



Murska Sobota, Slovenia

Local progress report on the implementation of the 10 Essentials for Making Cities Resilient (2013-2014)

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Essential 1

Put in place organization and coordination to understand and reduce disaster risk, based on participation of citizen groups and civil society. Build local alliances. Ensure that all departments understand their role to disaster risk reduction and preparedness.

How well are local organizations (including local government) equipped with capacities (knowledge, experience, official mandate) for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

In accordance with the programme of equipping the civil protection and disaster relief forces (hereinafter referred to as CPDR) the needs for equipment are covered 80 % to 90 %. The availability of the equipment is ensured and it is at disposal in compliance with the criteria fixed to organize and equip the CPDR forces. We have been constantly following new circumstances which require new approaches and equipment to take all due protection and recovery measures.

To what extent do partnerships exist between communities, private sector and local authorities to reduce risk?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

The local authority has made agreements with businesses (private sector) and associations and organizations (citizens) for training drills and performance of tasks with the intention to enforce disaster risk reduction.

How much does the local government support vulnerable local communities (particularly women, elderly, infirmed, children) to actively participate in risk reduction decision-making, policy making, planning and implementation processes?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

We finance and support preventive programmes within local community for treatment and participation of vulnerable local communities, i.e. women suffering violence, elderly, infirm children who lack livelihood, disabled persons, ect. We enable the vulnerable communities to participate in their social engagement by various programmes carried out for the said population and they have possibility to take part in planning and implementing the processes as well as we enable them to participate in policy making in the relevant fields of activity. Services and institutions are engaged in case of disaster occurrence to protect vulnerable communities by order of the Civil Protection chief and the mayor. In case the situation cannot be mastered, the mayor of Murska Sobota Town Municipality shall ask the National Civil Protection HQ for state support and aid at the national level. Necessary information given by relevant Murska Sobota Town Municipality committees shall be employed as the basis for action.

To what extent does the local government participate in the national DRR planning?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Local community participates in preparation of annual and long-term civil protection and disaster relief programmes by reconciliation of needs and activities at local level with the programmes planned by national authorities.

Essential 2

Assign a budget for disaster risk reduction and provide incentives for homeowners, low-income families, communities, businesses and public sector to invest in reducing the risks they face.

How far does the local government have access to adequate financial resources to carry out risk reduction activities?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Financing of the programmes for equipment and training of civil protection and disaster relief forces is performed at local community level and it is incorporated in the programme of appropriate allocation of local community financial resources. The financial resources for preparative measures to disaster response are ensured annually up to certain amount in the local community budget. There are also possibilities to co-finance the projects at the national level and by means of European funds.

To what degree does the local government allocate sufficient financial resources to carry out DRR activities, including effective disaster response and recovery?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

There are criteria fixed regarding the appropriate allocation of financial resources available for the civil protection and disaster relief system. At the same time, projects are co-financed at the national level and by available European projects in compliance with tenders, as well.

What is the scope of financial services (e.g. saving and credit schemes, macro and micro-insurance) available to vulnerable and marginalised households for pre- disaster times?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Co-financing of insurance premium costs for agricultural crops:

The aid for payment of insurance premiums at the national level is defined by the Decree on co-financing of insurance premiums of primary agricultural production and fisheries whereby detailed conditions and amounts to co-finance insurance premiums for crops, plantations as well as fruits are stipulated. The insurance premiums for crops, plantations and fruits are co-financed max. up to the amount of insurance premium for particular crop, plantation or fruits as this is stipulated in Part I of Annex 3 being a constitutive part of the Decree. Co-financing is provided for those insurance premiums where insurance coverage with deductible franchise is to the amount of at least 15 percent of the insurance premium for the crops, plantations and fruits on particular area insured. The amount of co-financing the insurance premium is 20 percent of the insurance premium incl. insurance business sales tax. Since the % of insurance premium co-financing has been reduced at the national level, local communities can co-finance the difference according to their financial capacities. Murska Sobota Town Municipality has not yet taken a decision as regards this possibility.

Financial services for vulnerable local communities:

The scope of financial services for vulnerable local communities available in the communal budget amounts to 150.000,00 EUR annually (single national aid).

To what extent are micro finance, cash aid, soft loans, lone guarantees etc available to affected households after disasters to restart livelihoods?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Co-financing of recovery measures to do away with damage depends on the amount of the funds the state earmarked for disaster recovery measures directly by financing the damage as well as by enforcing and co-financing soft loans for affected households.

