



## **2<sup>nd</sup> National Advisory Group (NAG) Meeting and presentation of draft Country Profile**

**24-26 November 2015, Minsk, Belarus**

### **Meeting Report**

#### **1. Official opening**

The Eastern Partnership Flagship Initiative on Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made Disasters (PPRD East) was launched in 2010 by the European Union to strengthen the countries' resilience, preparedness and response in addressing these challenges. With this regional initiative, the European Union provides the six Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) with dedicated assistance to enhance legislative, administrative and operational civil protection capacities as well as increase access to information on risk exposure and involvement of stakeholders.

The PPRD East Programme Phase 2 will be implemented during 2014 – 2018 year and has the approach such as legal approximation and institutional sustainability by sharing expertise and working knowledge, undertaking situation analysis, assisting in drafting national primarily and secondary legislation etc.

#### **2. Welcome note and introduction**

Mr Sergej Anagnosti, Team Leader of the PPRD East 2 Programme welcomed all participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Advisory Group meeting and Ms Svetlana Shotskaya officially opened the meeting on behalf of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus as the PPRD East 2 National Programme Coordinator. She welcomed the participants and the experts, and briefly presented the mission, expectations and goals of the PPRD East 2 Programme.

#### **3. Brief Overview of the PPRD East 2 Programme**

Mr Anagnosti gave brief information on the implemented and planned activities within the Programme and stressed that the main focus of the meeting will be put on discussion and consequent endorsement of the Country Profile of Belarus and Road Maps which has been drafted and developed by the Programme expert team.

#### **4. Activity Area A**

Dr Roberto Rudari, Disaster Risk Prevention Non-Key Expert addressed the main achievements of Activity Area A and the steps that will be undertaken till the end of the project. His presentation covered the following Programme tasks:

- A.1 Capacity Building for the Implementation of the EU Floods Directive and for addressing flood prevention.
- A.2 Development and/or further improvement of national risk assessments
- A.3 Provision of support for the improvement of countries' legislative framework and inter-institutional arrangements.

## **5. Activity Area B**

Activity area B was presented by Mr Michael Elmquist, Civil Protection Key Expert.

- B.1 Capacity building through civil protection trainings and exchange of information, expertise and best practice regarding the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.
- B.2 Capacity building through table-top exercises on Host Nations Support (HNS).
- B.3 Capacity building through full-scale field exercise.

The following information about past and further capacity events under this Programme area was given:

- 4 Basic Training Courses (BAT 1-4);
- 2 Operational Management Courses (OPM 1-2);
- 3 Advanced Training Courses (ADT 1-3).

Also, the list of activities for Belarus from the Road Map in the field of Host Nations Support has been presented by the expert and discussed during event:

- Arrangements to be tested during TTX March 29-31, 2016;
- During TTX, matrix to be completed;
- After TTX, use matrix as basis for development of SOPs (MoES to coordinate, all relevant agencies to contribute);
- By end 2016, draft SOPs completed;
- By mid 2017, SOPs finalised and endorsed.

The analysis of the Civil Protection of the Republic of Belarus was done through updated Civil Protection profile presented by Mr Elmquist. The analysis covered vulnerabilities, legal basis, organization, tasks, civil-military cooperation, warning systems, international cooperation, etc.

## **6. Activity Area C**

Activity area C and expected results under this activity were presented by Dr Roberto Rudari. Particularly the presentations covered following topics: further development of Electronic Regional Risk Atlas, developed under PPRD East Programme Phase 2 and put in practical use by Partner Countries and Improving national disaster loss data collection and processing in consistency with the European common approach for developing national loss databases and sharing of information. During the meeting the expert explained the functionality and the object of the ERRA, the need of information to be secured so that the information sharing regarding Disasters, the INSPIRE Directive, especially with the wider public to function based on a sharing policy. Activity C.2 regarding loss data collection and management was also presented in conjunction with activities A1, A.2 and C.1.

## **7. Activity Area D**

Mr Antonín Petr, Capacity Building Key Expert presented the assessment of situation of this important area in Belarus and explained what methodology was used for this assessment. The information for the assessment and consequent development of the recommendations in this field were collected through a questionnaire which focused on following areas:

- i) national Communication Strategy/Policy,
- ii) existing awareness raising activities at school level,

- iii) assessment of PPRD East Journalist Network,
- iv) synergies with other actors active in disaster risk management awareness raising activities,
- v) national awareness raising campaigns on disaster risk management

Another activity conducted within the activity area D was assessment and re-activation of PPRD East Journalist Network (JN) which was developed during Phase 1 of the Programme. It was done through a Journalist Network questionnaire which was distributed to all members of the Phase 1 JN. The questionnaire focused on:

- experience from working with the PPRD East 1
- experience from working in DRR and DRM areas
- experience from development of national and/or PPRD East 1 Communication Strategy/Policy
- willingness to continue working with PPRD East 2
- ideas/proposals for future activities

## **8. Activity Area E**

Activity area A was presented by Mr Davide Miozzo, Disaster Risk Management Non-Key Expert. Following topics were covered:

- Improving National Volunteer System;
- Conduct national campaigns on the promotion of EU approach to volunteerism.

