



**Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made
Disasters in the EaP Countries – PPRD East 2**

EuropeAid/135314/C/SER/MULTI



1st PPRD East 2 NATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

June 2, 2015

Caspian Plaza, Jafar Jabbarli 44, Yasamal, Baku, Azerbaijan

The first meeting of the National Advisory Group (NAG) was held in Baku on June 2, 2015. Main purpose of creating the NAG within the PPRD East 2 Programme is to raise the national ownership of the Programme and provide participation of relevant organizations in Programme implementation. The main objective of the NAG is to assist and guide the implementation of the Programme in Azerbaijan. 32 representatives of relevant state organizations, scientific and donor communities, and other institutions, involved in the disaster risk management and civil protection, attended the meeting.



First NAG meeting was opened by PPRD East 2 Steering Committee Member Mr Samadaga Samadov, Deputy Head of Chief Department of Operations of the Ministry of Emergency Situations. He welcomed participants, and thanked them for participating at the NAG meeting. Mr Samadov informed that Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan Republic is closely cooperating with

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EU within European Neighbourhood and Eastern Partnership Instrument on the topics of civil protection, radiation, construction and food security through twinning, technical support, budgetary support and information exchange programmes. Successfully implemented twinning project was on radiation safety, with the established collaboration between the State Agency for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activity and the Lithuanian Republic Radiation Protection Centre on Strengthening of Radiation Safety Infrastructure in Azerbaijan Republic. The other implemented twinning project provided support in construction safety through collaboration established between the German Construction Technologies Institute and State Agency on Control of Construction Safety and the State Agency on Control of Construction Safety of the Ministry of Emergency.

Mr Samadov also noted that Ministry of Emergency Situations is the key beneficiary of the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters in the EaP Countries – PPRD East 2 Programme. He informed participants about the aim of the Programme and its importance for Azerbaijan and noted that during the Phase 1 important work was carried out.

Mr Jeyhun Isgandarli, PPRD East 2 National Programme Coordinator and Senior Advisor in the International Relations Department of the Ministry of Emergency Situations noted that during the Phase 1, 3 NAG meetings have been conducted, during which different topics have been discussed: cooperation with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, development of Electronic Regional Risk Atlas, Public Awareness, Prevention of Industrial Accidents, analyses of civil protection legislation in partner countries, provision of trainings on civil protection. Mr Isgandarli informed about the PPRD East 2 Work Plans and called all NAG members to actively participate in Programme implementation.

Mr Sergej Anagnosti, PPRD East 2 Team Leader, informed participants about the objectives of the NAG 2 meeting in Azerbaijan, introduced the Programme team of experts and presented the meeting Agenda inviting participants to provide their comments and suggestions. He informed participants that every 6 months progress reports will be prepared, and respectively NAG members will be informed about Programme implementation and future steps. The presentation included presentation of the main Programme activities, approach for their implementation and expected results, as well as Programme thematic topics. Industrial hazards and approximation to SEVESO Directive will not be addressed by the Programme but by DG ECHO – JRC Initiative. It was noted that the approximation to the EU *acquis communautaire* will be important part of the Programme and there will be further development of legal basis for disaster risk management.

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Mr Anagnosti in his presentation described Programme Activity Areas and the planning for the year 2015, emphasizing the importance of cooperation among participating organizations, countries and EU for successful implementation of the Programme.

Dr Marco Massabo, Disaster Loss Data Non-Key Expert, informed participants about Activity Area A:

- A1: the approximation of Partner Countries to the EU Floods Directive
- A2: development and/or further improvement of national risk assessments
- A3: improvement of Partner Countries' legislative and institutional civil protection/disaster risk management framework

Dr Massabo described each sub-activity with relevant explanation and examples.

Responding to the presentation, participants informed that flood monitoring and early warning is responsibility of National Hydrometeorology Department of Ministry of Environment (MENR). After receiving the flood risk warning, relevant structures of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and other organizations involved on Emergency Situation Management, including the Amelioration JSC, take relevant actions. The Amelioration JSC was the lead institution to manage floods before the new State Water Resources Agency within Ministry of Emergency Situations was created in 2010 to improve flood risk management in the country.

