



2nd Country Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting and presentation of draft Country Profile

20-22 October 2015, Tbilisi, Georgia

Meeting Report

1. Welcome note and introduction

Mr Sergej Anagnosti, Team Leader of the EU funded PPRD East 2 Programme welcomed all participants of the 2nd Country Advisory Group (CAG) meeting in Georgia followed by Mr Levan Buighlishvili who officially opened the meeting on behalf of the Emergency Management Agency of the Ministry of Interior (EMA).

2. Brief overview of the PPRD East 2 Programme activities and achievements in 2015

Mr. Anagnosti gave brief information on the implemented and planned activities within the Programme and stressed that the main focus of the meeting will be put on discussion and consequent endorsement of the Country Profile of Georgia which has been drafted and developed by the Programme expert team.

3. Presentation of the Activity Area A activities and achievements in 2015

Mr Roberto Rudari (Disaster Risk Prevention expert) presented the outcomes achieved within the Activity Area A.

General Objective of Activity A

Improvement of institutional and legal framework of partner countries on disaster management and prevention and approximation to EU Acquis and best practices

- Activity Area A addresses:
 - A1: Capacity Building for the Implementation of the EU Floods Directive and for addressing flood prevention
 - A2: development and/or further improvement of national risk assessments
 - A3: Provision of support for the improvement of countries' legislative framework and inter-institutional arrangements

4. Presentation of the Activity Area B activities and achievements in 2015

Next presentation was given by Mr Michael Elmquist, Civil Protection Key Expert on Activity B – Close cooperation between the Partner Countries and Participating States of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism through regular exchanges of information, expertise and best practices, trainings, table-top exercises and a joint regional exercise.

- ▶ 4 Basic Training Courses (BAT 1-4)
- ▶ 2 Operational Management Courses (OPM 1-2)
- ▶ 3 Advanced Training Courses (ADT 1-3)

Representative of the countries had an opportunity to participate in the basic trainings and advanced management and operational courses.

5. Presentation of the Activity Area C activities and achievements in 2015

Presentation was presented by Roberto Rudari, Disaster Risk Prevention Expert, on Activity Area C

General Objective of Activity C

Expected results:

- **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.

Objectives

- Build on ERRA. ERRA represents one of the main achievements of PPRD East Programme Phase I, and as such, the PPRD East II will build heavily on such an asset.
- Strong demand from Partner Countries of deepening the knowledge on how to use and update the system
- Activity Area C will address
 - C1: Further development of the Electronic Regional Risk Atlas
 - C2: Improving national disaster loss data collection and processing

6. Presentation of the Activity Area D activities and achievements in 2015

Activity Area D - Raising awareness about disasters - was presented by Mr Antonín Petr, Capacity Building Key Expert.

After short description of the main activities and sub-activities that are planned within the Activity Area D of the Programme framework, Mr Petr continued with presentation of main outcomes achieved during past months.

This included short follow-up assessment missions in all PCs, however Mr. Petr pointed out that due to technical reasons the assessment team was not able to address this area of raising awareness about disasters in all six PCs, therefore there was also a questionnaire developed and shared with all PCs.

The questionnaire focused on following areas:

- A. National Communication Strategy/Policy
- B. Existing awareness raising activities at school level
- C. Assessment of PPRD East Journalist Network
- D. Synergies with other actors active in disaster risk management awareness raising activities
- E. National awareness raising campaigns on disaster risk management

Another activity conducted within the activity area D was assessment and re-activation of PPRD East Journalist Network (JN) which was developed during Phase 1 of the Programme. It was done through a Journalist Network questionnaire which was distributed to all members of the Phase 1 JN. The questionnaire focused on:

- experience from working with the PPRD East 1
- experience from working in DRR and DRM areas
- experience from development of national and/or PPRD East 1 Communication Strategy/Policy
- willingness to continue working with PPRD East 2
- ideas/proposals for future activities

In the follow up discussion, it was agreed among the participants that coverage of the PPRD East 2 Programme needs to be enhanced in mass media space.

Following a strong debate on the role of media in emergencies, Mr Davide Miozzo presented a research conducted by CIMA Foundation in Italy describing the importance of a full collaboration between media, Civil Protection authorities, juridical system and communities. Only this convergence can avoid the insurgence of “Defensive Civil Protection (increased number of alerts; alerts of higher level; adoption of precautionary measures and measures affecting freedom, etc.). Nevertheless, there are a number of controversies, that clearly emerged from June 13th floods, that need to be addressed in the sphere of risk management and risk communication.

