



IPA DRAM

DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT AND MAPPING IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

This Programme is funded
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European Civil Protection



NEWSLETTER N.4, 16 July 2018

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Editorial

JULY UPDATE

Dear Reader,

Here we are again, with our 4th issue of the IPA DRAM Newsletter. After an intense cycle of technical workshops, which helped getting to know the working groups in the Partner countries better, taking note of the state of the art of the Plans of action and further progress with the activities, we are now entering the second half of the Programme. In this issue, we have included an interview with Mr. Ivan Baras, Assistant Head of Sector for Emergency Management, Serbia - and will also tell you more about other initiatives that have involved the IPA DRAM Programme or the IPA DRAM experts.

Enjoy your reading!

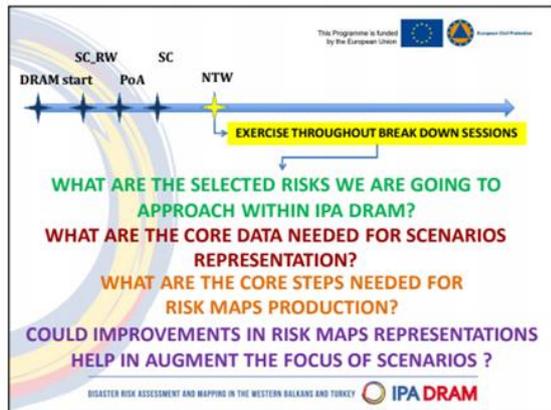
On behalf of the IPA DRAM Team

TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS



The main focus of the past 6 months of the Programme was put on the Technical Workshops, held in each Partner country. As the IPA DRAM Programme entered its implementation phase, national meetings with each Partner have been held to make progress in the disaster risk assessment process in line with the status of each Partner, to improve risk mapping capacity and data sharing, to facilitate disaster loss data collection aligned with the new Sendai requirements and to give a solid push to the activities contained in the Plans of action.

Each Partner gave its substantial and valuable contribution to the activities by delving into tailored interventions, training and break-out sessions to simulate risk scenarios. The final goal was to support capacity in improving the risk assessment with the assistance of guidelines and tools for estimating scenarios and harvesting data. Each Partner's specific situation was taken into account in order to progress according to the activities agreed in each plan of Action.



Turkey. Two technical workshops on Risk Assessment (RA) and Mapping (M), back-to-back with TW on Disaster Loss Data (DLD) collection took place in Ankara, from 14 to 16 February 2018. During the technical workshop, AFAD presented the technical status of the national disaster risk assessment (NDRA) in Turkey, demonstrating advanced availability of data and information on many hazards, such as earthquake (primarily), avalanche, rock fall, landslides and floods. As AFAD is also beneficiary of IPA Capacity Building Project (here and after IPA CB) that envisages to support AFAD in developing risk assessment, AFAD, IPA DRAM and IPA CB agreed on a clear sharing of responsibilities with a final objective to harmonize NDRA for Turkey as required by the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). For this purpose a joint Action Plan has been developed and it envisages two main objectives:

- develop Guidelines for National Disaster Risk Assessment that will encompass risk identification, analysis and evaluation;
- Implementation of Guidelines, preparation of risk scenarios, risk analysis and risk evaluation in line with EU Guidelines and as part of the National Disaster Risk Assessment.

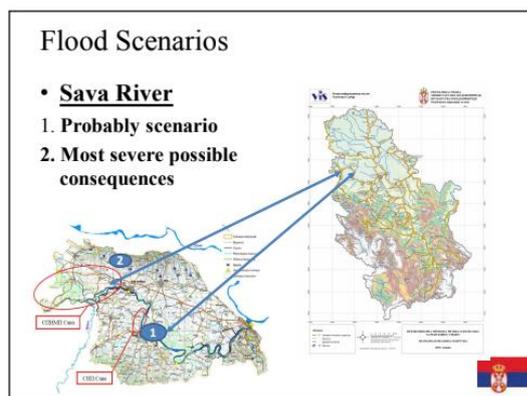


Turkey is highly committed to the Sendai Framework and, hence, there is an interest in adjusting existing DLD systems of AFAD to be in line with Sendai target and to support the Sendai Monitoring Framework. There are several IT systems active in AFAD that record DLD for different purposes. The IPA DRAM working group of Turkey clearly identifies the establishment of a unique comprehensive DLD database a priority that will consolidate existing databases. Specifically, two databases have been presented: TABB, a multi-hazard DB built on the base of the DesInventar methodology and Digital Database of AFAD DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY: a big database that contains survey reports that are not integrated in TABB.