It was noted that there is no flood risk/losses assessment methodology in Azerbaijan. MENR conduct environmental impacts of flooding. There is need to develop detailed flood risk map. This is included in the State Programme.

Participants noted that PPRD East 2 Regional Floods Directive Workshop planned for September in Belarus may play important role in exchange of information and making progress towards application of EU Floods Directive.

In regard to the Electronic Regional/National Risk Atlas (ERRA), participants expressed the necessity to regularly update the database using data from institutions in charge and present at the meeting. All the data and information in ERRA should reflect the situation on the ground.

It was noted that in Azerbaijan many legislation, including radiation safety law, have been updated according to EU legislations. There is need to harmonise Azerbaijan civil protection and other relevant legislation in accordance to the EU legislation. As already mentioned, the mechanism of twinning projects has been utilised for that purpose.

It was also noted that the State Committee on European Integration has developed Action Programme for harmonization of Azerbaijan legislation to EU Directives.

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Mr Michael Elmquist presented the Activity Area B - civil protection capacity building – presenting the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, the training program and the training methodology.

Mr Ulfat Rzayev, from the Ministry of Emergency Situations and who attended previously trainings on European Civil Protection Mechanism, noted that the trainings indeed were very useful for MES and for Azerbaijan. He expressed expectations that, in addition to trainings, study tours addressing civil protection will be organised.

Mr Sahib Hasanzadeh from the Ministry of Emergency Situations noted that within agreement between Georgian and Azeri Ministries of Environment it is planned to conduct joint flood protection activities, and asked would it be also possible to include similar activity to this Programme to involve civil protection services of 2 countries to address flood protection.

Mr Anagnosti responded that Programme could support no-structural flood protection activities.

Mr Shamil Huseynov from the National Parliament (Milli Majlis) informed participants that item 4.3 of adopted in 2007 National Security Concept of Azerbaijan Republic addresses emergency situations management, and environmental safety health, which takes into account international experience, including NATO and EU.

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Mr Mehman Mammadov from National Hydro-meteorology Department noted that department cooperates with many international organizations on early warning system development, including WMO and soon they will attend respective workshop organized by WMO. He also noted that Programme could assist Hydromet to further improve development and operation of early warning system through application of different models, trainings and etc.

Mr Anagnosti explained that addressing the Early Warning System is not within the framework of the PPRD East 2 Programme.

The following speaker was Mr Phil Langdale, who made a presentation on Host Nation Support (HNS). Mr Langdale emphasizes the HNS phases, as well as the EU HNS Guidelines.

A legal framework addressing the acceptance of international humanitarian aid should be developed to identify the procedures on how to accept provided support in case of major disaster in Azerbaijan. This should be done on the basis of the best examples from the countries that have already such legal framework in place.

In the Azeri custom code there are no references to define the support that international intervention teams need to receive in order to intervene in emergency situations.

The relevant legal framework needs adjustment to be in line with the actual needs and realities.

The next presentation addressed the Activity Area C:

- C.1 Further development of Electronic Regional Risk Atlas
- C.2 Improving national disaster loss data collection and processing

Participants were informed that ERRA System in Azerbaijan contains data about floods, earthquakes, landslides, forest fires, and manmade hazards, and it needs to be expanded with information on additional hazards most common in Azerbaijan.

Participants noted that ERRA should be password protected but part of data from ERRA should be available to local population and researchers.

Mr Rzayev informed participants about recently organized ERRA Regional Workshop, that in Emergency Situations Management Centre one server was installed during the Phase 1, and ERRA is currently used within the Ministry. The other server was supposed to be installed at MENR and should be linked to central server for provision of information needed. Unfortunately the second server isn't installed yet and it would be good to install it so to get the access to EUMETSAT information and data, which MENR currently receives. There is also need ERRA to be accessible by

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the general public. It is also important to add to ERRA modelling component and provide trainings on how to use ERRA.

Mr Mammadov informed that Hydro-met uses EUMETSAT satellite images for meteorological purposes and that MENR is planning to install the second ERRA server.

