

Slovenia

National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

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Strategic goals 1

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:

Disaster and environmental risk management policies are being implemented in public policies, plans and programmes at all levels through the mechanisms of international and comprehensive stakeholder coordination.

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:

Enhance the use of modern technology in all phases of the disaster management cycle and ensure and implement appropriate human resources policy. Strengthen coordination among all components of the system of protection against natural and other disasters.

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:

A disaster risk reduction approach is being adopted in the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes at all levels.

Priority for action 1

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

Based on legislation, the Slovenian system of protection against natural and other disasters is organised as an integrated interdisciplinary activity, and it merges professional and voluntary rescue services, the Civil Protection, humanitarian organisations, research institutions and other organisations into one

system.

Based on past experience, the two most important acts in the field of protection and rescue, namely the Act on protection against natural and other disasters and the Act on fire protection, were renewed and adopted by the National Assembly in 2007. Based on the new legislation, 10 laws were also adopted. The Resolution on the National Programme of Protection against Natural and Other Disasters is in the process of adoption for a five-year period. The programme is adopted every five years and includes threat assessments; it provides guidance and main priorities for the next five years on the system of protection against natural and other disasters, with main emphasis on prevention activities.

The Meteorological Activities Act was adopted in 2006, which defines the scope of the National Meteorological Service (NMS) in accordance with the UN WMO guidelines as the "single official voice" for issuing meteorological forecasts and warnings to the state institutions and public

Context & Constraints:

Prepare remaining laws that derive from newly adopted legislation. Based on experiences and new knowledge, renew other legislation in the area of protection against natural and other disasters (long-term task).

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

Each year approximately 0.4% of the national government budget is allocated for protection, rescue and relief activities. Additionally, municipalities should earmark on average 3% of their annual municipal budgets. The Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief dedicated more than EUR 5 million to co-finance fire brigades in the broader area, volunteer organisations, and NGOs that are part of the protection and rescue system. Additionally, fire prevention and protection activities (purchase of equipment and development and research activities) are partly financed from the fire fund, which is generated from the tax on fire insurance.

Context & Constraints:

Ensuring financial means for finishing major projects, such as two sub-training centres; modernising sirens and including them into the common monitoring, notification and warning system; regularly updating information technology, etc.

Core indicator 3

Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

The system of protection against natural and other disasters is based on the obligations of:

- municipalities (mayors), and
- the state (Slovenian Government - Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief with regional branches).

Additionally, enterprises, institutions and other organisations are responsible for protection and rescue within their competence.

Roles and responsibilities of the two levels are defined in the Act on protection against natural and other disasters. In the period 2006-2008, both levels have carried out their tasks according to the annual programmes.

Three practical examples of the involvement of the different levels:

1. On the basis of risk and threat assessments, regions, local communities and enterprises must adopt emergency response plans, which have to be in compliance with national emergency response plans. In the period 2006-2008, local communities and enterprises have prepared or updated most mandatory emergency response plans.

2. Both levels are also linked through development and research work that is done on the national level, but involves the national and local levels as well (e.g. research projects in 2007: major emphasis was put on information support for fire prevention and fire extinguishing in the Karst and mountainous areas).

3. Local enterprises and other organisations (NGOs, institutions, etc.) are also included in the national education and training activities. One example of this cooperation is the involvement of all the aforementioned in an annual national exercise. Each year an exercise is organised in a different region, and the scenario involves regional and local threats (in 2007 an exercise on fires in the natural environment was organised in the Karst area; in 2008 the scenario of the exercise includes a nuclear accident and will be carried out in the region where the nuclear power plant is).

Context & Constraints:

Establish a fully operational and independent regional level (some tasks from the national and local levels will be transferred to the regional one when the regions are established as political entities).
Ensure enough personnel in local administration for protection and rescue activities.