Serbia. The general objective for Serbia was to get aligned with the advancement of the Serbian government in defining the scenarios contributing to the National Disaster Risk Assessment. Serbia had already at the start of the programme a methodology in full compliance with the EU guidelines and therefore in this first part of the programme, Serbia already developed the scenarios for the national disaster risk assessment (NDRA). In

order to advance with this part and with the consolidation and presentations of such scenarios, open tools for the disaster risk assessment were presented at the technical workshop that can support Serbia in this phase. Insight into hazard specific methodologies such as seismic hazard was one of the focuses of the session.

The second objective was to support the IPA DRAM working group in Serbia (WG SRB) in the following phase where they will develop the disaster management capability assessment. As a third objective, the workshop had to better clarify how IPA DRAM could support the revision of the data collection in the aftermath of the events, which is now based on a rulebook published in 1997. The data collection would not only be useful for the disaster loss data (DLD) pillar but could also help validating and improving the definition of the scenarios for the NDRA. This was subject matter of one of the activities defined in the PoA.

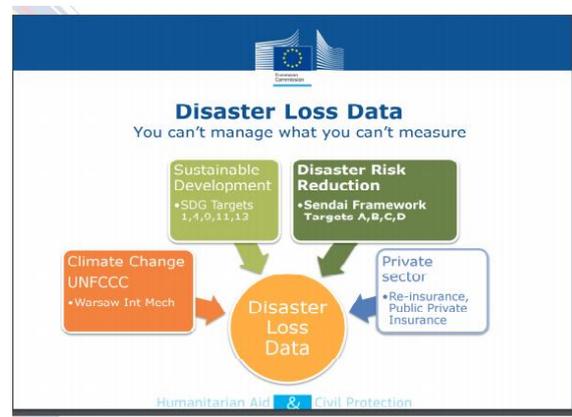


Risk mapping and the establishment of an Electronic Regional Risk Atlas (ERRA) in the region, including Serbia, could be a valuable component for the IPA DRAM Programme with the purpose of building up knowledge of civil servants and capacities in relevant authorities. For that purpose, a dissemination authorization mechanism

of specific data is needed, and a clear framework for data and information sharing at state level that regulates the access and/or manipulation of geospatial data for CP purposes is required. In that sense, data exchange among Serbia and other states involved in IPA DRAM should be settled; the identification of a key dataset must be finalized within the group of experts from the IPA DRAM team and the IPA DRAM WG SRB.

The activities will also benefit from the active collaboration with on-going initiatives, in particular with “IMPULS: cooperation, coordination, transparency and sharing – an spatial data infrastructure (SDI) project in the Western Balkan region” and international actors, as is the case for the World Bank.

It has been envisaged for the Programme to particularly support the capacity for GIS analysis, production of risk maps and damage scenarios, and geospatial data management, mainly through the provision of study visits and training. As Serbia has already started the process of DLD collection based on the DesInventar System, the workshop has been an occasion for members of the IPADRAM WG to better understand what is already ongoing in the country in the field of DLD collection.



The description of the Sendai Framework targets and the connection between the monitoring of progress to achieve the Sendai targets and DLD collection were two of the fundamental topics faced and discussed.

One of the main results of the workshop is the continuation of the activities based on the new version of DesInventar in line with the evaluation of the objectives envisaged by the Sendai framework. Among such activities some identified points are: the organization of the database migration, training on the new DesInventar, the adaptation of the system to capture the Serbian need, the translation in Serbian of the terms and definitions used in the software. In strict connection with this process, the formalization of data collection chain and procedures with SoPs for data collection and reporting in relation with existing legislation, will reinforce the action and ensure that all the activities will follow the same perspective.

During the technical workshop, we had the chance to interview Mr. Ivan Baras and talk about communication and awareness raising activities promoted by SEM.

Q. Serbia is vulnerable to a wide variety of natural disasters, including floods, landslides, droughts, and earthquakes. Weather-related events expected to become more frequent and intense, making the country more vulnerable in the future. Do you have any outreach campaign in your country to inform people about risks in the territory? If yes, can you please talk about them? If not, is it something that you might imagine in the future?

