



**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, Yerevan, Armenia

Date: April 21, 2015

Venue: Hotel Ararat, 7 Grigor Lusavorich Street

On April 21, 2015, the first National Advisory Group (NAG) meeting (NAG) in Armenia was held within the framework of the EU funded Programmeme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters in the Eastern Partnership Countries – PPRD East 2.

Mr Hovhannes Yemishyan, MTAES Population protection department head and PPRD East 2 National Programmeme Coordinator acted as a chairman of the meeting.

Deputy Director of Armenia Rescue Service Major-General Vrezh Gabrielyan opened the meeting with a welcome speech on behalf of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations (MTAES). He outlined the Programme directions and results achieved during the Phase 1 of the PPRD East Programme, as well as directions of the PPRD East 2. He stated that the NAG meeting is an opportunity where all the Programme key stakeholders representing different ministries, international organizations and agencies meet the Programme experts to learn about the Programme and its progress and voice their considerations for further successful implementation.

Mr Hoa-Binh Adjemian, Head of Cooperation section EU Delegation to Armenia took the floor next. He stated that EU supports citizens of Armenia in different ways and through many projects, but in order to ensure development, the country should be prepared to manage various risks. Despite of many shocks that Armenia suffered from (killings of ¾ of the population in 1915, collapse of the Soviet Union, Spitak earthquake in 1988, war at its border), Armenian society is still thriving, and EU is very proud to support these resilient people of Armenia to be prepared for facing many risks and crises, for the good and benefit of Armenian citizens.

After the participants introduced themselves, Mr Sergej Anagnosti, the PPRD East 2 Team Leader presented the Programme areas, the calendar of the planned events and defined the beneficiaries of the Programme.

Mr Arsen Stepanyan, “Save the Children” Executive Director recommended to include the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Protection. He also stated that Government and international agencies and NGOs may develop the best development strategies, but without involvement of general public at community level it won’t work. Mr Anagnosti replied that PPRD East 2 focuses on sustainability of its intervention on country and regional level, and the possibilities of cooperation with DIPECHO South Caucasus will be explored. He brought as an example the Family Guide for Emergency Preparedness and Response that has been created and disseminated to school children during the first phase of the Programme.

Ms Zaruhi Tonoyan, OXFAM Disaster Risk Reduction Programme Officer recommended to strengthen cooperation with other field partners, which will allow for better awareness raising and advocacy on all levels. She suggested that PPRD East 2 team members could participate at the DIPECHO SC monthly meetings and also at the National Platform meetings.

Mr Adjemian commented that visibility goes hand in hand with awareness; the risk awareness has to be an attitude and a special event needed to be dedicated to this issue.





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Mr Luca Molini, Flood Risk Management Non Key Expert presented the EU Floods Directive. To the question from OXFAM on whether is any data available on flood risk assessment for Armenia, Mr Molini answered that one of the objectives of the Programme is to support national stakeholders in collecting data on flood hazard and flood risk mapping within the framework of the EU Floods Directive approximation in Armenia.

Mr Arakelyan informed that the Institute of Geology – National Academy of Science is currently working on the first steps of the approximation to the EU Floods Directive. In particular, flood hazard mapping has been completed during 2014 and the results are summarized in “The Development of Flooding hazard map/GIS Layer of Armenia” report.

Mr Anagnosti informed that CIMA Research Foundation is taking over from what has been done related to the disaster risk assessment and ERA in the PPRD East Programme Phase 1. In October/November 2015 the assessment will be completed and during the next NAG meeting updated country profile will be presented.

Mr Yemishyan reminded that ERA is installed in the RA Academy of Sciences Institute of Geology and also on the virtual server in the Crisis Management Centre of the MTAES. They have requested to reinstall it at CMC, where entire info data on floods is available, which can be an asset for preliminary assessment.

Mr Michael Elmquist, Civil Protection Key Expert presented the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and PPRD East 2 Civil Protection capacity building followed by the presentation of the Host Nation Support concept by Mr Philip Langdale, the Host Nation Support Non Key Expert.

Mr Yemishyan informed that Armenia envisions seeking for help in case of two disasters: 1) earthquake and 2) accident at the Nuclear Power Plant. Government has endorsed plans for these 2 scenarios, which have been developed jointly with UNDP. Armenia accepts INSARAG, OSOC and HNS guidelines. The Government Decree 919 on Population Protection Plan of 2011-2012 is getting updated currently and will be available in a few days.

