PRESS RELEASE

Lessons are learnt, and, unfortunately, lessons are frequently forgotten.

Whenever a major disaster strikes, aid is arriving from all over the world, sometimes in a well-coordinated fashion, but more often without clear direction, without sufficient knowledge of the situation on the ground, and without proper cooperation amongst the responders. Time and again, civil protection organisations and other first responders conclude that better arrangements should be made next time. International disaster response exercises are regularly arranged to train and test such arrangements. Lessons are learnt, and, unfortunately, lessons are frequently forgotten.

The Civil Protection Mechanism of the European Union has recognised that real progress depends on the ability to analyse, record, and act upon the lessons learnt. In a formalised process, the first step is to observe during the emergency or the exercise. The second step is to identify the observations that qualify as lessons, and the third step is to convert the lessons identified into lessons learnt by changing the relevant laws, procedures, or arrangements as necessary.

Within the EU funded programme on Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters in the Eastern Partnership Region (PPRD East 2), a logical progression is made through basic and advanced training courses, table-top exercises, and culminating in a large scale field exercise taking place in Moldova in September 2017. The partner countries, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, will all participate with rescue teams working together with teams from EU Member States. To ensure that the exercise will provide an opportunity to identify and learn lessons, the Lessons Learnt Regional Workshop was held in Minsk on 27-28 September 2016 with the participation of experts from the six Partner Countries and the EU Commission. The workshop laid the foundation for the analytical work to be done to ensure the successful outcome of the field exercise in 2017.

Background information
The EU-funded Programme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters in EaP Countries (PPRD East 2) is contributing to the peace, stability, security and prosperity of the Eastern Partner Countries. It is also aimed to protect the environment, population, cultural heritage, resources and infrastructures of the region by strengthening the countries’ resilience, preparedness and response to man-made disasters and disasters caused by natural hazards.

The PPRD East 2 Programme facilitates the strengthening of disaster risk management capacities at the national level in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, aims to strengthen regional cooperation among the Partner Countries, and brings Partner Countries progressively closer to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The Programme will last for 4 years with a budget of €5.5 million.

For more info: www.pprdeast2.eu