



## PRESS RELEASE

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### EU supports reducing the impact of man-made and disasters caused by natural hazards through better risk management and systematic collection of standardized disaster loss data

The global impacts of disasters to human health, livelihood and economy are on the rise. When human, monetary or environmental losses occur as a result of a disaster, extensive loss data are often collected and stored by different organizations, but the thoroughness and accuracy of the data may vary from country to country and even among local entities. This could lead to gaps and overlaps in the data, and biases that ultimately affect the quality of policies and prevention actions made on the basis of the data. In 2015 the UN General Assembly approved the Sendai Framework, a global policy with a goal of reducing the impact of disasters at global level. Sendai Framework reinforces the importance of monitoring disaster impacts, calls for the systematic and harmonized collection of disaster loss data (DLD), and for their reporting in a standardized form to the international community.

"The primary goal of disaster risk management is to minimize future losses. As it was already stated, you can't manage what you can't measure, so good disaster loss data form invaluable basis for understanding and assessing disaster risk, preparing response and recovery actions, and creating resilient societies and economies", elaborates Ms Lidia Gabor, Communication, Information and Partnership Officer from the Association of French Insurance for Natural Risk Knowledge and Reduction.

EU Member States are highly committed to the implementation of Sendai Framework and several of them are actively reporting. The European Commission is promoting the systematic collection of harmonized DLD through several initiatives, i.e. for accessing the solidarity funds in case of disasters, and for improving the national disaster risk assessment that is required by the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. The EC Joint Research Centre has also published Guidance for recording and sharing disaster damage and loss data as well as the Proposal for loss database architecture for disaster risk management, thus confirming the high policy attention to this specific DRM field.

Partner Countries of PPRD East 2 Programme (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) already have a solid background in DLD collection and processing. DLD is a highly regulated field in most of the Partner Countries and a systematic system for collecting DLD is in place at the national level. During the Programme implementation, Partner Countries have actively worked on aligning the legal national DLD framework to the EU good practice taking as the reference the JRC Guidance on DLD recording and sharing, as well as to the recent requirements of the Sendai Framework.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> DLD Regional Workshop Partner Countries have shared their own experience in improving DLD system, also with France and JRC. All participants highlighted challenges and opportunities of Sendai Framework implementation with a specific focus on DLD reporting. Through hands-on sessions, the added value of DLD collection system and utilisation of DLD for improving national disaster risk assessment has been demonstrated and practised by analysing indicators of different categories and developing risk scenarios.

#### Background information

The EU-funded Programme on Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters (PPRD East) was designed to contribute to the peace, stability, security and prosperity of the Eastern Partner Countries. It aims also 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. Currently in its 2<sup>nd</sup> phase, the PPRD East Programme facilitates the strengthening of disaster risk management capacities at the national level in **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine**, strengthens regional cooperation among the Partner Countries, and brings Partner Countries progressively closer to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. This 2<sup>nd</sup> phase runs from 2014 to 2018 with a budget of €5.5 million.

For more information, please see the links: [www.pprdeast2.eu](http://www.pprdeast2.eu), <http://pprdeast2.eu/en/approximation-to-eu/disaster-loss-data/>



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#### The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

"The European Union is made up of 28 countries and the people of those countries. It is a unique political and economic partnership founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, equality, the rule of law and human rights. Over more than fifty years we have created a zone of peace, democracy, stability and prosperity on our continent while maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The EU looks to share its values and achievements with neighbouring countries and peoples and those farther afield."