How well established are economic incentives for investing in disaster risk reduction for households and businesses (e.g. reduced insurance premiums for households, tax holidays for businesses)?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

In compliance with the Commission Regulation (EU) No. 702/2014 of 25 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Official Journal of the European Union No. 193 dated 1 July 2014, Page 1) the state and local authorities can grant financial aid for insurance premium payments. The financial aid for insurance premium payments at the national level is regulated by the Decree on co-financing of insurance premiums of primary agricultural production and fisheries whereby detailed conditions and amounts of insurance premium co-financing are defined for crops, plantations and fruits, too. The same measures can be taken by local authorities as well, however, it is necessary to give consideration to max. permissible financial aid intensity.

To what extent do local business associations, such as chambers of commerce and similar, support efforts of small enterprises for business continuity during and after disasters?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Local community and civil protection and disaster relief forces ensure safeguard of enterprises, infrastructure, environment,...etc. to support the efforts of enterprises for business continuity during and after disasters. Civil protection and disaster relief forces as well as any other organisation being able to support earliest start of production shall be engaged during disaster.

Essential 3

Maintain up-to-date data on hazards and vulnerabilities, prepare risk assessments and use these as the basis for urban development plans and decisions. Ensure that this information and the plans for your city's resilience are readily available to the public and fully discussed with them.

To what degree does the local government conducted thorough disaster risk assessments for key vulnerable development sectors in your local authority?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Local government works out a risk assessment prior to disaster for this purpose, and, consequently, it works out action plans for disasters. Furthermore, security forces are organized to ensure safety.

To what extent are these risk assessments regularly updated, e.g. annually or on a bi-annual basis?

Level of Progress achieved: 5

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Natural disaster risk assessments are updated in case of any essential change of threat to people and to their property in Murska Sobota town community. The civil protection and disaster relief system has been elaborated so that progress of disaster risks can constantly be monitored jointly at the national level, as well.

How regularly does the local government communicate to the

community, information on local hazard trends and risk reduction measures (e.g. using a Risk Communications Plan) including early warnings of likely hazard impact?

Level of Progress achieved: 5

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Plans of action and risk reduction measures among individual levels of risk reduction measures taken with the intention of taking prompt actions during disaster are adjusted every time. Evacuation procedures and evacuation assembly points in enterprises and local communities, meeting places,...etc. are destined for safeguard of people and ensuring their safety during disasters.

How well are local government risk assessments linked to, and supportive of, risk assessments from neighbouring local authorities and state or provincial government risk management plans?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Risk assessments of likely hazard impacts and other natural disasters and, consequently, elaborated civil protection and disaster relief plans in case of disasters exceeding local level have to be mutually adjusted so that action of forces and use of means and equipment can also be vertically adjusted.

How well are disaster risk assessments incorporated into all relevant local development planning on a consistent basis?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Corresponding local planning documents have been worked out to reduce risk of hazard impacts on tract, structures and environment, as for instance local space arrangement plans and performance acts.

Essential 4

Invest in and maintain critical infrastructure that reduces risk, such as flood drainage, adjusted where needed to cope with climate change.

How far do land use policies and planning regulations for housing and development infrastructure take current and projected disaster risk (including climate related risks) into account?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Housing	Yes
Communication	Yes
Transportation	Yes
Energy	Yes

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Space planning regulations for local community region do not allow construction of buildings in areas being especially exposed to harm or hazard. Buildings being situated in such areas can, however, only be set up under conditions defined by space planning guidelines.

How adequately are critical public facilities and infrastructure located in high risk areas assessed for all hazard risks and safety?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

In recent years, special attention has been paid to arrangement of water draining

system in the whole local community region. In this connection, all infrastructure and public facilities are correspondingly regulated in order to ensure appropriate solving of such problem.

How adequate are the measures that are being undertaken to protect critical public facilities and infrastructure from damage during disasters?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

As there is no possibility of full preventive protection against disasters, we estimate that the set of measures worked out does prevent and reduce hazard risk to a great extent and ensure high degree of safety of people and their property during disasters.

Essential 5

Assess the safety of all schools and health facilities and upgrade these as necessary.

To what extent have local schools, hospitals and health facilities received special attention for "all hazard" risk assessments in your local authority?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Schools	Yes
Hospitals/ health facilities	Yes

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Through disasters certain consequences arise because of inappropriate incorporation of building structures in area plans (e.g. BTC – Shopping Centre) or inappropriately regulated area for protection against disasters (e.g. Murska Sobota General Hospital). Thus, corresponding long-term hazard risk reduction measures should be taken in these areas and public facilities. Especially hazardous are hailstorms being threat to great extent to public facilities like schools, kindergartens, as well as to large enterprises (dire consequences e.g. unroofing, flooding, soaking etc.)

