



## 3<sup>rd</sup> National Advisory Group Meeting

18 October 2016, Minsk, Belarus

### 1. Official Opening - Welcome note and introduction

The meeting started with the welcoming remarks given by Mr Sergej Anagnosti, PPRD East 2 Team Leader, and Ms Svetlana Shotskaya, Head of the International Projects Unit of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Belarus and PPRD East 2 National Programme Coordinator.

2. Brief Overview of the PPRD East 2 Programme was given by Mr Anagnosti, who specified main activities and achievements in 2015-2016 and elaborated on the Work Plan for 2016-2018.

Then, three PPRD East 2 Activity Areas which Belarus selected as its priorities were presented:

3. Host Nation Support – Activity Area B.2 was presented by Mr Antonin Petr, PPRD East 2 Capacity Building Key Expert, who:

- summarized the main steps that were already made and would be done in 2016-2018;
- in details described the HNS Table-Top Exercise conducted in Belarus in March 2016, as well as respective conclusions and recommendations on how to proceed with HNS activities in Belarus; and
- focused on future activities and emphasized the development of HNS relevant legislation and SOPs.

Ms Larisa Basalaj, Chief Specialist of the Principal Department of State System of Prevention and Liquidation of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Belarus, and National HNS Contact Point:

- informed that the Ministry drafted and the Council of Ministers approved the Resolution of the Government dated June 13, 2016 N° 450 "On some issues of management of emergency situation liquidation", which formalized in legislation the creation of situational headquarters to manage liquidation of emergencies at the national level, as well as regulated the creation of similar headquarters at regional (oblast and rayon) levels;
- described the structure and objectives of the situational headquarters;
- noted that during next annual revision of the Protection Plan in September 2017 it was planned to introduce amendments into the chapter on the implementation of HNS activities in accordance with EU HNS Guidelines, and there Belarus might need assistance from PPRD East 2 experts.

Mr Petr offered support to these developments and requested whether it would be possible to receive the draft of the document to confirm its compliance with the EU HNS Guidelines.

4. **Civil Protection Volunteerism – Activity Area E** was also presented by Mr Petr, who in particular:

- explained what is the meaning of the Civil Protection Volunteerism;
- in details described and analysed the Study tour to Finland and Denmark conducted at the regional level in September 2016; and
- focused on activities to be undertaken at the national level.

Mr Anatoly Balyabin, Deputy Head of the Department of Emergency Services and Disaster Management of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Belarus and national Focal Point for CPV:

- pointed out the main ideas and approaches that were the most interesting to the Belarusian delegation during the Study tour to Finland and Denmark;
- noted that the received information had been used in developing the legislation of the Republic of Belarus, namely, a new draft of the Law on Fire Safety and the Resolution of the Government (both to be adopted by the end of this year), and the Resolution of the Ministry of Emergency Situations to be developed once the Resolution of the Government was approved.
- described improvements to be introduced to the new Law on Fire Safety:
  - 4 additional articles would regulate voluntary fire-fighting units;
  - there would be 3 types of voluntary units: a fire-fighting team (to assist in fire-fighting with the use of fire machinery), a fire-fighting brigade (to assist in fire-fighting with the use of only fire protection equipment) and a fire-technical commission (people with technical education and able to identify how to bring the object into the safe conditions);
  - the new Law would introduce the following division: professional emergency services would be regulated by the Law on Emergency Services and the Status of Rescuer; freelance fire-fighting units – by the Law on Fire Safety and Resolution of Government; whereas voluntary public unions and their fire-fighting units – by legislation for public associations.

Mr Dmitry Rusakov, Head of Division on Emergency Response and Search of Belarusian Red Cross Society, informed that Belarusian Red Cross Society had been working for a year and a half on the draft of General Law on Voluntarism and had submitted it to the Commission on Legislation. It would take time to work on introduction of that Law before it might be adopted but the dialogue between different institutions exists.

5. **Raising Awareness about Disasters – Activity Area D** was presented by Mr Petr, who focused on the achievements and future activities related to development of the National Communication Strategy on Raising Awareness about Disasters:

- revision and update of the PPRD East 2 Communication Strategy;
- national awareness raising campaigns on disaster risk management;
- national media campaigns on disaster risk management;
- awareness raising in schools;

- continuation of initiated work with journalists.

Ms Shotskaya highlighted the difficulties Belarus faced while implementing this activity area in the country, particularly in communication with other institutions which are not interested in drafting of the NCS. She informed that the draft of the National Communication Strategy should be prepared in February 2017. It is also planned in future to increase the membership of the working group.

**6. Flood Risk Management and Disaster Risk Assessment – Activity Area A** (not implemented in Belarus) were presented by Mr Anagnosti:

- objectives and expected results in the Partner Countries;
- achievements in 2016 and planned activities for 2017-2018.

**7. ERRA and Disaster Loss Data – Activity Area C** were presented by Mr Anagnosti as well:

- the characteristics and uniqueness of the electronic regional risk atlas were presented, that the ToR for the new and upgraded version has been finalized, and that the installation in Partner Countries (including Belarus) of the upgraded ERRA is expected at the beginning of 2017;
- presented activities undertaken in Partner Countries aimed at legal and institutional development of DLD system as well as improving data accessibility and comparability at national, regional and European level.

**8. Civil Protection Capacity Building– Activity Area B** was presented by Mr Michael Elmquist, PPRD East 2 Civil Protection Key Expert, who:

- reported on the events held in 2015-2016 and emphasized that within PPRD East 2 a logical progression was made through basic, operational management, and advanced training courses, table-top exercises, and culminating in a large full-scale field exercise taking place in Moldova in September 2017 to be followed by a lessons learnt conference;
- described in details the scenario of full-scale field exercise in Moldova, tasks the participants should fulfil and the structure of the teams;
- mentioned other activities planned for 2017-2018.

Mr Vitaly Askerko, Head of the Operations Control Centre of the State Fire Emergency Rescue Institution "Republican detachment of special purpose":

- presented the team that would participate in EU MOLDEX 2017 and include 24 participants on 5 motor vehicles;
- described capacities of the Belarusian team;
- pointed out the tasks set by the Belarusian side.

**9. Mr Anagnosti concluded the meeting by informing on Visibility and Programme Management – Activity Area E.**