



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 Country Advisory Group Meeting

April 28, 2015

Betsy's Hotel, 32-34 Makashvili St., 0108, Tbilisi, Georgia

Meeting Minutes

List of Participants

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International Organisations				
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PPRD East 2 Programme Team				



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Agenda of the Meeting

9:00-9:30	Registration	
9:30-9:45	Official Opening	Emergency Management Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs 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 Programme	Team Leader
10:15-10:45	Presentation of the Activity Area A	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
10:45-11:15	Tour de Table	Plenary
11:15-11:30	Coffee break	
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	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-14:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
14:30-15:00	Presentation of the Activity Area D	Communication & Media Expert
15:00-15:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
15:30-15:45	Coffee break	
15:45-16:15	Presentation of the Activity Area E	Communication & Media Expert 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	Emergency Management Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs EU Delegation

Mr Sergej Anagnosti (Team Leader of PPRD East 2 Programme) - welcomed all participants for EU funded PPRD East 2 Programme 1st Country Advisory Group Meeting in Georgia and mentioned that he is glad to see so many participants around the table.

According to the Agenda of the meeting, Mr Levan Buighlishvili, Deputy head of the Emergency Management Agency under Ministry of Interior of Georgia officially opened the meeting.



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Mr Buighlishvili welcomed all participants on behalf of the Emergency Management Agency under Ministry of Interior (EMA). He stated that the goal of EMA is prevention, preparedness and response during manmade and disasters caused by natural hazards, and that all participants of the 1st CAG meeting will be jointly discussing the Programme activities. He thanked all present for their participation and cooperation. Mr Buighlishvili stated that the PPRD East 2 Programme is very important for Georgia. As EMA is key beneficiary, EMA want to ensure the success of the Programme. For every country preparedness is very important. This means more saved lives, safe environment, safe infrastructure and more efficient activities Mr Buighlishvili thanked again especially EU for this assistance which is provided to the EMA and to Georgia. Special thanks were forwarded to the experts and EMA reconfirmed preparedness and readiness to continue and further deepen cooperation with the PPRD East 2 Programme which is vitally important.

Mr Anagnosti invited participants to briefly introduce themselves.

After the introduction Mr Anagnosti gave short overview of PPRD East 2 Programme.

- Duration is December 2014 – November 2018
- Funding is EUR 5.5. M.
- Includes six Partner Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

Purposes of the Programme are:

- ✓ to strengthen Partner Countries' civil protection capacities for disaster prevention, preparedness and response
- ✓ to strengthen regional cooperation and bring the Partner Countries progressively closer to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism

PPRD East 2 expected results are:

- A. In the Partner Countries **institutional and legal framework** on disaster management and prevention is **improved** and **approximated to the EU acquis** and best practice;
- B. The **Partner Countries** and **Participating States** of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism **cooperate closely** through regular exchanges of information, expertise and best practices, trainings, table-top exercises and a **joint regional exercise**;
- C. The **Electronic Regional Risk Atlas**, developed under PPRD East Phase I is **further developed** and **put in practical use** by Partner Countries;
- D. The **awareness** about disasters (natural and man-made), their prevention and response, is **improved** in the Partner Countries, **amongst civil protection professionals, volunteers** and within the **population in general**.

During the presentation Mr Anagnosti stated that this Programme is for Georgia and all participants present at the CAG meeting are considered partners invited to support implementation of the Programme. Programme will focus on enhancing national legislation by working together with Georgian experts to implement its activities and to implement local priorities including situation analyses, roadmap development, drafting of secondary or primary legislation. It is important to support drafting of legal documents through cooperation with the Parliament.



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Next presentation was done by Mr Roberto Rudari (Disaster Risk Prevention Non-Key Expert) presenting Activity Area A: Improvement of institutional and legal framework of partner countries on disaster management and prevention and approximation to EU Aquis and best practices. Activity Area A will address:

- 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

Mr Vano Grigolashvili from NGO DRR Centre expressed readiness to work with the Programme on presented activities.

Representative of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Ms Olga Shashkina proposed to have a bilateral meeting to discuss the approximation to the EU Floods Directive. Mr Rudari explained that the follow-up assessment missions are under preparation and the meeting will be organised during the assessment mission.

Next presentation was done by Mr Michael Elmquist (Key Expert 2 - Civil Protection) on Activity Area B: Civil Protection and underlined key messages during the presentation:

- EU Civil Protection Mechanism
- New legislation to strengthen cooperation
- Pool of response assets on stand-by
- EU funding for transport costs
- Emergency Response Coordination Centre
- Prevention and preparedness
- Training and exercises

The Presentation on Host Nation Support was done by Mr Philip Langdale (Host Nation Support Non-Key Expert). Mr Langdale mentioned the examples of Haiti and Nepal devastating earthquakes and the importance of Host Nation Support. There were many teams sent from many countries, and all of these teams requested support from the host civil protection authorities to be told where to go and how to save lives.

Mr Teimuraz Melkadze (EMA) thanked for the presentation and mentioned that Georgia has developed new legal framework with many bylaws, and it is important to integrate Host Nation Support in that legal framework. It is equally important to train and to test these topics. EMA has big experience and it is good that we will do it according to EU legislation, which will make the system more effective.

Regarding the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), which is going to be developed with EMA, it should include all information necessary to facilitate international rescue operations in Georgia.

