



EU funded Programme for the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Man-made and Natural Disasters
in the ENPI East Region (PPRD East)



3rd National Advisory Group Meeting, PPRD East Programme

Date: 9 April 2014,

Venue: Ani Plaza Hotel, Yerevan, Armenia

The 3rd NAG meeting in Armenia commenced with welcome speech by Mr. Sergei Azaryan, head of Armenia Rescue Service, MES and the PPRD East Programme Steering Committee member, who outlined the strategic directions of the PPRD East Programme.

Ms Ina Iankulova, the International Aid/Cooperation Officer of the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, spoke next with opening remarks. She mentioned that PPRD East is the first Programme of this kind in the region addressing DRR, and emphasized the importance of policies for sustainable DRR.

After introduction of the participants, Mr. Sergej Anagnosti, the Team Leader of the PPRD East Programme informed that the Programme is closing on September 16, with a Final Conference scheduled for June 13, 2014 in Brussels. He thanked MES of Armenia for cooperation and successful Programme implementation. He also informed that the Phase II of the Programme will likely start by the end of the current year, with allocated budget of 5,5 M Euro. Again, it's a regional project, 4 areas for intervention in the phase II are: 1) harmonization of the national legislation, 2) cooperation with civil protection mechanism and field exercise, 3) ERRA further development and its practical use, 4) raising awareness. Then, he presented overview of the PPRD East Programme achievements to date.

The PPRD East Programme Key Expert Mr. Radovan Hilbert presented the ERRA developed within the framework of the Programme. He explained that there is a common methodology of risk assessment used for all 6 Partner Countries; he also answered the participants' questions.

Mr. Anagnosti reminded that after the Programme completion the owner of the server decides the access level to data, the national database's ownership will be with MES and the Academy of Sciences, and the regional database will be owned by EC.

Mr. Anagnosti continued with presenting the results of the Activity Area B: Civil Protection/Disaster Management Capacity Building/ DRR. National Programme Coordinator Mr. Emishyan asked – when issuing invitation letters, to require the participation of the same people from respective Ministries to the next rounds of the training courses. Then, Mr. Anagnosti explained the objectives of the Host Nation Support Study. He reminded that information on Civil Protection Operational Guidebook is still expected.

Mr. Ara Aslanyan from MES International Department expressed gratitude for the excellent opportunity to participate at the trainings through PPRD East Programme and to obtain understanding on EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

Mr. Avetyan from the Ministry of Agriculture wondered if there is a methodology to financially estimate the consequences of the disasters, as often after disasters caused by natural hazards (such as hail for example) they are asked to estimate the caused damage in monetary terms, which is difficult to do.



Mr. Anagnosti replied that the issue of economic losses due to disasters is not tackled within the PPRD East Programme, yet there is an useful publication by WB regarding costs of damage and transfer of risks to insurance companies or national emergency funds. UNISDR is starting the development of economic losses database of the previous disasters.

Mr. Emishyan mentioned the Government Decree N1582 on assessment of losses of physical and legal entities as a result of emergencies, according to which committees on community, regional and country level should be established, however, there is no a methodology behind it, as each Ministry estimates using its own methodology. The Ministries failed to come to a unified approach for estimating the losses. There are two problems: first, in Armenia insurance system is not streamlined, and any damages have to be compensated by the State. Currently, the National Platform for DRR suggested creating a Working Group to reach the solution on the issue of risk transfer; the interested Ministries are also encouraged to participate in this Working Group.

Mr. Nikolai Grigoryan, Deputy Head of ARS, MES and Armenian HFA Focal Point added that within HFA-2 it is intended to pay more attention to hidden risks, as the reports from previous years did not addressed any of such risks. In order to understand vulnerability, capacities needed to overcome it, and estimate economic losses, it's necessary to look back at 100 years prospective.

Mr. Anagnosti mentioned the report on EU disaster prevention practices that also refers to transferring the risks, insurance and reinsurance recommendable models. Then he continued with presentation of the work done in the area of institutional and legal analysis and on environmental emergency projects. The final recommendations of the legal and institutional analysis are available on the Programme web site.

Mr. Karen Bakoyan from the Ministry of Territorial Administration referred to the recommendation resulted from the legal and institutional analysis – to improve legislation on local self governance bodies. He informed that MTA suggested to National Assembly to amend the Law on community 4-year development program and include the disaster risk management approaches as a requirement.