During the presentation was provided Italian example of the volunteers system in civil protection.

## **9. Brief overview of updated Country Profile**

The Brief Overview of updated Country Profile presented by Mr Anagnosti and the Belarus Civil Protection profile presented by Mr Elmquist. The special attention was done to presentation of updated Belarus Country Profile and to and Road Map that have been developed. Following purposes of this works were noted:

- Follow-up on the PPRD East Programme Phase 1;
- Assess situation related to the PPRD East Programme Phase 2 thematic topics;
- Decide on National Priorities;
- Search for additional assistant instruments;
- Search for additional funding mechanism(s);

The outcomes of develop of the Country Profile and recommendations were presented:

1. Update on Civil Protection profile and Phase 1 recommendation
2. Findings, Recommendations and Road Maps for sustainable institutionalisation of other topics – for approximation to EU acquis communautaire and EU good practise

## **10. Progress made in the adoption of recommendations provided within the PPRD East Programme Phase 1**

The outcomes achieved within the Programme activities and the analysis of progress made in the adoption of recommendations provided within the PPRD East Programme Phase 1 were presented by Mr Davide Miozzo.

## **11. Flood management and approximation to the EU Floods Directive**

The recommendations and Road Map for Belarus approximation to the EU Floods Directive were presented by Dr Roberto Rudari. The comments and suggestions to improve these proposals were done by the NAG members. The main comments to the recommendations were connected to the fact

that this EU directive is not obligatory for Belarus, and it is perceived as a possible best practice. Belarusian authorities will make some efforts on this way and try to implement all that is applicable for the country the Directive provisions in the national legislation and practice, but it was stated that the government has no current plans in approximation legally to the EUFD, therefore it is difficult to go for the full implementation of the Roadmap as presented in the country profile. The comments to the experts team to adjustments of the recommendations and Road Map in such regards were done by the NAG members accordingly.

## **12. Disaster Risk Assessment**

The recommendations on disaster risk assessment was presented by Dr Roberto Rudari. It was clearly stated that one of the key points of the roadmap is the uptake of the EU Risk Assessment Guidelines. Belorussian participants made clear that Belarus has no obligation to follow the EU Guidelines, but that they would consider them as a benchmark for the implementation of the approach to be used in Belarus. PPRD East 2 team reiterated the importance for the PPRD East Programme that they consider the EU Guidelines as a reference. Despite the fact that the EU Guidelines were translated in Russian and shared with the Partner Countries already by PPRD East 1, the Belorussian institutions had never analysed them and therefore they were not in the position to address the compliancy of the EU Guidelines with the direction that Belarus is currently planning in DRA. It was decided that they will evaluate the EU Guidelines and analyse them in the light of their current plan providing a final assessment before June 2016.

## **13. Disaster loss data collection and processing**

The overview of current status of practice regarding the collection of disaster loss data in Belarus was made, the procedure for collecting and recording of loss data with focus on recommendations regarding improvement of legal and institutional framework, developing and adjustment of a unified methodology for assessing economic losses from disaster.

## **14. Inclusion of disaster risk reduction in public spending**

The recommendations on inclusion of disaster risk reduction in public spending was presented by Mr Antonín Petr.

The recommendations include:

- development and implementation of a methodology for the DRR/DRM activities budget allocation, tracking and recording system across the national budgetary system and its replication at the local level,
- as a part of the methodology, there should also established a DRR/DRM “marker” to flag those investments for which the outcome is not explicitly related to DRR/DRM but which through implementation will contribute to reduce/mitigate disaster risk.

The representative of the Ministry of Finance described the current status and methodology of the national public finance system. Particularly, Belarus is the beginner on the way to the modernization of the national public finance system based on the International Financial Reporting Standards. The Government and the World Bank in 2015 started the joint project in this field. So it would be premature to start working according to proposed by the Project team recommendations and the Road Map.

## **15. EU approach to volunteerism in civil protection**

This topic was presented by Mr Davide Miozzo. The current status of practice, the volunteering

system in Belarus and the recommendations & Road Map (including Institutional setup and legal framework) to improve the system were discussed. The recommendations proposed by the Programme team inspired of the NAG members to the wide discussion during event on the volunteerism issue development in Belarus. The NAG members have different opinions on how to improve the situation but generally agreed on the need to improve the system.

## **16. Raising awareness about disasters**

A special attention in the presentation which was given by Mr Antonín Petr focused to assessment of current status of raising awareness about disaster in Belarus and to recommendations that were developed based on the assessment. The recommendation include:

- to develop national Communication Strategy, including Action Plan for implementation of the national Communication Strategy
- to revise production and distribution system of education materials
- to develop and implement new production and distribution system as the integral part of the national Communication strategy for raising awareness about disasters

## **17. Electronic Regional Risk Atlas (ERRA)**

The current status and recommendations to next steps in ERRA development were presented by Dr Roberto Rudari. The NAG members concluded that the discussions and conclusions about activities under the ERRA further development in Belarus should be postponed on first half of 2016. This issue was raised by MoES representatives because at the moment the Ministry hasn't the financing opportunities to support of ERRA (procurement of necessary server, service payment for install of the server, etc.). During this period of time the MoES will be able to understand the financial possibilities to finance the development of ERRA and the ERRA development discussion will be raised. Also, few questions about technical problems in ERRA functioning were requested by the MoES ERRA users. The Programme team provided the explanations how these problems are or will be solved.

