



4th National Advisory Group Meeting
28 November 2017, Chisinau, Moldova

Meeting Report

Brief overview of the PPRD East 2 Programme

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 Partner Countries' resilience, preparedness and response to disasters. 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 and disaster risk management capacities.

The PPRD East Programme Phase 2 is implemented in the period 2014 – 2018 year and in its approach is focusing on legal approximation and institutional sustainability by sharing expertise and working knowledge, undertaking situation analysis, assisting in drafting national primarily and secondary legislation etc., all complemented with extensive capacity building.

Welcome note and introduction

The event was officially opened by Mr Sergej Anagnosti, the PPRD East 2 Team Leader, and Mr Ghenadie Barbu, General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES) representative and the PPRD East 2 SC member, with a thank you note for the participants' attendance and cooperation/interest towards implementation of the PPRD East Programme activities. Moreover, Mr Barbu mentioned that the activities carried out, in particular those regarding disaster risk management, were consulted with other responsible institutions, members of which are present at the event. Particular attention was paid to the thematic topics that will be discussed during the event, and he called on the participants to intervene with comments, recommendations and improvements as appropriate. Another important aspect highlighted was the reform of Moldova's Government and the changes that will appear once new focal point/representatives in WGs will be appointed by the new created/reformed Ministries.

General Program Overview

Mr Anagnosti noted that the potential Phase 3 of the PPRD East Programme is at the planning stage, but that GIES, as the key Programme beneficiary in Moldova, is expected to be consulted on the topics that should be addressed. The expected results of the Phase 2 (the Programme finishes in November 2018) are:

- Institutional and legal framework of Partner Countries improved and approximated to the EU acquis and best practice
- The Partner Countries cooperate closely with Participating States of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism
- The Electronic Regional Risk Atlas is further developed and put in practical use by Partner Countries
- The awareness about disasters is improved in the Partner Countries, amongst civil protection professionals, volunteers and within the population in general

Mr Anagnosti also mentioned that among 6 Partner Countries, Moldova is among the two countries with the greatest progress.

Civil Protection Activities

Mr Michael Elmquist, CP Key Expert, addressed three issues in his presentation, namely the civil protection training programme, regional TTX, and the field exercise. He confirmed that the training programme had been successfully concluded with the Advanced Training Course in May 2017. In regard to the Regional TTX, he mentioned that it was the first time a TTX was organized in nine countries simultaneously. The RTTX was carried out as a command post lead-in to the full-scale field exercise taking place half a year later. All participating countries had confirmed the value of such an exercise. Finally, he outlined the comprehensive exercise planning performed in close cooperation between GIES staff and the PPRD East 2 Programme. The full-scale field exercise took place in and around Chisinau at exercise sites excellently prepared by the GIES staff. Meanwhile, the PPRD East 2 team worked on issues relating to procurement and logistics. One of the issues of logistics was the organization of transport for the equipment from Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. In the end, one of the teams had to bring their most important equipment as personal check-in luggage. Some larger pieces of equipment could not be transported this way, but this provided an opportunity to test international co-operation between countries by sharing equipment between teams to be able to work during the exercise.

Among other aspects of the exercise, Mr Elmquist mentioned the involvement of media and the training of students of journalism who wanted to learn how to operate in the exceptional events as well as the vocabulary to be used. Also the real media were also invited to this event and circulated information about the exercise.

Mr Elmquist presented a video produced during the exercise noting that this video was currently awaiting EU approval.

In summary, the exercise had involved 131 rescuers from eight assisting countries, 560 participants from Moldova, and some 90 other persons including observers, VIPs, EUCP Team members, team trainers and PPRD East 2 staff. 22 journalists had been present, and a total of 3111 meals were served at the Base of Operations. The exercise was followed, on 21 September 2017, by a workshop on transfer of knowledge and experience, providing an opportunity for sharing of first impressions and lessons observed.

As regards the future, the formal Lessons Learnt Conference will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, on 7-8 February 2018. In preparation of the Conference, a questionnaire has been distributed to all participating teams and observers.

Mr Ion Ilies, Chief, Seismologic Centre, Institute of Geology and Seismology, questioned to what extent the organization of this exercise was coordinated with the central and local authorities? He regretted that the earthquake simulation was not discussed with the Institute of Seismology, which is an important aspect. Moreover, there was an earthquake of low magnitude on that day and some institutions / persons contacted the Centre and asked for details / information on the earthquake in the exercise.

