

IPA DRAM

DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT AND MAPPING IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

E D I T O R I A L



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Operations Department

Dear reader,

I am very pleased to open the first edition of the IPA DRAM Newsletter. As Director of the Coordination and Operations Department at the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), I am proud to be part of this ambitious initiative which will keep us involved in the Western Balkans and Turkey for the next three years.

As you know, according to the new EU Civil Protection legislation and to the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, risk assessment is an essential component for improving understanding of risk, building resilience and best prepare for emergency response operations. Within this framework, IPA DRAM will support the Western Balkans and Turkey in complying with the EU requirements and standards as well as enhance their national capabilities in the field of risk assessment.

Since IPA DRAM kicked off in December 2016, our Programme Director, Team Leader and key experts have been touring the region intensely, paying visits to all the seven partners with the purpose of having a first insight on the institutional setting of each national context and get to know the authorities in charge of disaster risk assessment in order to establish the partnership of the Programme. This was the main aim of the partner visits, whereas the second round of meetings, the so called fact-finding missions, are now being organized for consulting with different national stakeholders and experts to better understand partner needs. This is part of our inception phase ending in June, which will serve as basis for the implementation of the Programme.

Just after these first months of IPA DRAM's life, I would like to thank our partners for the welcoming we have received but also the Consortium, which pulls together the solid expertise of the Civil Protection agencies from Italy, Croatia, Slovenia and Sweden as well as the strong academic contribution of CIMA Research Foundation. The Consortium is currently showing full commitment to the Programme and thanks to their competences, we are ensuring European good practices are at the forefront.

And now, enjoy our first issue!



European Civil Protection



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FOR CIVIL PROTECTION
AND DISASTER RELIEF





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First fact-finding mission at Hotel Tirana International- from left side Antoine Avignon (EU Delegation), Cvetka Tomin (IPA DRAM Team Leader), Shemsi Premci (Director of General Directorate for Civil Emergencies) and Roberto Rudari (IPA DRAM Key Expert)

IPA DRAM GEARS UP

The first fact-finding mission kicks off in Tirana

The first fact-finding mission of the Programme was held in Tirana on 7th March. IPA DRAM Team Leader Cvetka Tomin and key experts met with the Albanian stakeholders with the purpose of presenting the draft pre-study on national disaster risk assessment and bring in the first inputs from the Albanian authorities.

The event was opened by Shemsi Premci, Director of the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies which coordinates the activities of IPA DRAM in Albania. While praising the initiative, Mr Premci recalled that Albania is the country with the highest exposure to disaster in Europe and risk assessment is the key if we want to have better prevention and response to natural hazards. On the other hand, Cvetka Tomin stressed the importance of working at inter-institutional level so that all relevant actors are kept together for the successful implementation of the Programme, especially because, when dealing with multi-hazard risk

assessment data are often spread across different governmental agencies. The meeting was joined by the Ministry of Agriculture, Institute of Geoscience, Albanian Authority for GeoSpatial Information, Ministry of the Environment, Institute of Applied Nuclear Physics, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Defense. The fact-finding mission in Albania was organized back to back with Kosovo* where IPA DRAM Team met the national stakeholders in charge of risk assessment in Pristina.

Missions followed in Montenegro on 21st March back to back with Serbia, whereas on 6th and 7th April IPA DRAM experts visited the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

According to the vision of the programme, the overall purpose of the fact-finding missions is to have a thorough overview of the state of play in each Partner regarding national risk assessment, mapping and disaster loss databases according to their relevant national regulations, procedures and methodologies. This process will allow IPA DRAM to assess the level of harmonization with EU standards, also taking into account important cross-cutting issues, such as the gender and environmental perspectives as well as the involvement of the civil society. The missions are expected to lay the groundwork for a first study, which will include the analysis of the current approximation and harmonization to the EU directives, as well as the Sendai framework. The report will also provide an institutional mapping and the regulatory framework for each of the regional partners.

WHAT IS IPA DRAM?

Launched in December 2016 and receiving a budget of roughly 3 million euro, IPA DRAM builds on the success of previous IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance) funded projects on civil protection response and preparedness and it represents a major step forward in improving risk assessment and disaster risk management in the region. In particular, the programme will look to strengthen national systems capacities on disaster loss data collection and mapping, also taking into consideration the gender perspective, the environmental impact and the civil society involvement. The main target institutions are the civil protection agencies of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. However, the programme holds a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach and also intends to collaborate with international organisations. With a strong EU- and regional perspective, the programme will be guided by EU- and global frameworks in the implementation.