The spirit of openness and transparency, however was very positive and led to frank and constructive discussions during the whole meeting.

7. Presentation of the Activity Area E activities and achievements in 2015

Activity E.1 Fostering volunteerism in disaster risk management

1 Improving National Volunteer System

- ▶ Follow-up short assessment missions to Partner Countries and desktop analyses
- ▶ Development of Action Plans
- ▶ Implementation of national Action Plans

2 Conduct national campaigns on the promotion of EU approach to volunteerism

- ▶ Develop national campaigns
- ▶ Implement national campaigns

During the presentation given by Mr Davide Miozzo, Disaster Risk Management Expert, the roles and responsibilities of volunteers and volunteerism during the response operations of Tbilisi floods (13th of June) were discussed. The issue of untrained/unequipped persons willing to help was emphasised

and its setback on the management of human resources during emergencies was stated by EMA representatives.

8. Georgia Civil Protection Profile

The presentation was given by Mr Michael Elmquist, Civil Protection Key Expert.

Georgia – Vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters:

- ▶ Flooding – serious risk in all river basins
- ▶ Landslides – increasing risk in 53,000 districts
- ▶ Mudflows – high risk in urban areas incl. Tbilisi
- ▶ Water erosion – degrading agricultural land
- ▶ Drought – becoming a frequent risk
- ▶ Snow slides – risk in 50% of the territory
- ▶ Earthquakes – a common risk in the Caucasus

Participants were invited to provide additional comments/recommendations to the Country Profile including terms and definitions in English or in Georgian language.

9. Progress made in the adoption of recommendations provided within the PPRD East Programme Phase 1

Main legal and institutional recommendations from Phase 1 of the Programme were presented by Mr Davide Miozzo. It was followed by a discussion among the participants and feedbacks were taken from them. Uptake of PPRD East 1 recommendations has been identified according colours red – not implemented, yellow – partially implemented, and green – implemented.

10. Flood management and approximation to the EU Floods Directive

Recommendations on approximation of EU Floods Directive (EUFD) based on the results of the assessment mission in Georgia were presented by Mr Roberto Rudari. They include:

- Transposition of EUFD into legislative framework
- Definition of units of management
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA)
- Flood Hazard Maps (FHM) and Flood Risk Maps (FRM)
- Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP)
- Data sharing

11. Disaster risk assessment

Recommendations on Disaster Risk Assessment (DRA) based on the results of the assessment mission in Georgia were presented by Mr Roberto Rudari. They include:

- Transposition of DRA EU guidelines into national legislative framework
- Institutional setup
- Hazard mapping
- Risk mapping

- Data sharing

12. Disaster loss data collection and processing

Recommendations on Disaster Loss Data (DLD) based on the results of the assessment mission in Georgia were presented by Mr Roberto Rudari. They include:

- Adapt current legislation and operational procedures to improve data collection and enable the sharing of loss data at European and International level
- Develop and adopt a unified methodology for assessing economic losses from disasters:
- Handling of uncertainty
- Full development of an advanced IT system
- Encouraging PuP and PPP
- Information sharing
- Supporting legislation and active involvement of local governments

13. Inclusion of disaster risk reduction in public spending

Recommendations on inclusion of disaster risk reduction in public spending based on the assessment conducted in Georgia were presented by Mr Antonín Petr.

The recommendations include:

- development and implementation of a methodology for the DRR/DRM activities budget allocation, tracking and recording system across the national budgetary system and its replication at the local level,
- as a part of the methodology, there should also established a DRR/DRM “marker” to flag those investments for which the outcome is not explicitly related to DRR/DRM but which through implementation will contribute to reduce/mitigate disaster risk.

The ability to identify, record and to evaluate all expenditures within the DRR/DRM through the use of the new methodology at national and local level would significantly help:

- to better understand how national and local budgets are allocated and expended,
- to ensure optimal allocation of resources for DRM and DRR, including assessment of the cost-effectiveness of major public financial investments in DRR projects,
- to contribute to reinforcing the political-economical case for disaster prevention, preparedness, recovery a reconstruction,
- to better planning and better use of the available financial resources what is even more important when the funds are limited.

14. Host Nation Support

Presentation on the state of play of host nation support (HNS) in Georgia was given by Mr Michael Elmquist.

Host Nation Support facilitate solution of potential problems for international assistance teams during the whole process of their activation, deployment and operation.