Core indicator 4

A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

In preparedness, but mostly in the response phase, operational leadership is managed mostly by Civil Protection commanders and the Civil Protection headquarters. The task of the Civil Protection headquarters is to provide support to the Civil Protection commander in managing the emergency response. Members of the Civil Protection headquarters are experts from different fields or heads of various protection and rescue units, and as such represent some (semi)-form of multi-sectoral platform.

We have started with activities to establish a national platform for disaster risk reduction, which would be more oriented towards preventive and preparedness activities. In this regard a representative of the UN/ISDR secretariat visited Slovenia in September 2007.

Context & Constraints:

Establish an operational national platform for disaster risk reduction and assure all areas related to the

disaster management cycle will be properly represented in the work of the platform.

Priority for action 2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

Based on legislation, risk and threat assessments are done by the competent ministries (mostly the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Defence - Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief). They have to be updated every five years or after any major incident. Local communities are responsible for their own risk and threat assessments. Based on these assessments, national and local emergency response plans are prepared.

According to the plan, responsible authorities have in the period 2006-2008 prepared most of the required risk and threat assessments.

Context & Constraints:

Carry on with the work. Update all risk and threat assessments according to the legislation and planned programme.

Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

The unified monitoring, notification and warning system in Slovenia comprises:

- the monitoring network,
- notification centres,
- the computer support and telecommunications service, and
- warning.

Monitoring (on water levels, weather conditions, etc.) is mostly done by the Environmental Agency and is available to other institutions and agencies. Notification centres that play a pivotal role in operation of the unified monitoring, notification and warning system have a direct link to the aforementioned monitors. Additionally, special monitoring on nuclear activity around the nuclear power plant is also in place. One recently established monitor is video surveillance of the Karst area (around 5,000 km² is covered by cameras), which is linked directly to the regional notification centre.

Another useful application that has been developed in recent years is a geographical information system called GIS_UJME (used in each emergency response centre) with more than 120 data layers. This is important for protection and rescue purposes, where locating callers from stationary and mobile phones

was introduced last year. The location of the caller can also be determined by searching through the registers used in the GIS. GIS_UJME is regularly updated.

Some major projects done by ACPDR in 2007:

- the application "Monitoring waters" was developed for the purpose of monitoring the level of water in the rivers;
- the Internet application "Data on natural and other disasters" was developed; it enables a graphical overview of events in the last 24 hours, basic information on the event and the involvement of protection, rescue and relief forces;
- a moving sensor connected to the public information system was placed in the area of a landslide in Kropa; and
- a research project on a mobile unit to rapidly collect information from the site in the event of a landslide was prepared.

Context & Constraints:

Include new, advanced technologies into the unified monitoring, notification and warning system.

Establishing a national multisectoral project for improvement of warning system for the ongoing meteorological and hydrological hazardous events - especially the dissemination part and user-response part in collaboration with decision-makers and communities .

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

An unified early warning system is comprised of:

- the monitoring network
- notification centres
- early warning computer support application
- warning.

Central part in the system has Emergency Notification Centres (1 national and 13 regional). The main tasks of national Emergency Notification centre is the monitoring of the events, and the alerting and warning in case of emergencies. The Regional Emergency Notification Centres collect and answer to the emergency calls (Single European Number 112 was introduced in 1997), and they coordinate information flow during the intervention of operational units. They have special secure connections with the special units of Fire Brigades for so called technical rescuing (those who intervene in car accidents, fires in tunnels, accidents with chemicals, and so on).

In accordance with a Study on the audibility the sirens are taking over from the local communities and are included into the common monitoring, notification and warning system. By end of 2008 more that half of 1600 sirens will already be included into common monitoring, notification and warning system, most of them will also renewed.

To improve the quality of the 112 emergency call number, some additional services are being implemented. Two of them are: E112 (to identify the location of the caller) and eCall (automatic call in case of a car accident).

THE FILED OF METEOROLOGY

Processes for elaboration and dissemination of early meteorological warnings were improved with introduction of new warning scheme for public in accordance with meteoalarm.eu principle, but there are shortcomings in human resources for further development of operational meteorological and hydrological early warning system.

