



REGIONAL FORUM ON MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

(Dissemination event of the Work Package 6: Design of a regional MHEWS as a system of harmonized national EWSs)

15 October 2014, Ankara, Turkey

MEETING REPORT

1. Background

In the framework of the IPA/2012/290552 multi-beneficiary project “Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey”, a Regional Forum on Multi-Hazard Early Warning System was organized on 15th October in Ankara, Turkey.

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.

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

The Regional Forum on Multi-Hazard Early Warning System was hosted by the State Meteorological Service of Turkey and was participated by 49 experts from the project beneficiaries, regional partner organizations and international organizations (participant list is attached as the Annex I).

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Followed topics were included in the Agenda (attached as Annex II):

- Presentation of the beneficiary reports on the current status and recommendations for further improvement related to the national Early Warning Systems (EWS);
- Introduction to Flash Flood Guidance;
- Analysis and lessons learned from the floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia;
- Presentation of the concept of the regional MHEWS including the identified requirements in EWS and common needs in the region;
- Presentation and discussion of potential future projects.

The assessment and gap analysis of the existing national Early Warning Systems of each project beneficiary were presented including the present status of enabling environment for EWS, key stakeholders and decision makers and their relationship in MHEWS, operational cooperation between the Disaster Risk Management Agency and NMHS and technical capacities of NMHS in support to MHEWS.

Representatives from the NMHSs and DRR agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia presented the lessons learned from the May 2014 floods. An overview was provided of the analysis and lessons learnt from the floods including the hydrometeorological situation leading and during the floods and the response before and during the disaster in each of the affected country.

The Regional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System Concept and Design Document was presented. The document was developed through regional collaboration providing adequate technological and institutional solutions for building the business case for a regional MHEWS, composed of harmonized and inter-operable national MHEWS.

Potential future projects were presented related to resolving shortcomings and deficiencies in the basic technical capacities, resolving the deficiencies with human resources available in NMHSs to support effective MHEWS and support on disaster risk analysis with improved hydrometeorological hazard/extreme weather analysis in the region. The proposed further projects included:

- Revitalization of upper-air stations in the region;
- Building the regional weather radar network;
- Development of a lightning detection system for the region;
- Harmonization of hydrological observing networks;
- Harmonization and optimization of meteorological observing networks;
- Develop harmonized long-term education and training programme for Western Balkan countries;
- Strengthening of the regional data rescue and extreme weather analysis;
- Enhancing hazard forecasting – floods, drought and other extremes;
- Enhancing the collaborative decision making process and dissemination of warning information.

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations related to the beneficiary assessments on MHEWS and the regional concept:

- The stations on the gross border rivers are important to be taken into account in the national improvement plans, to benefit all the basin countries and transboundary issues should be prioritized for any further project;
- Continuing the improvement of the calibration issues is important for those countries lacking calibration facilities. Either the national calibration facilities should be established or utilization of mobile calibration kits should be continued;
- Most of the countries have same or similar needs, so cooperation in future strengthening of the capacities is essential;
- Closer cooperation of the NMHSs in the region is needed, each of the NHMSs to take over some responsibility area;
- Regional approach especially for the infrastructure development which requires significant funding is necessary (e.g. radar network, upper air soundings). It can be considered that the direct outside support for the countries will be less in the future, so regional approach is needed.

Conclusions and Recommendations related to the 2014 floods:

- Development of the regional EWS is necessary, the dissemination of warning information need to be improved. Bilateral and multilateral agreements, regional initiatives and joint programmes and projects are needed to strengthen the regional cooperation;
- Clear definition the roles and responsibilities for all the stakeholders is needed;
- Strengthening the levees is necessary, rebuilding needs to the defined (some flood protection are very old);
- The national level has to increase the taking the disaster insurance by individuals – government subsidies, even compulsory insurances in risky areas;
- Practice of the lines of communication and training exercises in all levels are needed;
- Strengthening of the capacities of protection and rescue services is necessary;
- Further activities on education and awareness of population to be organized;
- Livestock evacuation also important and needs to be improved - disease risk with dead animals;
- Regulation of distribution of humanitarian aid, was chaotic situation with the amount of aid poured from all over the world (one point of entry, one point of distribution);
- One/two day workshop on lessons learnt from the floods should be organized early next year.