It includes following phases and critical areas:

Transit:

Teams will be supported on

- Visa/Customs clearance
- Logistic needs
- Transportation

Arrival:

Teams will be supported on

- Visa/Customs clearance
- Logistic needs
- Transportation

Team will receive

- General briefing
- Info on safety and security

Operational deployment:

Teams will be guided to

- Base of operations
- Coordination centre (OSOCC or LEMA)

Team will receive

- Tasks
- Info on safety and security
- Accommodation (if available)
- Logistical support

Departure:

Teams will be supported on

- Exit customs clearance
- Transportation

Team will receive/provide

- Debriefing
- Info on safety and security

The affected/receiving state will always hold the coordination of the emergency.

15. EU approach to volunteerism in civil protection

Presentation on EU approach to volunteerism in Civil Protection and status of volunteerism in Georgia was presented by Mr Davide Miozzo.

The presentation focused on following areas and aspects of volunteerism:

- Law on Civil Security (2014)
- Draft Law on Volunteering

Different perception of expertise

- Scientific knowledge
- Modelling
- Scientific community

VS

- Local tradition
- Historical heritage

- Historical memory

16. Raising awareness about disasters

Mr Antonín Petr presented the assessment of situation in this important area in Georgia and explained what methodology was used for this assessment. The information for the assessment and consequent development of the recommendations in this field were collected through a questionnaire which focused on following areas:

- existing national Communication Strategy/Policy,
- existing awareness raising activities at school level,
- assessment of PPRD East Journalist Network,
- synergies with other actors active in disaster risk management awareness raising activities,
- national awareness raising campaigns on disaster risk management.

In addition to this four areas, the questionnaire also sought proposal of activities which the EMA would like to focus on during the Programme duration.

EMA proposed following activities for consideration:

- to organise training for staff that is responsible for relations with media,
- to organise a special high level media policy training for decision makers.

It was explained that these activities will be covered within the PPRD East 2 Advanced Training Courses (ADT 1-3) which will include special theoretical and practical training on how to deal with media.

The presented recommendations were:

- to develop and implement national Communication Strategy as sought by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 to 2030,
- to organise national disaster awareness campaigns in the occasion of significant days (e.g. international Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Day or national Civil Protection Day). It should be an integral part of the national Communication Strategy.

17. Data and information sharing and INSPIRE Directive

Presentation of conclusions of the assessment of the status of information sharing and INSPIRE Directive in Georgia and recommendation in this area were presented by Mr Roberto Rudari:

The main highlights of the assessment are:

- Legal and institutional framework: LOW

A clear plan is there to approximate to the EU INSPIRE Directive as detailed in the Public Administration Reform Road Map. Recommendation is to implement the plan.

- Development of NSDI strategy: LOW

An NSDI Strategy is already developed and approved.

- Institutional setup: LOW

The awareness is raised among all contributing institutions, but still the implementation of the NSDI Strategy need to be properly put in place.

- Data sharing: LOW

The main recommendations include:

- the need to create a **metadata national profile** for documenting spatial data and e-services, creation of metadata, compatible with European Standard (INSPIRE) in order to develop a systematized and standardized metadata catalogue;
- the design and **implementation of a National Geoportal** for sharing spatial data. In this sense ERRA should be considered as a pilot, as ERRA should be in any case interoperable with the National Geoportal.
- a proper **long-term training strategy** developed for the Georgian Universities;
The need of continuous professional development **courses for technical groups** set up on sectorial and municipal level within the Governmental institutions.

18. Electronic Regional Risk Atlas (ERRA)

Presentation on ERRA which was given by Mr Roberto Rudari covered following areas:

- **Installation**

Recommendation is to speed up with the second installation at NEA that will serve as a public ERRA node.

- **Use in Emergency and Strategic Planning**

Recommendation is to widen the discussion on the ERRA utility to other institutions involved in DRA and DRM starting from NEA and SSCMC that should adopt a tool for information coordination, visualisation and sharing.

- **Mainstreaming with other National initiatives**

In this context, it is recommended to choose a reference tool at first. In a second phase, if special use cases development is needed for an institution and therefore a different tool would be needed, such tool should guarantee full compliance with the National Geoportal. This can be the case of ERRA in the case of disaster related data and of risk assessment data specifically.

- **Support of DLD Collection and visualisation**

it is recommended to develop a Disaster loss data module in ERRA that helps the recommendations highlighted in the DLD section.

- **Data sharing inside Georgia**

It is recommended to define a data sharing policy that includes rules for the information sharing, especially with the wider public, in compliance with the guidelines set by the NSDI project.

- **Data sharing in the ENPI East Region**

Recommendation is to define a data sharing policy that includes rules for the information sharing at international level.