Mr Elmquist responded that this will be included in the list of lessons observed, which will be discussed at the Prague conference in February 2018.

National team actions within the EU MOLDEX 2017 International Field Exercise

Mr Vitalie Grecu from GIES presented the four locations (Ialoveni, Cojusna, Ghidighici and Durlești) as well as the type of disaster scenario practiced at each location. According to the exercise scenario, at least two international teams were working together at each location during the two days. Mr Grecu presented not

only the locations but also the access areas, the location on the map, the site of the evacuation of the flood victims, as well as the debris area.

An important aspect had been the detailed preparation of the obstacles in the buildings affected by the earthquake to ensure challenging tasks in regard to rope rescue, dog search, search with acoustic means, penetration of concrete walls, search in dark passages underground, and evacuation of injured victims.

Flood Risk Management

The presentation was given by Mr Anagnosti, on behalf of Mr Marco Massabo, FRM Expert. The present status of FRM activities in Moldova was presented, as well as the proposed action plan till the end of 2018:

- Facilitating the implementation of Regulation n.887 on Flood Risk Management for approximation to EUFD;
- Mapping of stakeholders and institutions relevant for FRM: definition of roles and responsibilities for flood risk data and information collection and sharing (PFRA, FHRM);
- Policy brief development for the Regulation on clarification of the institutional framework;
- Preparation of next WG meeting for presenting the Proposal of subdivision of roles and responsibilities for implementation of EUFD.

Mr Anagnosti also mentioned that the National Focal Point from the Ministry of Environment left his position so the Programme is looking forward receiving information on the appointment of a new Focal Point so the implementation of agreed upon FRM activities can be continued. Feedback received from the new Ministry for Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment is that the new Focal Point will be soon appointed, but in the meantime they would appreciate receiving all relevant information and documents regarding implementation of the FRM activities in Moldova.

Disaster Risk Assessment

As CCPES/GIES decided to address DRA through the separate project, PPRD East 2 supported CPES/GIES in the development of the DRA project proposal. It was highlighted that at the minimum DRA project should:

- *Identify the roles and responsibilities in the DRA process:*
 - Developing a multi-sector DRA coordinating body on the national level (WG)
 - Developing governmental-scientific single risk assessment working bodies
 - DRA Capacity development on the national level
- *Develop necessary DRA tools at the national level:*
 - Performing the first assessment for the 10 risks (previously chosen)
 - Smart disaster risk management capacity development (learning about the DRA results and how to use them as basis for future disaster risk reduction)
 - Drafting a lesson learned and DRA system on the local level document
 - Raising public risk awareness

Concerning the financing of the project proposal, it can be sought from different sources including the EU Delegation. In any case this presupposes the existence of an already prepared, elaborated project proposal, which is necessary to be realized as soon as possible, as the deadline for DG ECHO call for proposals for

prevention and preparedness projects is usually in March - April. Having the tight timelines in mind, it is proposed to have the next meeting of DRA WG organised ASAP. Apele Moldovei expressed an interest to participate in the DRA project proposal development and in the DRA WG.

Disaster Loss Data

Rationale of the component is to provide technical assistance to Partner Countries for supporting the legal and institutional development of the DLD system in order to improve disaster loss data accessibility and comparability at national, regional, and European level, in line with the requirements of the Sendai Framework for Action and in consistency with the European JRC "Guidance for recording and sharing disaster damage and loss data – Towards the development of operational indicators to translate the Sendai Framework into action".

The activities undertaken in 2017 are:

- Comparison of the national classifications of emergencies with INSPIRE natural hazard classification
- Identification and comparison of national loss indicators with JRC DLD Guidance (2015) indicators for data sharing with EC
- Identification and comparison of set of national loss indicators with Sendai loss indicators for data sharing at international level

Based on above analyses, and provided recommendations on how to align Moldovan DLD system with EU good practice and Sendai Framework, the indicators are in the process to be adapted by GIES, and the respective regulation is planned to be developed till the end of February/beginning of March 2018.

Host Nation Support

Mr Antonín Petr, Capacity Building Key Expert, presented the activities that were planned within this Activity Area:

- Conduct of one HNS Table-Top exercise in each Partner Country
- Conduct of one TTX involving all Partner Countries simultaneously
- Identification of national focal point for HNS
- Establish HNS Country Team
- Development of HNS relevant legal framework and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for HNS.

