



### 3<sup>rd</sup> National Advisory Group Meeting

10 November 2016, Baku, Azerbaijan

#### Meeting Report

Mr Sergej Anagnosti, the Team Leader of the Programme, declared the meeting open and welcomed the participants. He mentioned that the purposes of the meeting were to inform national disaster risk management stakeholders about what the Programme is doing in the region and in Azerbaijan, to discuss plan of activities, what have been achieved as well as to discuss plans for the forthcoming period. 5 priorities were selected at the 2<sup>nd</sup> NAG meeting on 1-3 March 2016. But couple of weeks ago the information has been received from the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan that Civil Protection Volunteerism is not among the priorities which are to be addressed within the Programme.

Mr Jeyhun Isgandarli, PPRD East 2 National Programme Coordinator, thanked for presentation and explained the position of MES concerning civil protection volunteerism. He noted that volunteerism requires a complex approach. It is not limited to forming volunteer groups. At the same time, there is a need to train, to insure, to equip and to fund the activities of such groups. From this point of view, MES plans to implement civil protection volunteerism in the future, but not within the PPRD East 2 Programme.

Mr Anagnosti continued with the presentation of Activity Area A, portraying the objectives of Activity Area A in flood risk management (FRM) and disaster risk assessment (DRA) - Regional Floods Risk Management Guidelines has been developed, all FRM and DRA national focal points were appointed, and in some Partner Countries national inter-institutional working groups were set up to implement agreed upon floods risk management and disaster risk assessment activities, as per adopted PPRD East 2 Work Plan 2016-2018.

Mr Anagnosti asked if the draft of State Programme for Flood Protection is developed and available to be shared with the PPRD East 2 so that the Programme expert may start providing legal assistance as stated in the Work Plan. In addition, Mr Anagnosti inquired when Working Groups for FRM and DRA will be established?

Mr Michael Elmquist, Civil Protection Key Expert, spoke about Activity Area B under which 4 basic training courses, 2 operational management courses, and one advanced training course have been conducted. Furthermore, Table-Top Exercises focusing on Host Nation Support had been conducted in each Partner Country, and a Regional Workshop on Lessons Learnt had been held in Minsk, Belarus. He then explained the plans for the remaining implementation period of the



Programme, focusing on the Regional Table-Top Exercise, as well as the full-scale field exercise scheduled for September 2017 to be held in Moldova.

Mr Alasgar Aliyev, Deputy Head of Main Operation Department of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan, stressed that the exercise which will be held in 2017 in Moldova is important for Azerbaijani rescuers in terms of exchange of experience. Underscoring the long-distance between two countries and the significant time to deliver the search and rescue equipments from Azerbaijan to Moldova, he asked if the rescue units will be provided some kind of rescue techniques and equipment by Moldavian side. By asking that, he wanted to clarify the list of resources that will be provided by Azerbaijani side. He also was interested in fuel supply of rescue techniques, filling oxygen cylinders used in search and rescue operations and other matters.

Mr Elmquist noted that there were discussions with Moldova what they can provide. Their capacity is limited. He asked Mr Aliyev to specify what equipment would be needed, which could then be discussed with Moldovans. High-pressure air filling and fuel should be no problem. Transportation of 24 persons is envisaged at the expense of the Programme. Additional observers would have to be paid by the sending country. The 24 people shall include team leader, liaison to the OSOCC and rescuers. The liaison officer must be able to speak English.

Mr Samad Garalov, Deputy Head of Chief Department for Customs Control, noted that the equipment shall be declared to the Customs authorities before leaving the country. The relevant permissions shall be obtained before the import and export for/of the products which require such permission. The declarations shall also be made at the destination country. He also noted that there are preferential and simplified rules for customs clearance of products and transportation vehicles that are required in case of natural disasters and other emergencies. But there would be no emergency in this case, as this is exercise.

Mr Mustafa Rajabov, Head of the Special Risk Rescue Service of MES, noted that there are difficulties when using the tools provided in foreign countries. The tools go bad and create difficulties in operations. Particularly ropes for rope-rescue must be certified to avoid bringing rescuers and role players in danger.

