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FOCUS ON IPA FLOODS

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Editorial

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the third issue of the IPA FLOODS Newsletter, which informs you about programme milestones and achievements, as well as highlights the work that is being performed within the Programme throughout its duration.

IPA FLOODS is moving forward through an increasing number of activities related to both LOT 1 and LOT 2. In this issue you will know more about the first workshop on the development of civil protection modules of the type "Flood Rescue using Boats" that took place on 12-14 October in Bled (Slovenia). The event, which gathered sixteen experts from all the Programme beneficiaries, was successfully organized under the auspices of the Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief of Slovenia and brought up fruitful discussions among all the participants. We received very positive feedback from the event by two professionals we have interviewed in this occasion: find out more at page 2!

Also outlined in this Newsletter is the beginning of the activities related to LOT 2, whose contract with the EC DG ECHO has been signed last July. You will be informed about the set of operational assessment missions for the development of civil protection modules for "High Capacity Pumping" and "Flood Containment" that recently started in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro.*

As usual, you will be updated on the progress of our on-going activities and next events.

Enjoy your reading!

CP Modules' development: 1st Working Group Workshop on "Flood Rescue using Boats"

Between 12th and 14th October the Slovenian town of Bled hosted the first IPA FLOODS workshop focused on the development of Standard Operating Procedures for national teams of the type "Flood Rescue using Boats".

The workshop was organized by the Slovenian Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (URSZR) and conducted with the further support of trainers from the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). The participants of the event included sixteen designated Team Leaders and Deputy Team Leaders of national teams for "Flood Rescue using Boats" in the Western Balkans and Turkey. The programme of the workshop included a general session focused on the presentation of the module's concept and its requirements based on the standards of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, an overview on the EU Guidelines for Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for civil protection modules and a discussion of case studies on relevant existing multinational modules (approach, opportunities, challenges and best practices).

Straight after the workshop we asked **Jernej Hudohmet**, Head of Branch Office Kranj at URSZR and **Erkan Doğanay**, Head of Disaster and Emergency Management Center at the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), to give us a feedback from the event.



Workshop's participants at work during break-out sessions

Mr Doğanay was one of the Turkish participants joining the workshop.

Mr Doğanay, what's your role and professional experience at AFAD?

I have been working since five years at the Response Department as Head of Disaster and Emergency Management Center.

On a first impression, how did you like the workshop? What did inspired you most?

The workshop organized in Bled was great! Especially meeting with foreign colleagues working in the same area was a very important experience. The workshop gave me the

opportunity to understand the structure of the European countries' response methods to floods and, at the same time, I had lots of chances to reflect on all aspects related to flood risk management. This was extremely important for me.

In your opinion, how can Turkey benefit from its participation to IPA FLOODS, in particular in view of its recent membership in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism?

In my opinion, since my country entered the Union Civil Protection Mechanism our tasks and responsibility in this area have been extended and increased. If we are able to improve our capacities in line with the EU standards, we can easily cope with all kind of emergencies, including floods.

During the workshop, did you have time to network and exchange views with the other participants?

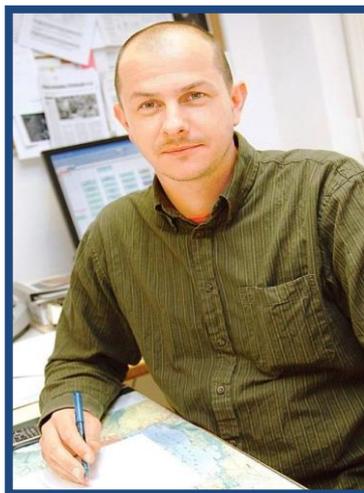
During the workshop I had lots of time to exchange views with our foreign colleagues both trainers and the colleagues from the Western Balkans. Since I am now working in the coordination phase of

disaster and emergency management, it is important for me to participate to these initiatives, where I can have a general overview of the disaster management area by knowing more about other countries' experiences and learning from their best practices.

Looking at the workshop from a different perspective, Mr Hudohmet gave us his opinion as a trainer and expert with a long-lasting experience in disaster management operations within the Slovenian Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief.

Mr Hudohmet, in your opinion and as a professional in civil protection operations, what's the main challenge when establishing national teams and multinational civil protection modules?