Mr Ara Aslanyan, head of Development Programme Division at MTAES informed that among PPRD East 2 Partner Countries - Ukraine and Moldova have cooperation agreements signed with DG ECHO. In 2014 DG ECHO has been offered to sign a similar agreement with the RA MES. The PPRD East 2 Programme may contribute to promoting and implementation of this process.

Mr Molini presented the Activity area C of the Programme. He also informed that his colleague will arrive in May to install ERA on now available physical server in MTAES, alternatively, it may be done remotely with help of IT expert, since MTAES has division working with ERA. He stated that it is necessary to ensure that database is in line with the EU standards.

Mr Anagnosti added that one of the objectives is making ERA more user-friendly and then make ERA information publicly available, and may be then to link it with the early warning system. Mr Yemishyan inquired if ERA will have interface with prediction system, real-time modelling (MIKE 11 software).

Mr Nikolay Grigoryan, Deputy Head of Rescue Service and Armenia's HFA Focal Point added that ERA needs to become publicly more accessible and understandable for different layers of population and more people.

Mr Anagnosti reminded that ERA workshop will be organized in May for all 6 Partner Countries, where jointly can be decided which direction ERA should develop.

In reply to the question from Mr Gabriel Tepelikyan representing the Ministry of Healthcare whether including the past losses in the plan helps for future planning, Mr Molini explained the disaster



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management cycle approach, and disaster loss data collection and processing methodology developed in EU.

Mr Alessandro Candeloro, Information & Media Expert presented the Activity Area D which includes development of Communication Strategy with integrated national components such as awareness raising campaigns, then followed by tour de table.

Mr Grigoryan suggested that private organizations and IT companies might be included among the “target groups and partners”. He also expressed a wish that national service capacity building should envision not only trainings, but institutional strengthening in disaster management as well. With this regard, he informed that a large exercise is planned to take place in June/July, aiming to clarify the needs and find out how the private, national and international organizations cooperate, what messages and in what form needs to be disseminated, and how an interagency information centre for emergencies can be created. Mr Grigoryan also shared that the recommendations that had been developed during the Public Awareness Conference organised in 2013 and in 2014 in Armenia, were discussed a month ago in Sendai, Japan, during the global event - World Conference for DRR - and that, as a result, a work group was established which will hold its first meeting this September in Yerevan to start developing a global strategy addressing public disaster risk awareness issues. The motto of Sendai Conference was “not to deal with response but develop a culture of safety” which emphasizes the importance of development towards countries’ resilience.

Mr Anagnosti resumed that it would be useful for the PPRD East 2 team to attend the abovementioned two events.

Referring to the area of public awareness, Mr Grigoryan introduced the newly developed software tool entitled ArmLupa, which allows to convert the DRR public awareness and educational static visionary materials into a vivid interactive video story – something that can be used when educating school children on disaster awareness and emergency preparedness.

Mr Candeloro continued with presentation on Activity Area E - Fostering volunteerism in disaster risk management and Ensuring Programme Visibility.

Mr Yemishyan wondered what would be the activities in the area of fostering volunteerism. He said that it would have been useful, at first, to understand how volunteerism evolved in other countries, in order to address the volunteerism in civil protection legislative framework development.

Mr Anagnosti replied that the Italian experience will be shared - expert will come to Armenia to review and assess with the relevant counterparts and beneficiaries the current state in the area of volunteerism, as well as the possibilities to introduce EU experience. Organization of a study tour might be explored. Cooperation with the Red Cross might be another valuable source to learn how the Red Cross attract and motivate/retain volunteers. He also emphasized that the draft law on volunteerism should cover all the aspects related to volunteer activities, ensuring provisions on necessary training, equipment supply and maintenance, health insurance against injuries or death, social benefits and payment mechanism.

Mr Grigoryan reinstated the need for volunteers in the humanitarian response, as well as the need for fire-protection volunteers, which requires special knowledge, skills and preparation. With this regard, an expert with knowledge of EU countries’ common experience would be most valuable resource to learn from. However, it is important to ensure that the law is created here in Armenia, to count the specifics of the national context with respect to relevance and applicability.