## **18. Conclusion and next steps**

1. The participants of the 2nd NAG meeting agreed that only 3 thematic topics should be selected as key priorities for implementation within the PPRD East 2. The selected topics will be provided by the MoES to the PPRD East 2 Programme team after additional internal discussions till December 2, 2015.
2. The discussions and conclusions about activities under the ERRA further development in Belarus should be postponed on first half of 2016.
3. The additional comments on the Country Profile and the recommendations will be provided by the participants through the MoES to the PPRD East 2 Programme team till December 4, 2015.
4. Draft Country Profile updated according to the 2<sup>nd</sup> NAG meeting discussions and expected comments will be shared to all participants.
5. Based on the topics selected by MoES will be developed the PPRD East 2 Work Plan 2016-2018 and resources will be allocated accordingly.

## **List of Annexes**

Annex 1 - Draft Agenda

Annex 2 - List of Participants

## Annex 1 - Draft Agenda

### 2<sup>nd</sup> National Advisory Group Meeting and presentation of draft Country Profile

24-26 November, 2015, Minsk, Belarus

#### Draft Agenda

##### Day 1 – 24 November 2015

9:00-9:30	Registration	
9:30-9:45	Official Opening	Ministry of Emergency Situations EU Delegation
9:45-10:00	Welcome note and introduction of participants	PPRD East 2 Team Leader Plenary
10:00-10:15	Brief Overview of the PPRD East 2 Programme activities and achievements in 2015	Team Leader
10:15-10:45	Presentation of the Activity Area A activities and achievements in 2015	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
10:45-11:15	Tour de Table	Plenary
11:15-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-12:00	Presentation of the Activity Area B activities and achievements in 2015	Civil Protection Key Expert
12:00-12:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:00	Presentation of the Activity Area C activities and achievements in 2015	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
14:00-14:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
14:30-15:00	Presentation of the Activity Area D activities and achievements in 2015	Capacity Building Key Expert
15:00-15:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
15:30-15:45	Coffee break	
15:45-16:15	Presentation of the Activity Area E activities and achievements in 2015	Disaster Risk Management Expert Team Leader
16:15-16:45	Tour de Table	Plenary
16:45-17:00	Conclusion of Day 1	Team Leader Ministry of Emergency Situations EU Delegation

Day 2 – 25 November 2015

9:00-9:15	Summary of Day 1 and introduction of Day 2	Team Leader
9:15-9:30	Brief Overview of updated Country Profile – purpose, methodology and outcomes	Team Leader
9:30-10:00	Belarus Civil Protection Profile	Civil Protection Key Expert
10:00-10:30	Tour de Table	Plenary
10:30-10:45	Coffee break	
10:45-11:15	Progress made in the adoption of recommendations provided within the PPRD East Programme Phase 1	Disaster Risk Management Expert
11:15-11:45	Tour de Table	Plenary
11:45-12:15	Flood management and approximation to the EU Floods Directive	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
12:15-12:45	Tour de Table	Plenary
12:45-13:45	Lunch	
13:45-14:15	Disaster risk assessment	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
14:15-14:45	Tour de Table	Plenary
14:45-15:15	Disaster loss data collection and processing	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
15:15-15:45	Tour de Table	Plenary
15:45-16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-16:30	Inclusion of disaster risk reduction in public spending	Capacity Building Key Expert
16:30-17:00	Tour de Table	Plenary
17:00-17:30	Conclusion of Day 2	Team Leader Ministry of Emergency Situations EU Delegation



Day 3 – 26 November 2015

9:00-9:15	Summary of Day 2 and introduction of Day 3	Team Leader
9:45-10:15	Host Nation Support	Civil Protection Key Expert
10:15-10:45	Tour de Table	Plenary
10:45-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-11:30	EU approach to volunteerism in civil protection	Disaster Risk Management Expert
11:30-12:00	Tour de Table	Plenary
12:00-12:30	Raising awareness about disasters	Capacity Building Key Expert
12:30-13:00	Tour de Table	Plenary
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-14:30	Data and information sharing and INSPIRE Directive	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
14:30-15:00	Tour de Table	Plenary
15:00-15:30	ERRA	Disaster Risk Prevention Expert
15:30-16:00	Tour de Table	Plenary
16:00-16:15	Coffee break	
16:15-17:15	Discussion about National Priorities	Plenary
17:15-17:30	Closing words and group photo	Team Leader Ministry of Emergency Situations EU Delegation



### List of participants

2-е заседание Национальной  
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Странового обзора

2nd PPRD East 2 National Advisory Group  
Meeting

24-26 ноября 2015 г.

24-26 November 2015

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