At the beginning the main challenge is reaching the agreement on team's and module's composition and tasks. That means deciding on how many people will be part of a team, how many teams will compose a module and what kind of tasks they will be able to perform. Then, the next step is to ensure personal protective equipment for each team and rescuers and provide them with dedicated trainings.



Jernej Hudohmet, Civil Protection Commander of Gorenjska region and Head of Branch Office Kranj at the Slovenian Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief

On the other hand, what's the advantage of getting together professionals from different countries?

Looking from the perspective that floods are common in the region (remember for example the catastrophic floods in 2014), the added value you can get from these workshops is the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience, in order to establish common standards procedures and put all that into practice during joint trainings and exercises. All this by pursuing the goal that teams have to safely and efficiently perform tasks together when mobilized as a module or in the same way, when mobilized as a single national team.

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism was established in 2001 and is regularly including more and more countries which are not yet part of the EU. This is a strong message of cooperation, meaning that pooling civil protection capabilities can ensure greater protection of people and territories. In your opinion, what's the more effective way to promote and increase the exchange of best practices among the IPA countries and their stakeholders?

According to my previous experience, the best way is exactly what is mentioned: working together through workshops, trainings and exercises.



A visit to the fire Brigade in Bled

In this way we can harmonize procedures, look through the advantages and disadvantages of both equipment and rescue practices. And most importantly, working together in real disasters creates a bond among rescuers that lasts forever.

As a trainer, what do you hope participants get out of the workshop experience?

I would like participants from different countries to reach a common understanding of EU Guidelines on Standard Operating Procedures for modules and to be able to develop them for their own teams.

After the workshop, once they go back home, they will

need to get in touch with their respective authorities and prepare those guidelines, according to the differences in legislation and organization among the countries.

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Thanks to Mr Hudohmet and Mr Doğanay, who dedicated some of their time to us, we got a fresh insight of the content and methodologies of the workshop, whose

follow-up part is planned to take place in February next year in Slovenia.

These activities go under LOT 1 that supports the development of multi-national civil protection modules by organizing capacity building workshops enabling national teams to operate at national level and in the context of international assistance interventions

Kicking off LOT 2: Assessment missions started

On 22nd September the Programme kicked off its activities related to LOT 2 with the first **assessment missions** in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Kosovo*. The visits aim at collecting information on the existing capacities and resources for the development of civil protection modules in the beneficiaries. This current set of missions are addressed to the modules' type "**High Capacity Pumping**" and "**Flood Containment**".

The first visit was held in **Skopje** at the **Protection and Rescue Directorate (PRD)** headquarter, where the representatives of the IPA FLOODS Consortium, namely Antonio Barbera (IPA FLOODS Programme Manager), Estelle Batt and Magnus Eriksson (Programme Coordinator and Technical Expert at the MSB in Sweden), Markus Schäfer and Guillermo Griem (Technical Expert and Programme Coordinator at the THW in Germany) met with the



The Programme at the EMA in Pristina

PRD Deputy Director Ekrem Zendeli, National Focal Point Vlatko Jovanovsky and the main Heads of Units of the Protection and Rescue Directorate.

On 23rd September the visit continued at the **Emergency Management Agency of Kosovo (EMA)** in Pristina. The team was welcomed by Mustaf Gashi, Director of the Department of Operation and Miran Demiri, Director of the Firefighting and Rescue Department and National Focal Point, together

with a pool of colleagues from the Agency.

These first visits rose the awareness in the Programme's Consortium on flood risk and mud slides (particularly around the Ohrid Lake in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and on the rivers Vardar and Crna) and contributed to the assessment of local needs in terms of training and equipment.

While the mission to Montenegro was held on 2-3 November, the next visits are scheduled on 10-13 November in Albania and Turkey and on 16-19 November in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia.

These missions, which define the needs of the beneficiaries in view of the next procurement and trainings phase, are organized with the support of the IPA FLOODS Focal Points acting as a liaison with the national authorities of the beneficiaries.

IPA FLOODS Lot 1 call for tender now closed

The administrative procedures related to the **Call for Tender** concerning the **supply of “rescue boats, equipment and personal protective equipment for flood events”** are currently under way. The public tender was launched in August 2015, following an European open procedure, and the deadline for submission of bids expired on 20th October. The committee in charge of the evaluation of bids expects to finalise the contracts with the

winning companies by the end of November.