In reply, Mr Anagnosti informed that one of the members of the PPRD East 2 Consortium is the Austrian Red Cross, which is responsible for response activities in Austria. This will allow bringing to the Partner



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Countries the EU best experience. In addition, the whole idea of Programme implementation is to work in the partnership with national experts – civil servants, thus drafting the law will be the joint efforts of PPRD East 2 expert and national stakeholders.

Referring to the Programme Management Activity Area, Mr Anagnosti particularly mentioned that the Programme Inception Report was due in February 2015; the indicative schedule for the next – second NAG meeting in Armenia is October/November this year.

Mr Yemishyan expressed expectation that during the next NAG meeting there will be more questions from the participants.

Concluding remarks:

Concluding the meeting, Mr Grigoryan, expressing gratitude to Mr Anagnosti and the PPRD East 2 Team personally and on behalf of the national authority, for detailed, creative and clear presentations of Programme Activity Areas, mentioned that the launching of the second phase of the PPRD East Programme was long expected and it will allow to further develop expertise and knowledge in the sphere of civil protection and disaster risk management, and learn the best EU practical experience during the upcoming 3 Programme years.

Particularly, the Phase 2 activities will draw on 5 directions, some steps towards which have been already implemented, and will result in:

- eventually having the user-friendly Electronic Regional Risk Atlas, accessible for large audiences
- communicating with other ministries/agencies, exchanging information with each other, consolidating the collected information and making it understandable for everyone
- most importantly – being able to apply the experience of the EU countries locally in the everyday work
- implementing such exercises that will allow to test own capacities of communicating and exchanging information and coordinating the response forces
- satisfying big expectations with regard to volunteerism, as well as to public awareness

Before announcing the meeting concluded, Mr Anagnosti told that the PPRD East 2 team of experts is excited to work together with all the stakeholders in implementation of the Programme for the benefit of citizens of Armenia and other Partner Countries, and reassured that the team will do its best to justify all the expectations of the partners. As to the next NAG meeting venue, he proposed to organise it in the large conference room of the MTAES, which is rather distant from the centre of the town, thus allowing for better concentration of the participants.

Summary and follow-up of the meeting:

- ❖ Possibilities of cooperating with DIPECHO SC will be considered
- ❖ A special event needed to be dedicated to the issue of risk awareness
- ❖ ERRA development directions to be defined at the ERRA workshop in May (in Tbilisi)
- ❖ Installation of the ERRA on the physical server at CMC MTAES



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- ❖ PPRD East 2 Team possibly to attend two events in Armenia: large scale exercise in June/July and contribute to a work group established as a result of Sendai World Conference for DRR, which will meet this September in Yerevan to develop a strategy addressing the public awareness issues
- ❖ An expert will come to Armenia to review and assess the potential and the current state in the area of volunteerism as well as in regard to the other PPRD East 2 thematic topics
- ❖ Updated Country Profile will be presented at the 2nd NAG meeting indicatively in October/November 2015.

AGENDA

1st PPRD East 2 National Advisory Group Meeting

Date: April 21, 2015,

Venue: Hotel Ararat, 7 Grigor Lusavorich Street, Yerevan, Armenia

9:00-9:30	Registration	
9:30-9:45	Official Opening	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations Mr. Hoa-Binh Adjemian, EU Delegation
9:45-10:00	Welcome note and introduction	PPRD East 2 Team Leader Plenary
10:00-10:15	Brief Overview of the PPRD East 2 Programmeme	Team Leader
10:15-10:30	Coffee break	
10:30-11:00	Presentation of the Activity Area A	Flood Risk Management Expert
11:00-11:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
11:30-12:00	Presentation of the Activity Area B	Civil Protection Key Expert Host Nation Support Expert
12:00-12:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
12:30-13:00	Presentation of the Activity Area C	Flood Risk Management Expert
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-14:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
14:30-15:00	Presentation of the Activity Area D	Information & Media Expert
15:00-15:30	Tour de Table	Plenary



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15:30-15:45	Coffee break	
15:45-16:15	Presentation of the Activity Area E	Team Leader
16:15-16:45	Tour de Table	Plenary
16:45-17:00	Next steps	PPRD East 2 Expert Team
17:00-17:30	Closing words and group photo	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations EU Delegation

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1st PPRD East 2 National Advisory Group Meeting

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