Next presentation was done by Mr Rudari on Activity Area C:

- **C.1 Further development of Electronic Regional Risk Atlas**, developed under PPRD East Programme Phase 2 and put in practical use by Partner Countries.
- **C.2 Improving national disaster loss data collection** and processing in consistency with the European common approach for developing national loss databases and sharing of information.



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Objective is to:

- Build on ERRA. ERRA represents one of the main achievements of PPRD East Programme Phase 1, and as such, the PPRD East 2 will build heavily on such an asset.
- Respond to the strong demand from Partner Countries of deepening the knowledge on how to use and update the system

Mr Melkadze asked for clarification of the C2 component - is the main focus on loss database management or on calculating and/or predicting the losses?

Mr Rudari responded that the focus is on data collection, as there is a need to record the loss impact, the real economic losses or direct damages. Predicting the losses should be addressed by disaster risk assessment and disaster risk reduction.

Activity Area D was presented by Mr Alessandro Candeloro (Communication Non- key Expert).

Awareness raising is considered as a cross cutting for all activities. Activities will be defined more precisely when the impact of Phase 1 communication strategy is assessed and then Phase 2 communication strategy is developed during the first year of Programme implementation. The Phase 2 communication strategy might be be organised around 4 pillars:

1. facilitating the circulation of existing information about disaster risk management,
2. raising the awareness of the population on specific risks and on how to address them,
3. developing national capacities for disaster risk communication and for communicating during emergencies,
4. bringing Programme results to the attention of decision makers,
5. guaranteeing appropriate visibility to Programme actions.

PPRD East 2 Communication Strategy should be:

- multi-level (e.g. addressing different layers of disaster risk management stakeholders: population, civil protection volunteers, civil protection professionals, parliamentarians, journalists, youth)
- multi-subject (in the sense that it will reflect on one side the specific risk profile of each Partner Country and on the other side its specific priorities)
- multi-media (various media will be combined in order to getting key messages through identified stakeholders depending on national cultural and social frameworks).

Responding to the questions related to cooperation with NGOs and on potential work on awareness raising on disasters at the community and school level, Ms Lomsadze, DG ECHO representative in South Caucasus and DIPECHO SC Coordinator explained that DIPECHO implementing partners are already implementing disaster risk preparedness and prevention activities in schools, pre schools and at the community level. These activities are institutionalizes through the Ministry of Education and DIPECHO is ready to share the experience.



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Mr Anagnosti replied that the PPRD East 2 Programme is regional and implemented in six Partner Countries and is not in the position to work at school/community level and not in position to develop any new materials for awareness raising about disasters. Programme is going to assess the existing situation in the country through EMA, Ministry of Education and all other relevant partners.

The Ministry of Education and Science asked what kind of specific assistance Programme can provide in regard to inclusion of disaster risk reduction into formal and non-formal education and what assistance is expected Programme to receive from the Government. Mr Anagnosti responded that the PPRD East 2 will not be focusing on the mainstreaming DRR into education, but on awareness raising about disasters. Regarding expected support from the Government, PPRD East 2 Programme is the Programme of the Partner Countries, thus the implementation will be done in close partnership with all national stakeholders. In other words, PPRD East 2 should be implemented by national authorities with the support received from the PPRD East 2 experts. The dialog will be established with Partner Countries in order to identify possible and feasible actions taking into account the framework of the Programme. Programme will also facilitate the dialog between the Partner Countries and the EU Member States. Good practices and success stories from different countries will be shared.

Responding to the question related to the school safety standard, UNICEF is mentioned as one of organisations working on this topic.

Presentation of Activity Area E was done also Mr Candeloro on:

E.1 Fostering volunteerism in disaster risk management

E.2 Ensuring Project Visibility

and by Mr Anagnsoti on:

E.3 Programmeme Management

Ms Lomsadze informed the audience that the DIPECHO Programme is working to institutionalize the concept of volunteerism in Georgia.

Mr Anagnosti explained that initially volunteerism was not first priority of the Programme but at the Steering Committee meeting the decision was made to include it to the key thematic topics. At this moment it is important to see where the country stands and to collect information. It is important to make civil protection volunteerism regulated, that volunteers are properly trained and properly equipped and to include them into the civil protection system. Thus the respective legislation should become part of the civil protection system.

Representative of Georgia Red Cross Society informed participants that there are specific examples how to maintain volunteers in Georgia, about the experience of the Georgia Red Cross Society related to volunteers, how important is to have volunteers integrated to the national response system, so they can be properly trained and recognized at state level.

Further examples from European Union – Italy on civil protection volunteers were provided.

Regarding visibility of the Programme representative of CENN offered their information spreading tool which is covering 28000 subscribers and this can be used for sharing of information in Georgia. At the moment, only tool for the dissemination of the information is Facebook and in a short time PPRD East 2 website will be up and running.



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Final words and closing up:

Representative of EMA Mr Melkadze thanked all participants for their constructive constitution. He also informed that presented topics were previously discussed between PPRD East 2 and EMA in a very detailed way and that is the reason for not that many comments provided from their side. Mr Melkadze emphasized that the Programme needs support not just from the state but from international organizations as well. This will enrich the opportunity for the Programme. On behalf of EMA he asked for support because without support from all national stakeholders the Programme will not be implemented. The PPRD East 2 will help Georgia to get closer to the European Union. This meeting was good start and we all expect good outcomes and results. EMA is committed to work in this direction and association agreement with EU obliges us to work on it. EMA is very thankful to the PPRD East Programme team.

Mr Anagnosti thanked Mr Melkadze for his kind words and promised that the expert team will do their best to implement the Programme for the mutual satisfaction.