



PRESS RELEASE

Yerevan, 28 February 2019

Armenia: Secure a strong Civil Protection Volunteerism mechanism

The last PPRD East 2 National Advisory Group for Armenia met in Yerevan on 27-28 February 2019 to present the country accomplishments during the 4 and a half years of Programme's implementation. Among important successes Armenia can mention its efforts to secure a strong Civil Protection Volunteerism mechanism that resulted in the adoption of the Law on Volunteerism, while the legislation addressing Civil Protection Volunteerism is being developed.

For Armenia, Civil Protection Volunteerism set-up represents a very important part of national disaster risk management system. *"Because population is always the first responder in an affected area, an effective disaster response depends also on plans and coordination structures for volunteers"*, explained Mr Artavazd Davtyan, Deputy Director of the Rescue Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the PPRD East 2 Steering Committee member. *"The possibility to exchanges ideas and experiences with our colleagues in Europe offered our country a chance to strengthen the civil protection volunteerism legislation and thus, to improve our preparedness"*, added Mr Davtyan.

Armenia is traditionally highly vigilant when preparedness is in question. By arranging national workshop on international coordination of emergency relief in November 2018 and, furthermore, by incorporating this subject in the curriculum of the Armenian Civil Protection Academy, Armenia will be the first of all six Eastern Partner Countries to follow-up recommendations resulted from the lessons learnt process that took place after the first regional full-scale field exercise EU MOLDEX 2017.

In terms of facts and figures, Armenia has been committed to all activities proposed by the Programme, participating in 41 events (35 regional and 6 national) with a total of 297 participants (204 from the Ministry of Emergency Situations and 93 from other national Disaster Risk Management stakeholders). All thematic Focal Points have been appointed and inter-institutional working groups for Flood Risk Management, Disaster Risk Assessment, Disaster Loss Data and Host Nation Support are established.

Host Nation Support regulation, that will be in line with the EU HNS Guideline, is now reaching its final steps as related Governmental Decrees - procedures on Civil Protection and Disaster Management in Emergency and also Standard Operating Procedures - are on their way to be approved.

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.

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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."