environmental policies, human settlement plans and mitigation.

# Stakeholders

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

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Organization	Organization type	Focal Point
Crisis Management Center	Governments	Dr. Urim Vejseli, Head of International Cooperation Department
Ministry of Interior	Governments	Ms. Valentina Ivanova, Advisor
UNDP - Office in Skopje	UN & International Organizations	Mr. Vasko Popovski, Project Manager
UNFPA - Office in Skopje	UN & International Organizations	Ms. Afrodita Salja Plavjanska, Project Manager