A. Raising public awareness is of course one of the most important regular activities of Serbian Ministry of Interior-Sector for Emergency Management (MoI-SEM). In this regard in the past period MoI-SEM has conducted a number of demonstration exercises and training activities especially intended for vulnerable groups including school children or people with disabilities. A broad public awareness has been raised on a much higher level with frequent media presence of our representatives and communication through social networks. Additionally, a major step forward has been made with dissemination of posters concerning personal behaviour in the case of earthquake, flood and forest fires published thanks to a kind support of both Caritas and USAid including dissemination of publication entitled Family guide for emergency preparedness and response published with the generous support of the OSCE mission to Serbia.



Q. Have you ever carried out any national programme among the population to understand their perception of natural risks?

A. As the first strike of disasters always occur at the local level, working closely and together with local communities is one of our national priorities aiming to improve public preparedness and enable proper response to emergencies but also to achieve disaster risk reduction wherever and to the extent possible.

Q. Do you think the perception changes significantly depending on age, gender, and educational background? Do you

have any initiative that takes into account these differences?

A. Different variables such as an age, gender or educational background almost certainly influence on people's perception of disaster risks and their own vulnerability. Therefore our mission is to make them aware of these risks both by continuous education and media campaigns but also to provide them with some basic information on personal efforts to be made in order to protect their own lives and lives of their loved ones.

Q. How do you think IPA DRAM programme is helping towards the disaster risk perception and assessment? Can you mention any particular initiative in this regard?

A. From Serbian point of view IPA DRAM programme as a continuation of previous IPA programmes will certainly further contribute to institutional capacity building. Although our National disaster risk assessment is mostly completed, this EU programme is seen as substantial additional mechanism for enhancing national capabilities and strengthening disaster risk management capacities. Likewise, beside these general aims especially IPA DRAM's specific aims such as creating an open platform for the improvement of national disaster loss databases, support to risk mapping process and development of electronic regional risk atlas and overall harmonization with EU regulations and guidelines are of course very much appreciated.

EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION FORUM



The 6th European Civil Protection Forum - the largest recurring public event on European cooperation in the field of civil protection - organized under the central theme of "Civil Protection in a Changing Risk Landscape", took place on 5 and 6 March 2018 in Brussels. The event gathered 900 representatives from the European civil protection community, countries of the European Neighbourhood, first-line responders, academia, international organizations, NGOs, and European institutions to discuss the current developments in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism framework and put forward new ideas for tackling common challenges.

The European Civil Protection Forum 2018 developed on four strategic pillars:

- a) Strengthening Preparedness
- b) Simplifying Response
- c) Scaling up Prevention
- d) Fostering Resilience in Europe's Neighbourhood.



IPA DRAM Team leader Cvetka Tomin actively participated in the "Linking risk assessment to emergency planning" panel, discussing the added value of the

IPA DRAM programme in “Fostering resilience in the EU Neighbourhood and enlargement” at the Civil Protection Forum in Brussels, where the national coordinators from all seven IPA DRAM partners were present. One of “key messages” delivered was: Integration of risk management and DLD in national policies (risk assessment from identification through analysis and evaluation, followed by capacity assessment and gap analysis and based on that to resource relocation for improvement of not only response capacities but to contribute to disaster risk reduction) is a challenge to be further addressed at EU level. EU directives and guidelines, as well as Sendai framework are instrumental « tools » but there is more to be done, to

empower experts to progress in the daily work.

Tomin highlighted how “There is no emergency planning without a proper disaster risk assessment, mapping and disaster loss data collection” underlining also that the added value of the programme is the coral approach, represented by partnerships, as it is the only way to progress in our activities. IPA DRAM has benefited from existing multi-stakeholders working groups within the partner countries, which have proved strongly resourceful up to now. Another added value is to have highlighted cross cutting themes like gender equality issues in the process of risk assessment and disaster loss data.

IPA DRAM PROGRAMME AT UNISDR EXPERT MEETING IN GENEVA

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 has set ambitious targets for 2020 and 2030. In order to meet them, Member States, particularly least developed nations, small Island developing states, landlocked countries and middle-income countries facing particular conditions of vulnerability will require support in their efforts to implement the Sendai Framework and achieve its target of preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and to strengthen resilience.

One of the IPA DRAM key experts, Roberto Rudari, participated in the event along with other representatives of Member States, Inter-Governmental Organizations involved in capacity development for DRR, UN organizations, the Capacity Development for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI), science and technology groups, academia, private sector and other stakeholder groups. Since the Sendai framework is a key international reference for the IPA DRAM programme and its partner countries it was deemed as an opportunity to transfer to partner countries the latest developments on the Sendai framework implementation and to share the experience of the IPA DRAM programme with the other experts a meeting was organized as a sequence of plenary and breakout sessions in groups. In each of the

group sessions a relevant part of the development strategy was analyzed and amendment proposed based on the experience of the expert group members. In the WG sessions a representative from Montenegro and a representative from Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were present so that it was possible to reinforce the presence of the Balkan region that was catalysed by the IPA DRAM programme contribution with regards to DRA and DLD components of the strategy.