Mr Antonín Petr, the Capacity Building Key Expert, presented one part of Activity Area B – the Host Nation Support (HNS). He mentioned that HNS Table-Top Exercise' conclusions and recommendations for Azerbaijan include development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)



for HNS, establishment of a NHS Country Team and development of capacity building/training programme for HNS. He posed a question when will the NHS Country Team be established, so the development of the HNS SOPs may start?

Mr Isgandarli responded that the development of the HNS Country Team is under review. In this regard, there is a plan to set up a Working Group with participation of relevant stakeholders by the end of this year. The establishment of the Working Group will provide opportunity for more systematic approach to this issue. The PPRD East 2 team will be informed about the establishment of Working Group. First meeting may take place early next year.

Mr Anagnosti presented the objectives of Activity Area C which includes further development of Electronic Regional Risk Atlas and improving national disaster loss data collection.

Mr Ulfat Rzayev from MES mentioned that all 6 Partner Countries have similar expectations from the upgraded ERRA, like receiving reports through ERRA, obtaining reports-related analysis. He proposed that the step-by-step guideline is developed for training the trainers since certain issues can arise during exploitation, so that MES does not have problems when the current linux based server platform moves to other operating system.

Mr Anagnosti noted that installation manual/user manual will be developed for upgraded ERRA. When the Programme is over, a relevant agency of Partner Countries will have the ownership of the national ERRA nodes, and the agency that owns it shall maintain, administer and upload new data to the system.

One of the participants proposed to have two forms of manuals: one for users and technical manual.

Mr Isgandarli proposed to Programme leadership to send ERRA experts to Baku and to arrange a presentation of ERRA at the Geography Institute, as ERRA can/should be used as an electronic version of emergency cases atlas. As the representatives of the Geography Institute of the Academy of Science have participated at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ERRA Regional Workshop and at the DRA Regional Workshop, the agreement was reached that the experts from the Institute that have participated at these two workshops should organise the presentation of ERRA to their colleagues. In addition, PPRD East 2 will send a letter to the Institute of Geography to inquire whether ERRA could/will be used as an electronic version of emergency atlas or not.

Mr Petr presented achievements and next steps planned within the Activity Area D – Raising Awareness about Disasters (RAD), with particular focus on drafting National Communication Strategy. He pointed out that the national inter-institutional working group for drafting the National



Communication Strategy was not established yet, thus the Programme cannot support Azerbaijan in drafting of this document.

Mr Isgandarli responded that the national inter-institutional working group could be established by the end of this year.

Mr Petr also presented Activity area E – Civil Protection Volunteerism (CPV). He mentioned that Azerbaijan opted not to further address this topic within the Programme, therefore there are no events planned at the national level in Azerbaijan. However, Azerbaijan will be invited to all regional events organised within this Activity Area. He further elaborated that volunteers need to be properly selected, recruited, trained, equipped, insured, organized and managed. Unorganized volunteers more hinder than help rescue operations.

Mr Ilgar Hasanov commented that involving volunteers in emergencies is a good idea. Local volunteers may help before the rescue teams arrive on the spot and prevent huge damage. He proposed if a small pilot project could be implemented in in the area of CPV in the future within the Programme. However, since MES decided not to address civil protection volunteerism within the Programme, there will no activities at the national level addressing CPV.

Mr Anagnosti spoke about Programme visibility and Programme management and asked if Programme and MES could put their logos (with links) on each other's webpage. Mr Isgandarli responded that it could be possible.

Mr Samadagha Samadov, PPRD East 2 Steering Committee member, took the floor to close the meeting. Third NAG meeting had very useful discussions. Especially, discussions on the EU MOLDEX 2017 full-scale field exercises were efficient. Discussions on upgraded software for ERRRA, and on the establishment of national inter-institutional Working Groups were also quite useful. He thanked the expert team and the European Union for implementing the Programme in Azerbaijan.