

Second Meeting of the Design Team

Task 6: Design a Regional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System composed of harmonized National Early Warning Systems

9 – 11 September 2014, Durrës, Albania



MEETING REPORT

1. Background

In the framework of the IPA/2012/290552 multi-beneficiary project “Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey”, the second meeting of the Design Team related to the design of the regional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) was organized on 9-11 September 2014 in Albania.

The overall objective of the project is to reduce vulnerability of IPA beneficiary countries to disasters caused by natural hazards in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action and increase their resilience to climate change. The direct beneficiaries are the national authorities in charge for the disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

The project activities are grouped in eight tasks, of which four are implemented under WMO management. The aim of the Task 6 is to develop a design for the regional MHEWS through regional collaboration providing technological and institutional solutions for the system based on the harmonized national EWSs.

2. Activities

As part of the Task 6 a Design Team was established composed by representatives of the beneficiary NMHSs and civil protection agencies supported by WMO and regional stakeholder experts. The first Design Team meeting was organized in May 2013 and was followed by WMO expert missions to each beneficiary to assess current situation and the needs of beneficiaries regarding MHEWS. In addition, a regional partners meeting was organized in May 2014 with the representatives of partner organizations (EUMETSAT, EUMETNET, ESSL, ISRBC, SEEVCCC etc.) to discuss the regional context and possible future cooperation related to development of MHEWS.

The second Design Team meeting was organized on 9-11 September 2014 in Durrës, Albania with participants from each of the beneficiaries (list of participants is attached as Annex I). The programme of the meeting is attached as the Annex II.

Following the expert missions and further consultations with the beneficiaries, the beneficiary reports for the current situation and development needs related to the MHEWS for each beneficiary were drafted. During the 2nd Design team meeting these reports were presented, discussed and the finalization agreed. The preliminary concept of the regional MHEWS was introduced.

In addition, the participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia presented the lessons learned from the floods in May 2014 including the experience and performance of the existing EWS arrangements.

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

Following observations, conclusions and recommendations were made during the meeting:

- Definite progress related to the strengthening the NMHSs capacities have been achieved during the two project phases. Plenty of training has been provided and expertise exists in the area, but technical and institutional knowledge is lacking to implement the knowledge;
- Development is needed to move towards impact oriented forecasting;
- Need to engage users/stakeholders, for example hydropower companies do not necessary cooperate or respond to information/warnings;
- Cross-border information is not secured in the region, urgent improvement needed. Monitoring on state borders is not adequate, for example on the important tributaries to major rivers (Sava, Bosna etc.);
- Significant improvement is needed in the forecasting and warning provision of many NMHSs, high resolution numerical modelling is needed;
- Meteorological information is always not utilized adequately, exists national level problems in the utilization of the warning information to launch response;
- There exists lack of commitment to comply with the instructions from the authorities and commitment in resource management;

- Establishment of arrangements on the data and information exchange and improvement and optimization of the current data exchange mechanisms are needed;
- Seasonal forecasting is important, need further development;
- Need for preparation of risk assessment for each beneficiary as necessary background information for policymakers;
- Regional dimension to the data sharing is crucial – development of the warning sharing needs ITC platform for e.g. countries sharing same river basin need national databases connected to regional common place for sharing information;
- Further training programmes to be designed in forecasting and nowcasting;
- Regional approach to radar network design is needed;
- Station/equipment maintenance, calibration and the communication problems exist still in many countries, automatisisation is slowly progressing.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

DAY 1, Tuesday, 9 September 2014

Time:	Topics:	Presenters:
Session I: Opening		
09:00 – 09:30	Opening and Introduction	Maksimilian Dhima, Director for Planning and Coordination of Civil Emergencies, Ministry of Interior Dimitar Ivanov, WMO
09:30 – 09:45	Group photo	
Session II: Currents status of the TASK 6 - Design a Regional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the beneficiary gap analyses		
09:45 – 10:30	Current status of the IPA Project and the TASK 6 - Design a Regional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System composed of harmonized National Early Warning Systems	Dimitar Ivanov, WMO Sari Lappi, IPA Project Coordinator, WMO/FMI Project Office
10:30 – 12:30	Review of reports for each beneficiary - Gap analysis, needs and recommendations 30 min/beneficiary	Milan Dacic, WMO consultant Sergio Pasquini, WMO consultant National DT members
12:30 – 14:30	LUNCH BREAK	
14:30 – 15:30	Continued	Milan Dacic, WMO consultant Sergio Pasquini, WMO consultant
15:30 – 16:00	COFFEE BREAK	
16:00 – 17:00	Continued	Milan Dacic, WMO consultant Sergio Pasquini, WMO consultant

DAY 2, Wednesday, 10 September 2014

Times:	Topics:	Presenters:
Session III: MHEWS Design – System components		

09:00 – 10:00	Meteorological observing network	Group exercise with moderators
10:00 – 11:00	Hydrological observing network	Group exercise with moderators
11:00 – 12:00	Radar network	Group exercise with moderators
12:00 – 12:30	Other observing networks	Group exercise with moderators
12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
14:00 – 15:00	Forecasting and nowcasting	Group exercise with moderators
15:00 – 16:00	Communications	Group exercise with moderators
16:00 – 16:30	COFFEE BREAK	
16:30 – 17:30	Institutional arrangements	Group exercise with moderators

DAY 3, Thursday, 11 September 2014

Times:	Topics:	Presenters:
Session III: Regional Design Document – preparation of first draft		
09:00 – 11:30	Finalization of the concept for the regional approach to the MHEWS	Group work with Consultants
11:30 – 12:30	Closing remarks and the way forward	Dimitar Ivanov, WMO

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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