Context & Constraints:

Continue to introduce and implement new, advanced technologies into the unified monitoring, notification and warning system.

Include all sirens into the unified monitoring, notification and warning system by 2011.

THE FILED OF METEOROLOGY

Ensuring human resources and financial means for improvement of meteorological and hydrological early warning system, consisting especially of the operational processing part within the national meteorological and hydrological service and the dissemination part in collaboration with protection, rescue and relief institutions and public media.

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

Description:

Slovenia has signed bilateral agreements with some bordering countries (Austria, Croatia, Hungary) and a protocol with Italy. Additionally, bilateral agreements have been signed with the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and the Russian Federation; agreements with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro are in the process of adoption. All the aforementioned agreements include provisions on mutual exchange of information and warnings in the case of major disasters.

In 2002 Slovenia signed the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. In accordance with the convention, we perform all activities related to sharing information and early warning, as well as regular testing.

Context & Constraints:

Continue to regularly exchange information on risk and threat assessments, perform trainings and provide early warnings through appropriate arrangements on a bilateral basis and within regional mechanisms.

Priority for action 3

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

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

In recent years the Internet has proven to be very useful tool for warning and alerting the population. Therefore the website of the Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief provides comprehensive information on how to take care of oneself in case of disasters, and on preventive and preparedness measures, as well as including information about warnings, alarm signals and other important data. Additionally, basic weather reports and information on previous accidents can also be found. Comprehensive meteorological information with warnings is accessible on the website of the Environmental Agency.

However, other means of communication are also used. The national emergency notification centre daily publishes a bulletin in which information on accidents in the last 24 hours is provided; in case of need, warning information is inserted. The bulletin is distributed (by fax and e-mail) to all ministries, government agencies, local communities, television and radio stations, and other relevant institutions. The same information is provided daily on teletext on national television.

An improved website of national meteorological service was introduced with additional information, especially on early meteorological warnings. However there still exists a lot of possibilities for improvement of operational warnings dissemination with other means of communication.

Context & Constraints:

Improve coordination in the flow of information on warnings related to natural and other disasters among various ministers and government offices.

Establish fixed procedures for various means of communication to report the "single official voice" meteorological and hydrological warnings of ongoing events via decision-makers to the end -users. Ensuring human resources and financial means for these projects.

Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

The ACPDR provides basic education for adults (through leaflets, articles, yearly publication of the magazine UJMA, posters, etc.) and children (books, puppet show on natural and other disasters, promotional material that promotes the 112 single European call number, didactic games, etc.). For members of protection, rescue and relief units, services and bodies, comprehensive training programmes (introductory, basic, advanced) are carried out.

Our efforts in the area of education and training were acknowledged also by the European Emergency Number Association (EENA) who in 2008 awarded our Administration for comprehensive achievements in informing population, especially children about the 112 emergency call number.

The curricula at the Faculty of Social Sciences - Department of Political Science (defence studies) and at the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology - programme on occupational and fire safety include some subjects related to protection against natural and other disasters.

Protection against natural and other disasters is not an obligatory subject in the regular school curriculum. However, the ACPDR prepares an optional informative educational and training programme on personal and mutual protection (evacuation procedure drills, presentation of protection and rescue units, presentation of safety measures in case of fire, earthquake, etc.) for kindergartens and elementary schools.

Some information on the activities in 2007:

- one third of all education and training programmes that are carried out in ACPDR training centre were modernised according to the new needs;
- 16,000 members of the protection and rescue system were trained in those centres in the same year;
- experimentally, distance learning was introduced;
- every year (since 1987) UJMA, a professional magazine on issues related to disaster management, is published; its subscribers are individuals, libraries, schools, universities, institutes and other organisations, services and associations which are part of the system for civil protection and disaster relief.