During booth sessions it was possible to highlight the initiatives that are relevant and work in the direction of the implementation of the different parts of Sendai including capacity development initiatives. IPA DRAM was highlighted several times with regards to its 3 fundamental components: DRA, DLD and Risk Mapping.



EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS SERBIA/MONTENEGRO

As part of the activities facilitated through the IPA DRAM programme and following a request from the Montenegrin colleagues from the Directorate for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro, Republic of Serbia – Sector for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior (SEM MoI), accepted to host an Exchange of Experts on the topics of Risk Assessment and Protection and Rescue System under the IPA DRAM Programme. EoE was held from 7 – 9 May 2018, in Belgrade.

EoE was implemented through thematic working sessions with a special emphasis on: 1. Drafting and developing legislative acts in the system for Protection and Rescue activities (Law on DRR and Emergency Management); 2. Developing the National vulnerability Assessment and related methodology – as Republic of Serbia has finished the National Risk Assessment document; 3. Developing the legislative acts in the field of Fire protection – Law on Fire Protection Act.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

- Share of knowledge and examples of good practices in drafting and developing core

legislative acts in Protection and Rescue System;

- Understanding the concept of developing National Risk Assessment in Serbia;

- Understanding the concept of drafting Law on DRR and Emergency Management;

- Understanding the concept of drafting the Law on fire protection and related bylaws.

The Exchange of Experts was a great opportunity for participating delegations to exchange knowledge and best practices, share experience in subjects of great importance for both nations. Knowing that Montenegro is in the preparatory phase of changing its core legislation documents related to rescue and protection this EoEs proved to be a good opportunity to share good practices and knowledge.

On the other hand, this EoE has proved as good opportunity for Sector for Emergency Management MoI to further strengthen its regional cooperation with colleagues from Montenegro and better understand their procedures.

Exchange of Experts should be promoted and used as a tool in broadening understanding of relevant matters with nations who have developed some good practices applicable in national legislation and procedures.

SEEKMS PLATFORM

As approved in the 2nd Steering Committee meeting in Sarajevo, IPA DRAM will upgrade and update the existing seeKMS platform, that is currently hosted by DPPI; the platform will be maintained by IPA DRAM during the programme duration and eventually returned to DPPI for ordinary operations.

The seeKMS Knowledge Management System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation www.seeKMS.dppi.info, has the aim to strengthen the capabilities in knowledge sharing, brokering and information organization through a web-based system.



The platform seeKMS is a system in which documents, publications and media material dealing with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) can be retrieved using a multiple language interface, helping the coordination among different stakeholders dealing with

Disaster Risk Management and CCA in the region and contributing to avoid duplication of initiatives and studies.

IPA DRAM will update and upgrade the platform content in order to reflect new Partners' needs and align terminology and actions with the Sendai

Framework. Since the bottleneck and main weakness of seeKMS is the availability of update information and content, IPA DRAM will facilitate the establishment of a mechanism, within the framework of DPPI, for updating and uploading content on regular base.

EU DISASTER LOSS DATA WORKING GROUP

IPA DRAM facilitates the participation of Partner Countries to the EU DLD working group. IPA DRAM facilitates the participation of Partner to the WG. One representative from Albania participated in previous WG, while at the last meeting in April, Almir Beridan, Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Protection and Rescue Sector attended. As UCPM participating states are regularly invited to the WG, Jelena Dimić, Sector for Emergency Management Ministry of Interior, Republic of Serbia, was also present and brought the experience of regional cooperation within IPA DRAM.

The focuses of the WG meeting were two:

- Presenting different stakeholder networks for data collection, collection processes and coordination; identify their needs and how the EC can support them in loss data

collection and explore how progress on loss data collection is feeding into the national DRR strategies

- Presenting recently developed methodologies and overviews of databases, and debate on specific issues such as asset level loss data collection and data aggregation process. Understand how loss data supports the DRR strategies and multi-hazard early warning systems in place at the regional and local levels.

IPA DRAM encourages Partners to use the WG as a peer platform to share practices, knowledge and approaches for improving DLD system toward the implementation of Sendai Framework.