Facts and Figures

Contracting authority	European Commission/ Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) EuropeAid/137857/DH/SER/MULTI
Consortium	COORDINATOR: Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) Italian Civil Protection Department (DPC); Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR); National Protection, Rescue Directorate of the Republic of Croatia (DUZS); International Centre for Environmental Monitoring (CIMA)
Expected Results	<u>Result 1:</u> Further developed and improved national systems for disaster loss data collection based on the EU guidelines and good practices; <u>Result 2:</u> Further developed and improved national risk assessments following EU guidelines and good practices, in particular including identification of risks of cross-border and regional aspects. <u>Result 3:</u> Further developed and improved national and regional risk mapping, and establishment Electronic regional Risk Atlas (ERRA).
Partners	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey
Budget	2 999 250 EUR
Timeframe	1 December 2016 – 30 November 2019

Pictures from the fact-finding mission in Podgorica, Montenegro on 21 March 2017



At the opening: Mirsad Mulic - Director of Directorate for Emergency Management, Sladzan Maslac - EU Delegation representative and IPA DRAM Team Leader Cvetka Tomin.



GETTING TO KNOW OUR TEAM

IPA DRAM Team is composed of a pool of experts from the implementing consortium with mixed background, scientists and as well as civil protection professionals who will be involved throughout the implementation of the programme. The implementation in the field is led by a Key Expert team of three.

Key Expert Team

Team Leader (MSB): Cvetka Tomin

Cvetka Tomin is a Slovenian disaster management expert with more than twenty years of experience and sound theoretical knowledge in the area of disaster prevention, preparedness and capacity building. Cvetka has in-depth knowledge and understanding of Western Balkans and Turkey, speaks several languages from the partner countries and has years of experience in interacting with the civil protection authorities and project's involvement in Balkan region and Turkey, e.g. IPA Floods, IPA CP Cooperation project II, PPRD South.

Risk assessment expert (CIMA): Roberto Rudari

Roberto Rudari is a professional with more than 12 years of experience in the field of environmental engineering, disaster risk reduction, risk assessment models and civil protection applications including early warning systems. With a Ph.D. in Hydraulic Engineering, Roberto holds long experience in lecturing and supporting different courses. While working for CIMA Foundation since 2002, Roberto has been involved in different projects, such as the Desinventar database Implementation in Albania, Kosovo, Serbia; EU loss data Working Group, IPA Cross-border Cooperation between Serbia and Romania; PPRD East I and PPRD East II.

GIS expert (CIMA): Stefania Traverso

Stefania Traverso is an experienced GIS Expert holding a Master's Degree in Engineering for Environment and Land. During 14 years of work, Stefania has gained the experience in cartographic productions for the seismic micro-zoning studies, mapping of floods and forest fires, geospatial analyses of the environmental risk due to hazardous materials transportation. Stefania is an independent GIS professional and GIS advisor at CIMA Foundation, working on various projects including IPA FLOODS, Cross-border IPA Cooperation Programme in Serbia and Albanian governmental Programme for Prediction, Prevention and Mitigation of Forest Fires and Flood risk.



Fact finding mission in Serbia on 23rd March 2017 at M Hotel in Belgrade. From the left Karl-Heinz Vogel, Attaché at EU Delegation to Serbia, Cvetka Tomin, Ivan Baras, Sector for Emergency Management Ministry of Interior; Zivko Babovic, Sector for Emergency Management Ministry of Interior



IPA DRAM Team Leader Cvetka Tomin with Ivan Baras, Assistant Director of Sector of Emergency Management - Ministry of Interior

IPA DRAM TIMELINE OF THE INCEPTION PHASE

The inception phase lasts for six months and during this period the programme will investigate the issues which are most at stake in all seven partner contexts. A preliminary assessment for each national context will be carried out by IPA DRAM experts, in order to better target the actions and activities that will be needed to achieve the results of the programme.



Fatjona Xhaferi, Specialist at the General Directory of Civil Emergencies (GDCE) in Albania.