In the period 2006-2008 the following activities were carried out for children:

- an award competition for artistic and literary works on natural and other disasters is held yearly for pre-school and school children;
- each year an educational book for children is published; in every book the mascot "Ježek Snežek" faces different disasters or issues related to disasters (2006 - fire; 2007 - drought, 2008 - European emergency call number 112); all publications are also in the English language;
- an educational computer game for children was prepared (it is available on the ACPDR's website).

Context & Constraints:

Include education on disaster risk reduction in the national curriculum. Establish a vocational college for fire-fighting.

Core indicator 3

Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.

Level of Progress achieved:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

Approximately one hundred development and research projects concerning protection against natural and other disasters and twenty projects on protection against fire were prepared in Slovenia from 1992 to 2007. The projects provide practical solutions on how to improve the system of protection against natural and other disasters. The research and development projects on disaster management are financed from the national research programme "Knowledge for Security and Peace 2002-2010", the technological programme "Technology for Security and Peace 2006-2012", fire tax funds, Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief funds, and also funds from other ministries.

In 2006 nine research projects were finished. The themes included video detection in the Karst area, dangerous substance databases and electromagnetic radiation of telecommunications systems. In 2007 the emphasis in preparing projects was put on the following themes: fighting terrorism, and information technology and information support in extinguishing fires in the Karst and mountainous areas. In that year 10 projects were finished.

Context & Constraints:

Continue the work.

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

Description:

Every other year (last time in 2007), "Protection and Rescue Days" take place in a different region in Slovenia. The event is an opportunity to bring disaster management activities closer to the local residents. The purpose of the event is also to bring together responsible national institutions, professional and voluntary members of rescue services, private companies, non-governmental organisations and other experts in the field of protection, rescue and disaster relief to present their activities and/or products to the wider public. Within the event, a national emergency response exercise, conferences and other educational activities for different populations (children, adults, experts, etc.) are organised.

Every year different prevention and preparedness activities are organised in October - fire safety month. During this period a conference on a topical issue is organised (2006 - fire extinguishers, 2007 - evacuation, 2008 - fire in the natural environment). Additionally, for each theme publications for adults and children are published.

On 1 March (Civil Protection Day) each year on the national and regional levels, individuals and organisations are rewarded for their efforts in protection, rescue and relief activities. Celebrations provide opportunities to raise awareness about civil protection activities through the media.

Context & Constraints:

Public information must become one of the key instruments to raise awareness and a culture of resilience.

Priority for action 4

Reduce the underlying risk factors

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

Description:

-- not complete --

Context & Constraints:

-- not complete --

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

Description:

One of the examples, action programme for drinking water supply was adopted in 2006. Anticipated strategic goals within this programme are: reliable drinking water supply, water resources protection and quality and safe water supply (healthy drinking water). Achievement of these goals is foreseen within action programme, with anticipated construction (investment) and other (financial, standard-setting, educational, development of new technologies, research, organizational, strategic, supervisory) measures. Within that action programme stimulates protection of water resources, ensurance of reserve water sources, financing of reinstatement of monitoring and supervision systems, financing of preparation protection and rescue programmes and efficient operation of systems for drinking water supply.

Context & Constraints:

Implementation of goals foreseen in action programme is planned in the following years.

System for supervision of systems for drinking water supply (based on annual drinking water providers reports) is under development, and linking with health service system (regarding drinking water) is anticipated. System is developed under assumption that excellence in mastering of usual hazards within drinking water supply systems is also assurance for mastering other potential unforeseen risks.

Core indicator 3

Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

Level of Progress achieved:

-- not complete --

Description:

-- not complete --

Context & Constraints:

-- not complete --

Core indicator 4

Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.

Level of Progress achieved:

-- not complete --

Description:

-- not complete --

Context & Constraints:

-- not complete --

Core indicator 5

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

Level of Progress achieved:

-- not complete --

Description:

-- not complete --

Context & Constraints:

-- not complete --

Core indicator 6

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

Level of Progress achieved:

-- not complete --

Description:

-- not complete --

Context & Constraints:

-- not complete --

Priority for action 5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

The system of protection against natural and other disasters is organised as an integrated interdisciplinary activity based on common goals and principles, and it merges professional and voluntary rescue services. It is based on the obligation of the state and municipalities to prevent and eliminate dangers and to immediately act in the event of disasters. It is also based on the obligations of companies and other organisations to protect their employees and property in the case of disaster, and to co-finance preparations in the municipality in which they operate. Technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management are established at all levels.