Mr Isgandarli noted that MES is cooperating with EU in the area of ERRA and it is good that PPRD East 2 Programme is increasing cooperation between countries and EU also through the creation of ERRA, which is very helpful tool for countries to exchange information and data on hazards, vulnerabilities and risks.. ERRA also helps to increase interagency cooperation and therefore it is good to install additional servers in different agencies, which in turn may help to update maps with new data and thus improve data quality. It would be good to provide trainings within the Programme on the use of ERRA and also on other GIS technologies.

Regarding disaster loss data collection Mr Huseynov noted that in Azerbaijan, legislation cover all the territory of the country and there is no sub-regional or local legislation, but at the local level, in regions, disaster risk management is lead by Executive Powers, while the emergency response commissions are lead by the Deputy Head of Rayon Executive Power. Commissions work closely with relevant structures of MES and Cabinet of Ministers. Disaster lost assessment group, created by the Commission from representatives of relevant affiliations of state organizations acting in the region during the disaster, undertakes the disaster loss assessment. Regarding data and information sharing Mr Huseynov noted that there are several laws addressing this issue: Law on Information, State Secret Law, Law on Access to Environmental Information etc., which determine what kind of information is available to general public.

Then Mr Alessandro Caneloro, Information and Media Non-key Expert informed participants on Activity Area D focusing on awareness raising about disasters.

It was noted that before creation of MES public awareness on emergency situations wasn't conducted effectively and now this is one of major priorities of the Ministry. Awareness campaigns that are conducted by the Ministry relate to civil protection, fire-fighting and etc. Currently, the Ministry use their own resources to conduct awareness among population, there is need to use European experience in this regard and there is an expectation that the Programme will address this topic.

Participants also noted that public can also be good source of information and it would be important if state bodies also share information collected by the general public.

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MES representatives noted that the Ministry has Division on Public Awareness. It works with population in order to make civil protection more effective. Ministry also conducts awareness campaigns in cooperation with UNICEF, Ministry of Education, and Red Crescent etc.

Then participants were informed about Activity Area E:

- E.1 Fostering volunteerism in disaster risk management
- E.2 Ensuring Project Visibility
- E.3 Programme Management

In particular Mr Anagnosti informed participants about the management of the Programme, reporting procedures and other related activities.

Then, responding to the direct request Programme expert team received during the Steering Committee meeting, Dr Massabo presented the general overview of Early Warning Systems.

Participants expressed high interest to the development of Early Warning System. Mr Huseynov informed participants that in Azerbaijan in addition to disasters caused by natural hazards, there is also need to be prepared to any other disaster such as pipeline, rail-road and highway accident. These objects of critical infrastructure should be well protected so that residential areas and water reservoirs and other objects located near the objects of critical infrastructure are safe.

In his conclusion remarks Mr Samadov thanked the Programme team for the work executed in the current Programme phase.

Annex 1: Agenda of the event

1st PPRD East 2 National Advisory Group Meeting

June 2, 2015

Caspian Plaza, Jafar Jabbarli 44, Yasamal, Baku, Azerbaijan

10:00-10:30	Registration	
10:30-10:45	Official Opening	Ministry of Emergency Situations EU Delegation
10:45-11:00	Welcome note and introduction	PPRD East 2 Team Leader Plenary
11:00-11:15	Brief Overview of the PPRD East 2 Programme	Team Leader

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11:15-11:45	Presentation of the Activity Area A	Disaster Loss Data Expert
11:45-12:15	Tour de Table	Plenary
12:15-12:30	Coffee break	
12:30-13:00	Presentation of the Activity Area B	Civil Protection Key Expert
13:00-13:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
13:30-14:00	Presentation of the Activity Area C	Disaster Loss Data Expert
14:00-15:00	Lunch	
15:00-15:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
15:30-16:00	Presentation of the Activity Area D	Information & Media Expert
16:00-16:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
16:30-16:45	Coffee break	
16:45-17:15	Presentation of the Activity Area E	Disaster Loss Data Expert Information & Media Expert Team Leader
17:15-17:45	Tour de Table	Plenary
17:45-18:15	Early Warning Systems – introduction and overview	Disaster Loss Data Expert
18:15-18:45	Next steps, closing words and group photo	PPRD East 2 Expert Team Ministry of Emergency Situations EU Delegation

1st PPRD East 2 Country Advisory Group Meeting

June 2, 2015

Baku, Azerbaijan

List of Participants

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