The tender represents a milestone of the Programme, an important step to the fulfillment of the objectives related to LOT 1: the improvement of flood risk management capacities and the setting up of multinational civil protection modules for “Flood Rescue using Boats” through the provision of adequate flood response equipment.

Approximation to EU Floods Directive at a glance

One of the purposes of IPA FLOODS is also to support the beneficiaries in view of their gradual approximation to the EU Floods Directive, providing them with adequate technical assistance.

Our partner CIMA, the Italian research foundation dealing with disaster risk reduction, along with the Italian Civil Protection Department and the Slovenian Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (URSZR), are responsible for undertaking a series of actions covering:

- Need assessment, gap analysis and survey of existing data and maps on flood risk, guide-lines,

recommendation and good practices;

- Needs-based technical assistance programme based on the recommendations and good practices;
- Risk Information System for Preliminary Risk Assessment in the entire region.



First assessment mission to Serbia

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1st CALL FOR TENDER

The tender was split in 5 lots requesting the supply of:

- 8 Inflatable boats
- 8 Aluminium boats
- Personal Protective Equipment Dry-suit, Under-suit and water boots
- Technical equipment for rescue and support operations to people entrapped during floods events
- Management and logistics equipment for the Multinational Operational teams

A first preliminary analysis of the status of implementation of the EU Floods Directive in the beneficiaries has been completed and shared with the National Focal Points. At this stage the Consortium is now proceeding on drafting the recommendations that will be discussed by the end of the year during the **Flood Directive Advisory Groups (FDAGs)** of each beneficiary, comprised of representatives from institutions, organization, services and agencies dealing with flood risk assessment and management. The occasion will also serve to identify potential area of interest in need of tailored technical assistance.

Visibility Events: IPA FLOODS in the spotlight

IPA FLOODS has been recently invited to several events in order to inform about the progress made so far by the Programme. To this regard, the Italian Civil Protection Department participated to the **31st DPPI SEE Regional Meeting** taking place in Sarajevo on 3-4 November by giving a presentation on the progress of the Programme. Moreover, IPA FLOODS Director Luigi D'Angelo, was invited to the **35th Meeting of the Directors-General for Civil Protection** held in Luxembourg last 24-25 September.

The meeting was an opportunity to inform the National Civil Protection Agencies about the Programme and its main objectives.



Furthermore, the Programme Manager Antonio Barbera was invited to the **International Conference on Post-Flood Recovery Results in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina** held in Sarajevo on 28 September 2015. The gathering of donors saw the

31st DPPI SEE Regional Meeting

results achieved in reconstruction, and in the level and method of implementing the pledged donations. For IPA FLOODS was an opportunity to wide its network and increase awareness of its activities.

Next events and activities



On **19-21 January**, IPA FLOODS will organize a **regional workshop on "Border-crossing protocols and Host Nation Support"** in Budva (Montenegro) with the kind support of the Ministry of Interior, Sector for Emergency

Management of Montenegro. The event is part of the work package related to both LOT 1 and 2 aiming at smoothing the operations for rapid border-crossing in case of severe floods, as well as at familiarizing with the EU Guidelines for HNS.

Concerning the development of civil protection modules on **High Capacity Pumping and Flood Containment**, the Programme is planning to organise a first

working group workshop in Bonn (Germany) by the end of January 2016.

In relation to the activities in view of the approximation to the EU FLOODS Directive, the Consortium is carrying out its second round of meetings and discussions with the **Flood Directive Advisory Groups (FDAGs)**. The meetings will be held between November and December in all the beneficiaries.

Stay tuned to learn more about us!

IPA FLOODS implementation has been assigned to the Consortium established by the Italian Civil Protection Department (**DPC**), as leader, jointly with the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (**URSZR**), the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (**THW**), the National Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of Croatia (**DUZS**), the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agencies (**MSB**), **CIMA** Research Foundation (only for Lot 1) and **Studiare Sviluppo** (Italy).

The goal of IPA FLOODS is to increase **flood risk management** capacities at national, regional and EU levels in the Beneficiaries of **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia** (only for Lot 1), the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia** and **Turkey**. To this purpose, the Programme supports capacity building for **flood preparedness and response** and **approximation to the EU Floods Directive** in the Beneficiaries.

**This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence*

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