19. Discussion about National Priorities and conclusion:

Mr Teimuraz Melkadze expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to the PPRD East 2 expert team for producing such a high quality document – the Country Profile of Georgia. He underlined that all assessed and presented areas are in fact priorities for Georgia, so it is very difficult to identify and select priorities for their implementation within the PPRD East 2 Programme. He also pointed out that there is a need to develop and implement laws or sub laws for all ten areas.

The topics selected for the implementation during the PPRD East 2 Programme are:

- Flood Risk Management, Disaster Risk Assessment, Disaster Loss Data complemented with ERA
- INSPIRE Directive
- Host Country Support

In closing of the 2nd CAG meeting, Mr Teimuraz Melkadze again thanked the PPRD East 2 team for provision of the Country Profile document and organising the meeting which triggered a lot of constructive discussion and interest among all national stakeholders presented in the meeting. He was joined by Mr Sergej Anagnosti who also expressed his appreciation to all meeting participants for the very successful and constructive meeting.

List of Annexes

Annex 1 - Draft Agenda

Annex 2 - List of Participants

Annex 1 - Draft Agenda

2nd Country Advisory Group Meeting and presentation of draft Country Profile

20-22 October 2015, Tbilisi, Georgia

Draft Agenda

Day 1 – 20 October 2105

9:00-9:30	Registration	
9:30-9:45	Official Opening	Emergency Management Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia EU Delegation
9:45-10:00	Welcome note and introduction of participants	PPRD East 2 Team Leader Plenary
10:00-10:15	Brief Overview of the PPRD East 2 Programme activities and achievements in 2015	Team Leader
10:15-10:45	Presentation of the Activity Area A activities and achievements in 2015	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 activities and achievements in 2015	Civil Protection Key Expert
12:00-12:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:00	Presentation of the Activity Area C activities and achievements in 2015	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
14:00-14:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
14:30-15:00	Presentation of the Activity Area D activities and achievements in 2015	Capacity Building Key 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 activities and achievements in 2015	Disaster Risk Management Expert Team Leader
16:15-16:45	Tour de Table	Plenary
16:45-17:00	Conclusion of Day 1	Team Leader Emergency Management Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia

		EU Delegation
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Day 2 – 21 October 2105

9:00-9:15	Summary of Day 1 and introduction of Day 2	Team Leader
9:15-9:30	Brief Overview of updated Country Profile – purpose, methodology and outcomes	Team Leader
9:30-10:00	Ukraine Civil Protection Profile	Civil Protection Key Expert
10:00-10:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
10:30-11:00	Progress made in the adoption of recommendations provided within the PPRD East Programme Phase 1	Disaster Risk Management Expert
11:00-11:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
11:30-11:45	Coffee break	
11:45-12:15	Flood management and approximation to the EU Floods Directive	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
12:15-12:45	Tour de Table	Plenary
12:45-13:45	Lunch	
13:45-14:15	Disaster risk assessment	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
14:15-14:45	Tour de Table	Plenary
14:45-15:15	Disaster loss data collection and processing	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
15:15-15:45	Tour de Table	Plenary
15:45-16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-16:30	Inclusion of disaster risk reduction in public spending	Capacity Building Key Expert
16:30-17:00	Tour de Table	Plenary
17:00-17:30	Conclusion of Day 2	Team Leader Emergency Management Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia EU Delegation

Day 3 – 22 October 2105

9:00-9:15	Summary of Day 2 and introduction of Day 3	Team Leader
9:45-10:15	Host Nation Support	Civil Protection Key Expert
10:15-10:45	Tour de Table	Plenary
10:45-11:15	EU approach to volunteerism in civil protection	Disaster Risk Management Expert

11:15-11:45	Tour de Table	Plenary
11:45-12:00	Coffee break	
12:00-12:30	Raising awareness about disasters	Capacity Building Key Expert
12:30-13:00	Tour de Table	Plenary
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-14:30	Data and information sharing and INSPIRE Directive	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
14:30-15:00	Tour de Table	Plenary
15:00-15:30	ERRA	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
15:30-16:00	Tour de Table	Plenary
16:00-16:15	Coffee break	
16:15-17:15	Discussion about National Priorities	Plenary
17:15-17:30	Closing words and group photo	Team Leader Emergency Management Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia EU Delegation

Annex 2 – List of Participants

2nd Country Advisory Group Meeting and presentation of draft Country Profile

20-22 October 2015, Tbilisi, Georgia

List of Participants

No.	Name	Position	Phone Number	E-mail
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