



1st PPRD East 2 National Advisory Group Meeting, Kyiv, Ukraine

Date: April 8, 2015

Venue: Hotel President

On April 8 2015, the first National Advisory Group meeting (NAG) was held within the framework of the EU funded Programme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters in the Eastern Partnership Countries – PPRD East 2. The PPRD East 2 started in December 2014, and is the logical continuation of the PPRD East Programme implemented in 2010-2014.

The PPRD East 2 team and the State Emergency Service of Ukraine organized the meeting.

Participants at the meeting were officials and specialists of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, State Agency of Water Resources, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Fiscal Service of Ukraine, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, State Border Guard Service, GIS and the Science and Technical Centre “Ecoresource”. Officials from EU Member States and European Commission, experts of the EU Civil Protection Coordination Team in Ukraine, international organizations and the PPRD East 2 team also took part in the meeting. Media representatives joined the meeting for the afternoon session.

The purpose of the meeting was:

- To familiarize country and international stakeholders with the activities of the Programme for the upcoming year reflected in the project work plan that has been previously approved by the Steering Committee Meeting;
- To receive the participants’ reflections on the work plan, and to hear their commitments to implement project activities that are in the mandates of their ministries, agencies and institutions.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Jean-François Moret from the European Commission and PPRD East 2 EU Project Manager, and Mr Anatoliy Boyko, First Deputy Chairman of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine and the PPRD East 2 Steering Committee member.

Mr Moret opened the meeting by welcoming participants. He outlined the importance of working together in preparedness and response to man-made and disasters caused by natural hazards to save people’s lives. He emphasized the commitment of Ukraine to approximate its national legislation to EU aqis and that PPRD East 2 is a tool to help to achieve this. Mr Moret reminded participants about the fifth EU Civil Protection Forum to take place on May 6-7, 2015 to which EU invited acting Chairman of SES, Mr Zorian Shkiriak. Mr Moret specifically mentioned the high level round-table that will be organized during the Forum, which would provide an opportunity to consider closer association agreements with EU Neighbourhood countries, including Ukraine, with EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

Mr Moret thanked the EU Member Countries’ embassies for participating at the meeting and welcomed their suggestions to strengthen bilateral cooperation and to complement PPRD East 2 activities.

He also invited participants to provide their comments to the PPRD East 2 Work Plan, which was to be presented, and to be pro-active and innovative.

Mr Boyko, acting Head of SES, expressed deep appreciation to the EU for its support to Ukraine, and especially for the support in the humanitarian field in the situation in Eastern Ukraine.

He expressed sincere appreciation for the support provided by EC in the sphere of civil protection that was provided to Ukraine in the first phase of PPRD East initiative and for keeping the Programme office in Kyiv in its second phase.





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Mr Boyko outlined major achievements of the first phase: number of specialists trained, enhanced information sharing between Partner Countries and EU countries, improved system for disaster risk management and development of ERRA.

He stated that Ukraine is very pleased that the political and economic parts of the Association Agreement with the EU have been signed, and expressed hope that association partnership agreement in the civil protection area will soon be signed between the EU and Ukraine. In concluding his speech, Mr Boyko named major areas of involvement that SES would expect support within PPRD East 2 Programme – risk assessment methodology, European early warning system, cooperation between state and volunteers and enhancement of ERRA. He wished participants success in their work and thanked all Programme experts for their support.

The Team Leader, Mr Anagnosti, thanked Mr Boyko for outlining the results achieved in the first phase and provided general overview of the Phase 2. He expressed an expectation that Ukrainian parliamentarians will participate in the Programme activities starting with the second NAG meeting as one of major stakeholders in the Programme, along with the expected increased participation of academia, business and NGOs.

Mr Anagnosti provided a general overview of the PPRD East 2 Programme and its management structure. In his presentation he requested participants to note October-November for the second NAG meeting and called upon more detailed information to be provided to the Programme team for the purpose of for updating Country Profile.

The Team Leader, Key and Non-Key experts presented all five activity areas followed by tour de table after each presentation.

Major comments on Activity A were: outlining lines of responsibilities and mandates between various agencies with specific focus on risk evaluation for strategic planning, national and local budget allocations for flood management, legislation regulating flood management, existing regional programmes in Ukraine and a recommendation to bring a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, as a stakeholder in flood prevention to the next NAG meeting.

The Team Leader requested the nomination by SES of focal points (for each PPRD East 2 thematic topic) to work as a counterpart with the respective Programme experts. In addition, the information on inter-agency organizational chart on flood management was asked to be sent to the PPRD East 2 team.

Participants mentioned that flood prevention does not get enough attention on behalf of the Government, as compared to response activities. Mr Anagnosti requested the EU inform higher officials for the need to provide more support in the field of flood prevention.

Mr Peter Johansson, EU Civil Protection Coordination Team Leader said that they were working in Ukraine and had a series of bilateral meetings with various Ukrainian Ministries and agencies, and accumulated useful information during the mission.

Mr Anagnosti requested to share the contacts that the EU Civil Protection Coordination Team accumulated during their visit to Ukraine upon its completion, on which PPRD East 2 can build to avoid duplication of efforts and overlapping.

Representatives of the media relations and awareness raising services of the SES highlighted the importance of strengthening SES skills for properly working with media during emergencies in view not to create panic. Also the Ukrainian experiences in developing awareness raising programs in schools were illustrated as good practices on which to build upon or to be possibly extended or integrated in national school curricula.

Participants actively discussed the topic of volunteerism – volunteer activism raising after Maidan, Law on Volunteerism adopted in Ukraine and its limitations regulating volunteer involvement in emergency situations, difference in definition of the notion of “volunteer” in Ukraine and EU, Presidential decree of 2013 designating Ministry of Social Policy as coordinating agency for volunteer engagement in various



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situations and identifying SES as the agency that coordinates volunteer involvement in emergency situations. Participants suggested considering volunteerism as the key topic within PPRD East 2 Programme.

For the Host Nation Support presented activities Mr Boyko mentioned that this sphere is regulated by bilateral agreements signed between countries. He also invited PPRD East 2 on behalf of SES to participate as observers at the NATO – SES Ukraine exercise scheduled for September 21-25 2015.

Final questions and comments:

Mr Boyko asked whether the addition to the Association Agreement between Ukraine and EU regulating the cooperation between DG ECHO and SES could be signed during the CP Forum on May.

Conclusion of the Meeting

Mr Moret expressed satisfaction on how the Programme is evolving and thanked participants for their interest and commitment to the successful implementation of the Programme.

Mr Boyko assured that SES is fully committed to implement all Programme activities and, once again, expressed his appreciation to the EU and PPRD 2 East team for their support.

Follow-Up:

- To identify dates for the second NAG meetings in Partner Countries planned for October-November 2015;
- SES will name focal points to work as a counterpart with PPRD East 2 experts;
- SES will ensure participation of parliamentarians to the second NAG meeting;
- Volunteerism will be moved from secondary to key thematic topics;
- PPRD East 2 will further inform SES on the opportunity to participate at NATO – SES Ukraine exercise and about the possibility to sign addition to the Association Agreement between Ukraine and EU regulating the cooperation between DG ECHO and SESU during the CP Forum on May 6, 2015.