Mr. Emishyan clarified that the main difference with the EU legislation is that the major disaster risk reduction is a direct responsibility of the local self-governance bodies, while in Armenia their involvement in DRR is merely voluntary.

Mr. Anagnosti added that in the context of cooperation among the different administrative levels it is recommended that the communication flow be revised. Then, he moved forward with presentation of the Tailing Management Facility Project and the requirements for the PPRD East Partner Countries to participate at the respective second training that will take place after completion of PPRD East Programme.

Mr. Emishyan noted that since the first training is planned to take place rather soon - in May, it is preferred to get the invitations as early as possible in order to secure the nomination of participants from the other Ministries as well.



Mr. Tigran Tovmasyan from UNICEF referred to the mentioned document - safety guidelines and practices on tailing facility and requested to get the checklist prepared by PPRD East Key Expert Mr. John Vijgen.

Mr. Emishyan reflected on the question raised by Mr. Tovmasyan, and asked to consider translating the package of guidelines into Russian language..

Mr. Anagnosti encouraged all interested participants to use the opportunity and discuss with the German Environmental Agency possibilities of implementing a similar project in Armenia.

Then, PPRD East Programme Communication Key Expert Mr. Volodymir Kuznietsov presented the Activity Area D – focusing on awareness raising in the sphere of civil protection. He informed participants about the training organized for journalists covering the emergency situations and presented the informational materials developed within the PPRD East Programme, as well as the results of information campaign carried out in Armenia.

Mr. Grigoryan mentioned that the social video has been broadcasted on two TV channels in Armenia at the prime time, which usually attracts quite a large audience. The Family Guide has been adapted to Armenian and disseminated among all the Ministries, international partners, school children; it got positive feedback from the Minister of ES as well.

Mr. Avagyan from the Ministry of Healthcare asked about perspectives of creation of International volunteer organization integrating the volunteer brigades acting in Armenia.

Mr. Anagnosti elaborated on the focus areas of PPRD East Programme Phase II seeking a feedback from the participants on their needs and expectations from the Phase II.

In this regard, Mr. Grigoryan emphasized the importance of building capacities of media for public awareness raising, the second priority he mentioned - creation of resource centers for journalists training, equipped with up-to-date technique and audio-video-printed materials. In addition, it is planned to hold another International Conference in December 2014 seeking to summarize public awareness requirements in the framework of HFA-2: on how to improve news-making in emergency situations, how to raise awareness among population before disasters generally and earthquakes particularly in case of Armenia, and after those. With this regard, he suggested that the Programme contributes to and supports the mentioned important Conference.

Referring to the ERRA, Mr. Emishyan expressed an expectation for receiving the technical assistance from the Programme to ensure operation of GIS, particularly considering provision of a server with upgraded capacity, computers and licensed software. Then he emphasized the importance of “speaking the same language” with the EU professionals and suggested to organize within the Programme Phase II language studies for the local young promising professionals. Third, he suggested to plan a field exercise with participation of all six Partner Countries, involving rescue teams working on the bases of INSARAG methodology. Another suggestion voiced was regarding the next level advanced courses on Civil Protection. With respect to professional preparation of specialists, Mr. Emishyan suggested planning also environmental training courses.



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Mr. Anagnosti clarified that the Programme Phase II implies provision of services and excludes provision of equipment.

Mr. Aslanyan suggested to include in Phase II the International Coordination Course and the High Level Course for a few selected specialists who already received the initial trainings during the first Phase. As the Training Centre of the Crisis Management Academy (located in Lusakert, Armenia) is currently under reconstruction, he suggested that within the framework of Expert Exchange activity, the Phase II supports exchange of experience and best practices between Armenian and UK experts responsible for operation, management and organization of professional trainings at both Training Centers. He mentioned that there is a preliminary agreement on such exchange with the UK Fire Service College. Mr. Emishyan suggested foreseeing various DRR directions within the framework of Expert Exchange.

In the concluding remarks, Mr. Grigoryan expressed gratitude to the PPRD East Team Leader, underlined that PPRD East Programme Phase I already allowed to learn valuable lessons and inspired to work further in a more focused and efficient way, eager to maximally benefit from the next phase.