Context & Constraints:

Improve coordination of different rescue services and institutions in interventions in case of disasters.

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

Protection and rescue measures to be deployed in the event of a natural or other disasters are laid down in emergency response plans, which must be drawn up for each individual type of disaster by state bodies, local communities, public institutions (schools, institutions caring for special groups of people, medical institutions, institutions for the protection of cultural heritage, etc.), commercial companies whose activity presents a threat to nearby residents and to the environment, and a number of other organisations. The emergency response plans are updated every 3-5 years.

On the national level we have nine different emergency response plans (accidents at sea, earthquakes, floods, forest fires in the natural environment, nuclear accidents, accidents involving hazardous substances, air crashes, railway accidents and contagious diseases). Based on the experiences with fires in 2006, the national emergency response plan on forest fires in the natural environment was supplemented and adopted in 2007. The national emergency plan on air crashes is being supplemented based on the experiences from the exercise "Air crash" in 2006.

In 2007, the number of local emergency response plans harmonised with national ones increased by 45%. Additionally, one third of all threat assessments on the local level were also updated.

Context & Constraints:

Continue work according to yearly programmes.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

Financial resources to support effective response and recovery when required are available:

- 1.on the basis of the Act on recovery from natural and other disasters;
- 2.from governmental reserves;
- 3.from the EU Solidarity Fund.

Context & Constraints:

Continue to follow the principle of reasonable use of financial resources. Improve knowledge in gaining funds from the EU Solidarity Fund in the case of major disasters. Raise awareness and increase the level of property insurance.

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

Lessons learned that include all levels are organised after every major disaster. The experiences are taken into account in preparing the emergency response plans, creating development and research projects, buying new equipment, and educating and training members of rescue and relief forces, as well as the general population.

Experiences are gained also through regular training. For example, based on experiences from exercises (on the national or local level), emergency response plans are supplemented.

Context & Constraints:

Continue the activities.

Drivers of Progress

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):

New legislation adopted after 1992 organises the protection and rescue system as an integrated interdisciplinary activity based on common goals and principles. It has also merged all rescue services and other protection, rescue and relief forces into an organisationally and functionally unified system. In this regard, Slovenia has already taken into account the multi-hazard approach, which has proven in the past to be successful in the response and recovery phase as well as in the preparedness and prevention one.

Disaster management is a cross-sector activity, and one of the key challenges in the future would be to improve cooperation among different ministers, government agencies, institutes and public services. Establishment of a disaster risk reduction platform could be one step in this direction.

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

Levels of Reliance:

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

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

Gender equality is one of the principles already assured by the Constitution in Slovenia. All acts and other laws in the field of disaster management follow this guidance. To monitor the realisation of the rights of women guaranteed by the Constitution, legislation and international treaties, the Government in 1992 established the Office for Women's Policy, which was renamed in 2001 as the Office for Equal

Opportunities.

In everyday work in disaster management, gender balance is properly applied. For example, at the Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (multi-sectoral coordinating body), men and women comprise 66% and 34% of the work force, respectively.

One of the challenges in the future would be to improve gender balance in operational protection and rescue teams, but this largely depends on the women's choice to join the unit.

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance:

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

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

The system of protection against natural and other disasters is based on the obligations of the state, municipalities, commercial companies and other organisations, owners and users of residential and other buildings, and citizens. All levels are properly equipped, informed and trained. Additionally, technology is transferred from the national to other levels where needed. In order to improve resilience to disasters and to face new threats, capacity development is one of the main emphases in our future development strategy.