EU LOSS DATA WORKSHOP

IPA DRAM enhances opportunities for partners to join important technical meetings at EU level

IPA DRAM was present at the 9th EU Loss Data Workshop "Towards the Implementation of Sendai Indicators: Benefits from an effective Loss Data recording," held on 22-23 March in Brussels. This was an important occasion to understand and facilitate the exchange on the progresses and planned activities to implement the Sendai indicators. Through a special invitation facilitated by DG ECHO, Joint Research Center (JRC)

and IPA DRAM programme partner Albania, represented by Fatjona Xhaferi, Specialist at the General Directory of Civil Emergencies, was given the opportunity to join the meeting.

The meeting gathered 30 experts from Member States and international organisations and it follows the success of previous meetings since 2013, committing to the challenges set forward by the new Union Civil Protection Legislation and the recently adopted Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.



Anna Nordlander is an environmental engineer, working at MSB in the area of public health and risks connected to land use planning.

INTERVIEW WITH IPA DRAM ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERT

As previously outlined, the programme will integrate the environmental perspective into the disaster risk assessment of each of the partners. On last 7th March the environmental expert of IPA DRAM Anna Nordlander was present at the first fact-finding mission in Tirana and we took the opportunity to ask her how environment should fit into disaster risk assessment.

Anna, why does environment matter to disaster risk reduction?

We should actually look at the issue from two parallel viewpoints: the environment when it triggers the disaster, for example in case of earthquakes or floods, and the environment as receptor of the impact. In the latter case we need to have enough local knowledge for protecting nature from the damages that a disaster might cause. Environmental information on land use or ecosystems will actually offer opportunities to reduce disaster risk and the impact of natural events. But not only that, taking into account the environmental perspective in disaster risk means also being able to protect the services related to the environment, such as the production of fresh water, the agriculture, the protected areas and biodiversity.

In your opinion, what are the main areas of risk when a disaster occurs?

My main concerns are the “Natech”, chemical or industrial accidents caused by natural hazards, accidents occurring in the wake of floods or earthquakes which can trigger the release of polluted substances. If you have simultaneous weather events, chemicals can be widespread and released to a very vast area and might be kept in the soil for a long time. Natech imply huge costs for removing the polluted substances and can heavily harm the population and damage agriculture. For

this reason, taking environmental measures is really the last step which comes after a proper risk assessment of the territory and an implementation of a strategy with clear indications on roles and responsibilities. That’s why it is important to work closely in cooperation with the authorities in charge of risk assessment as they are the ones responsible for bringing up the issue and put it in the spotlight within the relevant bodies.

What about the impact of climate change instead?

Well, climate change is a slow trend and doesn’t necessary lead to a disaster, whereas be unprepared to protect industrial areas at risk can have a very predictable impact on environment as well as huge consequences to the population.

What are your expectations on IPA DRAM?

We should expect findings that had been highlighted during preliminary studies being totally different at the end of these three years. For this reason we need to take stock of local knowledge in order to understand and better outline a disaster risk assessment for each of the country. Now, it is very premature to come to any kind of statement. The most important thing is that at the end of the project we identify the areas which are really at risk for the country and its population. This process is needed because this picture is not fully available for policy makers. Hopefully the project will provide support to risk reduction and the increase of the resilience within the communities.

2017 EFDRR OPEN FORUM

On 26 March 2017 hundreds of delegates headed to Istanbul for Europe's top disaster risk reduction forum, the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) which is the multi-stakeholder forum for disaster risk community in Europe and brings together Governments, the UN, parliamentarians, mayors, intergovernmental organizations, scientific and academic institutions and community based organisations. At the event IPA DRAM Programme was presented by Petronella Norell (MSB) during one of the dedicated session where Luigi D'Angelo, Head of the International Relations Office at the Italian Civil Protection Department also took part. It was an important opportunity to showcase the Programme within a wider arena. EFDRR conclusions will be brought up to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun on 22-26 May 2017.



At the table: MSB Delegate Ms Petronella Norell, Mr Luigi D'Angelo Head of the International Relation Unit, Representatives from Georgian State Security and Crisis Management Council, OECD



IPA DRAM NEXT EVENTS

12-13th June, 1st Steering Group Meeting, Montenegro

13-15th June, 1st Regional workshop, Montenegro



LEARN MORE ON DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT

[EU Commission Staff Working Paper - Risk Assessment and Mapping Guidelines for Disaster Management](#)

[Guidance for Recording and Sharing Disaster Damage and Loss Data](#)

[Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#)

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