How safe are all main schools, hospitals and health facilities from disasters so that they have the ability to remain operational during emergencies?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Schools	Yes
Hospitals/ health facilities	Yes

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Up to the present, all the above stated public facilities (schools, kindergartens, hospitals,...) were operational also during emergencies. It is, however, always necessary to attend to certain duties for protection (by executing ditches and canals to redirect waters, to drain water, to recover buildings, etc.). At the same time, it is necessary to settle appropriate procedures to ensure corresponding nutrition, drinking water, ...etc.. Most of the measures and tasks would be unnecessary under corresponding arrangement of environment and space and appropriate construction measures, respectively.

To what degree do local government or other levels of government have special programs in place to regularly assess schools, hospitals and health facilities for maintenance, compliance with building codes, general safety, weather-related risks etc.?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Schools	Yes
Hospitals/ health facilities	Yes

Description of Progress & Achievements:

All the measures mentioned are taken within the scope of actions by state authorities, institutions, etc. . Local communities take part in performing foreseen activities.

How far are regular disaster preparedness drills undertaken in schools, hospitals and health facilities?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Schools	Yes
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Hospitals/ health facilities

Yes

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Since 2007, disaster preparedness drills and trainings for evacuation in all institutions (schools, state institutions, local community establishments,..etc.) have regularly been undertaken every year. Every institution and enterprise has to ensure appropriately trained staff for First Aid and initial fire precautions as well as work safety trainings,...etc.

Essential 6

Apply and enforce realistic, risk compliant building regulations and land use planning principles. Identify safe land for low-income citizens and develop upgrading of informal settlements, wherever feasible.

How well are risk-sensitive land use regulations and building codes, health and safety codes enforced across all development zones and building types?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

When adopting space planning arrangements, local communities must take into consideration all the rules with reference to disaster risks in the risk-sensitive zones and designers must take these into account when designing building infrastructures prior to issue building permits in compliance with the legislation being in force.

How strong are existing regulations (e.g. land use plans, building codes etc) to support disaster risk reduction in your local authority?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

All legislation and building codes are directed to disaster risk reduction. A problem is the actual state of affairs being in existence because of the earlier legislation what, however, is being retrieved by implementing preventive measures as well as by appropriate improvement measures.

Essential 7

Ensure education programmes & training on disaster risk reduction are in place in schools and communities.

How regularly does the local government conduct awareness-building or education programs on DRR and disaster preparedness for local communities?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Programs include cultural diversity issues	No
Programs are sensitive to gender perspectives	No

Description of Progress & Achievements:

In compliance with regulations and civil protection and disaster relief plans, individual awareness-building and education programme activities are conducted by disaster preparedness drills for a period of one year, two years and three years, respectively. At the same time, basic trainings and drills are provided for those members of community taking part in the civil protection and disaster relief system.

To what extent does the local government provide training in risk reduction for local officials and community leaders?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Work safety training courses are provided for all local government officials. Furthermore, evacuation preparedness exercises are drilled and every local official has to become familiar with the rules relevant for individual scope of activities as well

as with their implementation in documents defining disaster risk reduction preventive measures and also with a possibility of suspending such measures. For this purpose, they have to take part in corresponding trainings organized in order to become familiar with such measures.

To what degree do local schools and colleges include courses, education or training in disaster risk reduction (including climate related risks) as part of the education curriculum?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Disaster risk reduction training procedures in educational institutions comprise evacuation training exercises, First Aid courses, medical staff trainings and trainings in initial fire extinguishing. These activities are performed in compliance with the regulations being in force.

How aware are citizens of evacuation plans or drills for evacuations when necessary?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Evacuation plans in enterprises and institutions have been worked out and they are periodically put to the test. Thus, employees get familiar with such plans and, consequently, evacuations in many institutions can be performed, if necessary. As a rule, certain problems arise sometimes in connection with alarming procedures because especially older buildings do not dispose of technical solutions for alarming. Evacuation plans for local community area have been elaborated. The evacuation plan has been worked out in civil protection and disaster relief plans related to certain emergencies. The plans have been made public. Practical evacuation test exercises are performed during major exercises because of extensiveness of the measures and

posibble disquiet of citizens.



Essential 8

Protect ecosystems and natural buffers to mitigate floods, storm surges and other hazards to which your city may be vulnerable. Adapt to climate change by building on good risk reduction practices.

How well integrated are local government DRR policies, strategies and implementation plans with existing environmental development and natural resource management plans?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

The Regulations in the field of environment and space planning have been well worked out. However, certain problems arise because of so far existing situation and, consequently, because of high costs to settle such situation.

To what degree does the local government support the restoration, protection and sustainable management of ecosystems services?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Forests	Yes
Coastal zones	No
Wetlands	Yes
Water resources	Yes
River basins	Yes
Fisheries	No

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Recently, all the levels, local communityx and national ones, have been dealing with resorations of ecosystems by wetland arrangement (branches of Mura River), by restoration of inundations of rivers threatening with floods without possibility to control the flooding. All above stated is, however, related to certain costs and for this reason the implementation of such interventions has made a very slow progress.