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

Levels of Reliance:

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

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

Within our work, we try to ensure that the most vulnerable - especially socioeconomic minorities or disabled persons - are protected from existing and emerging threats, and that those most affected are reached through disaster response and recovery programmes.

One example of this commitment:

According to EU Directive 2002/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 March 2002 on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks and services (Universal Service Directive), Slovenia has started with procedures to enable deaf persons to use the 112 emergency call number.

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.

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

To further improve effectiveness of the system of protection against natural and other disasters, the various levels (national, local) have to cooperate successfully. Additionally, proper public-private partnerships have to be established to combine resources and expertise to act jointly to reduce risks and potential losses.

Basic goals in the coming years would be:

- to improve cooperation among various ministries, government offices, public institutes and local communities in the line of cross-sectoral protection against natural and other disasters;
- to continue with efforts to adapt the system of protection and rescue to new threats and environmental risks at the national and local level; and
- to continue with human capacity building.

f) Contextual Drivers of Progress

Levels of Reliance:

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

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

Slovenia has sufficient capacities to face natural and other disasters. We successfully manage daily disasters; however, in the event of a destructive earthquake in the capital, the assessment is that we would probably need international assistance in rescue and relief activities. Preventive and preparedness measures are applied and are supplemented on the basis of experiences gained from training and disasters. Additionally, lessons learned from other countries and regional and international organisations are also taken into account.

In the following years, the main emphasis in disaster management would be to increase the use of modern technologies to even better resist disasters. With this, the main goal of the system of protection against natural and other disasters - that is, to reduce the number of disasters and to forestall or reduce the number of victims and other consequences of disasters - would be even more easily reachable. Furthermore, preventive measures that also include provisions for sustainable development have to be emphasised more. To reduce the financial burden (for the government and individuals), personal insurance has to be increased, and insurance companies have to strengthen their role in carrying out preventive measures.

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:

Disaster and environmental risk management policies are being implemented in public policies, plans and programmes at all levels through the mechanisms of international and comprehensive stakeholder coordination.

Future Outlook Statement:

On the basis of the main goal of protection against natural and other disasters, to reduce the numbers of disasters and their consequences, the future tasks in this area would be:

- to raise awareness on the importance of preventive measures to be implemented into different public policies, plans and programmes,
- to strengthen coordination and to improve information sharing among all members (individuals and institutions) of system against natural and other disasters,
- to improve the possibilities to forecast and to control natural and other threats,

- to improve general preparedness to natural and other disasters with respect to sustainable development measures,
- to improve preparedness for protection and rescue in the event of terrorism and other security threats,
- to improve protection of vulnerable and protected areas, cultural heritage and contribute to the protection of world ecosystem.

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:

Enhance the use of modern technology in all phases of the disaster management cycle and ensure and implement appropriate human resources policy. Strengthen coordination among all components of the system of protection against natural and other disasters.

Future Outlook Statement:

On the basis of the main goal of protection against natural and other disasters, to reduce the number of disasters and their consequences in promoting preventive measures, the future tasks in this area would be:

- to increase preparedness and to assure better equipment of protection, rescue and relief units and shorten their response time,
- to strengthen the role of Slovenia in international environment, with emphasis on regional and bilateral (bordering) cooperation; to increase the cooperation in international rescue and humanitarian interventions,
- to make perfect current and to link current and possible new emergency monitoring systems with emergency response centres
- to strengthen national meteorological service for monitoring and early warning on weather conditions,
- to link information and telecommunication system into the unified information-telecommunication system,
- in order to be more effective and efficient introduce improvements in organization, structure and scope of protection, rescue and relief units.

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:

A disaster risk reduction approach is being adopted in the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes at all levels.

Future Outlook Statement:

Raise awareness and improve knowledge on the importance of risk reduction approach into the design of different policies. To this end strengthening cooperation on preparedness, response and recovery among different ministries, governmental agency and other institutions should be one of major future tasks. Furthermore, this cooperation should be institutionalized.