



PRESS RELEASE

Minsk, 14 March 2019

Belarus: new generations better informed on Disaster Risk Management

The last PPRD East 2 National Advisory Group for Belarus met in Minsk on 14 March 2019 to present the country accomplishments during the 4 and half years of Programme's implementation.

Flooding remains the most frequent natural risk for Belarus, and the country is facing spring floods almost every year. In the case when international assistance is needed the host nation support arrangements play the crucial role. Taking the full advantage of the Civil Protection capacity building and addressing the Host Nation Support as one of the priorities within the PPRD East 2 Programme, Belarus has managed to raise the national disaster preparedness at the next level. The lessons learnt from the large-scale field exercise EU MOLDEX 2017 has allowed Belarus to develop a single document to regulate Host Nation Support procedures.

As a follow-up to the participation at 9 civil protection training courses organised within the Programme, the Ministry for Emergency Situations introduced the topic of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism in the curriculum of its University of Civil Protection.

"We appreciate the opportunity to cooperate with the European partners, and by teaching new generations on the EU Civil Protection Mechanism this cooperation can be only enhanced", said Mr Genadij Lasuta, Deputy Minister for Emergency Situations and the PPRD East 2 Steering Committee member.

Fostering volunteerism in Disaster Risk Management is another priority area addressed within the Programme. Belarus experts participated in the Civil Protection Volunteerism (CPV) Study tour, the national inter-ministerial working group on Civil Protection Volunteerism was established, and Belarus hosted the Regional CPV Workshop. These efforts led to the preparation of the amendments to the Law on Fire Safety to establish new voluntary fire-fighting units, now under adoption.

In terms of facts and figures, Belarus has been committed to all activities proposed by the Programme, participating in 46 events (36 regional and 10 national) with a total of 300+ participations. All thematic Focal Points have been appointed.

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."