



PRESS RELEASE

Yerevan, 14 November 2018

EU supports Armenia to set focus on coordination of emergency response

In case of large-scale disasters, coordination of the international assistance is essential. The EU Funded Programme on Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters in the Eastern Neighbourhood Area (PPRD East 2) has promoted knowledge about coordination arrangements, most recently through a regional training-of-trainers workshop held in Denmark in July 2018. On 13-14 November 2018, the Armenian experts conducted a national workshop for rescue personnel building on their experience from the workshop in Denmark.

Ever since the Spitak earthquake in 1988, the international community has made huge strides to improve arrangements for coordination of foreign disaster assistance. The certification of urban search and rescue teams, the procedures for establishment of on-site operations coordination centres, and guidelines for host nation support, are only a few examples of such arrangements. The EU-funded PPRD East 2 Programme has promoted and trained the use of such arrangements through training courses, table-top exercises, a full-scale field exercise, and the regional workshop held in Denmark in July 2018. The workshop had the format of “training-of-trainers”, and the participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine were expected to arrange similar workshops in their own countries.

As a follow-up to the EU workshop in Denmark (<http://pprdeast2.eu/en/2018/pprd-east-2-workshop/>), the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia arranged the first such national workshop in Yerevan on 13-14 November 2018, attended by the members of the Armenian Urban Search and Rescue Team certified by the International Search And Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG). The workshop noted that the international coordination arrangements were relevant, not only in case of a large-scale disaster in Armenia, but also if Armenian rescue teams were to assist in disaster response abroad. Based on the success of this workshop, Armenia will arrange similar workshops in other parts of the country to ensure that a larger number of experts have knowledge of international coordination arrangements. Eventually, it is the intention to include such arrangements also in the curriculum of the national civil protection academy so as to ensure that future civil protection officers are prepared to function in an international environment. “In fact, the knowledge we obtained at the EU workshop in Denmark is now spreading like rings in water,” said Major Samvel Ayavazyan, major instructor from the Ministry of Emergency Situations and added that “this brings us closer to the way disaster response is handled in the EU.”

Background

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 2nd 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 2nd phase runs from 2014 to 2019 with a budget of €5.5 million.

For more information, please see the link: www.pprdeast2.eu



This Programme is funded by the European Union.

The Programme is implemented by the Consortium led by Stantec from its regional office based in Ukraine:
7/14 Akademika Bogomoltsa st.
office 101
01024 Kyiv, Ukraine
Tel: + 38 044 25 32 343
Fax: +38 044 25 30 847

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."