How much do civil society organizations and citizens participate in the restoration, protection and sustainable management of ecosystems services?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Participation of citizens is primarily related to the ownership of the zones mentioned since they as owners are willing to sustain such land areas. Civil protection organizations assist and support the arrangement of such areas and they, and also state authorities, draw their attention to the measures required from the safety viewpoint related to floods in combination with preservation of such areas. It is necessary to make arrangements in direction of antiflood preventive measures by preserving wetlands as the most important ecosystems.

How much does the private sector participate in the implementation of environmental and ecosystems management plans in your local authority?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Workshops to enforce environment protection and disaster protection are implemented within local settlement districts and residential town quarters. Such workshops are implemented by residential town quarter managements and by local settlement district councils out of Murska Sobota. Funds for implementation of the programmes are earmarked by Murska Sobota Town Municipality budget. Private enterprises being active in the field of environmental protection or performing environmental interventions participate in these activities, too.

Essential 9

Install early warning systems and emergency management capacities in your city and hold regular public preparedness drills.

To what degree do local institutions have access to financial reserves to support effective disaster response and early recovery?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Local community budget and its financial reserves ensure the protection and restoration of these areas during and after floods. At the same time, certain activities in this sphere are earmarked by the budget (education water paths, etc.). The implementation of these interventions is in the domain of local settlement communities and residential quarters as well as of those enterprises dealing with educational or recreational business activity.

To what extent are early warning centres established, adequately staffed (or on-call personnel) and well resourced (power back ups, equipment redundancy etc) at all times?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Early warning system to monitor and take action is organized at several levels. Under normal conditions, monitoring and controlling is exercised by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (Slovenian Environment Agency) and enterprises and institutions entrusted with the management of such sphere of activity. During flood emergencies, local community and its civil protection and disaster relief forces participate in control and taking action during disaster.

How much do warning systems allow for adequate community participation?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Early warning and information system is regulated in compliance with legislation and it enables timely and corresponding warning against disasters.

To what extent does the local government have an emergency operations centre (EOC) and/or an emergency communication system?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Emergency operations systems (technical ones and those operated by personal observation) have been arranged for the needs of citizens and local communities. Furthermore, at regional level (state institutions), emergency control and early warning communication systems have been organized within emergency operations centres.

How regularly are training drills and rehearsal carried out with the participation of relevant government, non-governmental, local leaders and volunteers?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Emergency communication centres are organized within state authorities and they are operational 24 hours a day.

Beside regular operation activity, training drills are related also to transmission of signal during activities and drills of civil protection and disaster relief forces that enable a simultaneous training for harmonized operations of all units of the civil protection and disaster relief system and emergency communication centres.

How available are key resources for effective response, such as emergency supplies, emergency shelters, identified evacuation routes and contingency plans at all times?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Stockpiles of relief supplies	Yes
Emergency shelters	Yes
Safe evacuation routes identified	Yes
Contingency plan or community disaster preparedness plan for all major hazards	Yes

Description of Progress & Achievements:

The civil protection and disaster relief system has been organized so that during major emergencies and, consequently, when urgent help is needed such extent of forces shall join as to meet the needs for all purposes. Thus, during a major disaster, all civil protection and disaster relief forces are activated as well as national and local management authorities, which shall join gradually with regard to the extent of needs within certain area.

Essential 10

After any disaster, ensure that the needs of the survivors are placed at the centre of reconstruction with support for them and their community organizations to design and help implement responses, including rebuilding homes and livelihoods.

How much access does the local government have to resources and expertise to assist victims of psycho-social (psychological, emotional) impacts of disasters?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Trainings of responsible persons and actors carrying out emergency tasks are organized within the scope of tasks of civil protection and disaster relief forces. These trainings also comprise a part of training for psycho-social impacts of disasters on citizens and members of civil protection and disaster relief forces. Particular professional services in the field of health safety, social workers, psychologists, etc. shall join to carry out such professional tasks.

How well are disaster risk reduction measures integrated into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation activities (i.e. build back better, livelihoods rehabilitation)?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Restoration of infrastructure and environment after disaster is in domain of the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning and the activities and actions are adjusted by the Slovenian Government as regards the performance as well as financing.

To what degree does the Contingency Plan (or similar plan) include an outline strategy for post disaster recovery and reconstruction, including needs assessments and livelihoods rehabilitation?

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Civil protection and disaster relief plans and system have been elaborated so that min. conditions for operational ability of the services for post-disaster recovery and livelihood rehabilitation are ensured after civil protection and disaster relief measures have been taken and implemented. Any further activities are related to regular activity services that shall afterwards take up the restoration and ensure conditions for livelihood rehabilitation.