Potential future support and collaboration:

- Projects should be based on priorities and linked to national development plans;
- Individual national projects to be coordinated under a regional coordination framework;
- Identification of user requirements should be part of project design;
- Integration is essential – interoperability should be a main requirement;
- Need to ensure sustainability at the design phase;
- Platform for EWS needed which will provided good connection and information exchange in the region;
- Regional initiative for forecasting is important;

- Need for support to repair of the damaged hydrometeorological infrastructure in the countries affected by 2014 catastrophic floods;
- Need for optimization and further automation of the national meteorological and hydrological observation systems, including the enhancement of the meteorological radar center network and the radiosounding station network;
- Need for enhancement of telecommunication and computer resources;
- Need for establishment of a regional coordination and technical support mechanism, as well as the procedures for transboundary exchange of emergency hydrometeorological information and warnings;
- Need for production of subregional risk maps for meteorological, climate and hydrological hazards;
- Need for permanent human resources training and improvement of the quality management system in the field of disaster risk management;
- Need for further active involvement of NMHSs and regional/subregional WMO, UNISDR, UNCCD and UNECE centers, whose functioning is enabled by the NMHSs from the South East European countries, in the mentioned disaster risk reduction activities
- Some of the issues are/will be at least partially covered by planned/ongoing projects (e.g. Adriaradnet).

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REGIONAL FORUM ON MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

(Dissemination event of the Work Package 6: Design of a regional MHEWS as a system of harmonized national EWSs)

15 October 2014, Ankara, Turkey

PROGRAMME

Time	Item	Speaker
08:30 - 09:00	Registration	
09:00 - 09:20	Session I: Opening	
	Welcome Objectives and working arrangements	Abdullah Ceylan, Acting Director, State Meteorological Service of Turkey Mary Power, Director, Resource Mobilization and Development Partnerships, WMO Paola Albrito, Head of Regional Office for Europe, UNISDR
09:20 - 10:30	Session II: Presentation of the report of the Work Package 6, Part 1: National component	
	National EWSs – assessment of current capacities, identified gaps and recommendations (reports for each project beneficiary)	Milan Dacic, Chief of the Regional Office for Europe, WMO
	Implementation of the Flash Flood Guidance	Mr. Ayhan Sayin, State Meteorological Service of Turkey
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee	
11:00 - 11:40	Session III: Case-study – Catastrophic Floods in the Balkans – May 2014	
	Analysis and lessons learnt from the floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia - NMHSs perspective	Representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia

	- DRR Agencies perspective	
11:40 - 12:30	Session IV: Concept of further regional cooperation in building a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) as a system of harmonized national EWSs	
	<p>Benefits of regional approach</p> <p>Prioritized needs in harmonizing national systems</p> <p>Proposals for future projects</p>	<p>Milan Dacic, Chief of the Regional Office for Europe, WMO</p> <p>Dimitar Ivanov, Chief, Aeronautical Meteorology Division, WMO</p> <p>Paola Albrito, Head of Regional Office for Europe, UNISDR</p>
12:30 - 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 - 15:30	Session V: Discussion and closing	
	<p>Round table discussion – country needs, regional projects and engagement of development partners</p> <p>Wrap-up and adoption of recommendations for the way forward</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Dimitar Ivanov, Chief, Aeronautical Meteorology Division, WMO</p> <p>Milan Dacic, Chief of the Regional Office for Europe, WMO</p> <p>Paola Albrito, Head of Regional Office for Europe, UNISDR</p>
15:30	Closure of the meeting	

