



PRESS RELEASE

Tbilisi, 7 March 2019

Georgia took steps for a greater involvement in flood risk prevention and preparedness

The last PPRD East 2 National Advisory Group for Georgia met in Tbilisi, on 6 and 7 March 2019 to present the country accomplishments during the 4 and half years of Programme implementation.

Georgia has been involved in all activities aiming at improving the country capacities, skills and expertise in Disaster Risk Management, both at national and regional level. Among all various hazards identified, flooding remains the most frequent risk for Georgia. National authorities decided to engage important efforts on approximating its national legislation to reflect the EU Floods Directive. As a result, the country amended the National Water Code to reflect the European Union Floods Directive requirements. In addition, the Tskentskali river basin is used as a pilot river basin to test the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment approach and methodology, based on the PPRD East 2 Guidelines, before scaling it up to the whole country.

“With the expertise provided by the Programme Georgia is now well on the way to approximate its national legislation to the EU Floods Directive”, said Dr. Shalva Kvinikhidze, Head of International Relations Division in the Emergency Management Service and the PPRD East 2 Steering Committee member.

Responding to the ad-hoc requests received from the newly established Emergency Management Service, the PPRD East 2 experts provided comments and recommendations on the new draft Law on Civil Protection (adopted in 2018) and undertook the assessment of the fire rescue department of the Emergency Management Service, and of its compliance with the EU standards in terms of standardization and unification of the fire-fighting-rescue vehicles, equipment and infrastructure.

In terms of facts and figures, Georgia has been committed to all activities proposed by the Programme, participating in 44 events (38 regional and 6 national) with a total of 285 participations (167 being the national civil protection experts, and 118 other national Disaster Risk Management stakeholders). 5 thematic Focal Points have been appointed, and 2 inter-institutional working groups were established.

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



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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."