Main achievements in 2017 are:

- Regional TTX involving all Partner Countries simultaneously
- Full-scale field exercise EU MOLDEX 2017
- Governmental Decision on HNS No. 408 adopted on 6 June 2017
- HNS SOPs adopted on 13 November 2017.

For the further implementation of the HNS concept in Moldova, it was agreed:

- to update the list of the members of the inter-institutional HNS WG
- to organize national HNS Table Top Exercise early 2018

- to develop a draft Law to streamline border crossing and customs procedures for emergency situations which will also include field exercises

Civil Protection Volunteerism

Mr Petr in his presentation of the planned and achieved activities in this field pointed out that Civil Protection Volunteerism has been assessed in 2015 and a number of recommendations has been provided. One of them was to develop national legal and institutional framework for CPV. This recommendation has been accepted by the NAG as the priority for Moldova. Activities conducted at regional level were the Study tour on CPV in September 2016 and Regional Workshop on CPV in May 2017. At national level, it was nomination of National Focal Point for CPV and creation of inter-institutional WG for CPV. The CPV WG elaborated and made some recommendations on the legal framework improvement - Regulation for CPV, accreditation of institutions operating with volunteers, etc. However, the development of the draft Regulation for CPV Volunteerism was slowed down due to the involvement of the CPESS staff in the preparation of EU MOLDEX 2017, and due to the on-going internal reform. During a meeting of the CPV National Focal Point and PPRD East 2 on 01 November 2017, it was agreed to continue working on the draft of the "Regulation on the organization and functioning of volunteer activities within the Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service". The draft was shared with PPRD East 2 and comments/recommendations were provided by the PPRD East 2 experts. Subsequently, it was agreed to, in parallel with the work on the Regulation, to re-launch work of the inter-agency CPV WG and to organise its meeting in the 1st quarter of 2018, followed by development of the national database of the CPV organizations.

Raising Awareness about Disasters

Mr Petr presented the main activities planned under this Activity Area :

- Regional Workshop on National Communication Strategy (NCS)
- Establishment of national inter-ministerial working groups
- Meetings of the national RAD WGs
- Drafting and development of the NCS
- Finalization of the national NCS, development of the Action Plan for NCS implementation

Regarding the achievements, Mr Petr pointed out that a group of Moldovan students of journalism was provided the opportunity to participate as media role players in EU MOLDEX 2017. For the achievement at the national level, he stressed that the process of drafting the NCS in Moldova has been hampered by the lack of interest and motivation of national DRM stakeholders other than CPESS, by the fact that the CPESS staff was deeply involved in the preparation of EU MOLDEX 2017, and by the on-going internal reform. To support CPESS in drafting the NCS, the Programme developed a specific document – Framework for drafting of the NCS in Moldova.

In the follow up discussion, it was agreed that GIES will provide by 08 December 2017 an action plan for restart of the development and implementation of the NCS.

Electronic Regional Risk Atlas

Past activities implemented under this component were:

- 1st Regional ERRA Workshop

- ERRA Installation Manual developed
- Distribution of ERRA software and Installation Manual
- Installation at the national servers
- 2nd Regional ERRA Workshop

For securing the proper functionality of ERRA in Partner Countries, the ERRA IT expert will be hired by the Programme. This will be done at the beginning of 2018 year, so the following TA will be provided to Moldova:

- In Country Assistance for the installation at GIES of the bug fixed ERRA version.
- Consolidation of the existing DBs from the current version of ERRA into the bug fixed version and migration of other relevant datasets contained in other Geoserver instances.
- Coordination with national initiatives such as the NSDI and the geoportal from the former Ministry of Environment on the relevant data (as detailed in the list of Key risk datasets, yet to be shared)
- Support to include of the local DRA data into the ERRA portal (based on the list of Key risk datasets yet to be shared).

The fact that some information is considered to be security sensitive should be taken into account to define functional and applicable mechanism for the upload of such data, as well as to reach the agreement among Partner Countries what data countries are ready to share and how this mechanism can function without creating any issue on data security, data upload, platform update and similar.

Programme Visibility and Management

The Programme has a website and the Facebook page which are updated constantly. Also, all participants have the possibility to be PPRD East 2 subscribers thus being able receive all the news and info updates. In addition, Programme newsletters leaflets and videos uploaded at the PPRD East 2 website and disseminated via Programme's mailing list.