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FOCUS ON IPA FLOODS - Issue n°4

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Editorial

Dear Reader,

IPA FLOODS has now reached its first year anniversary. Since its official kick-off taken place on 27 January at the premises of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) and following the completion of the inception phase in June 2015, the Programme has moved forward under its twofold mission of increasing the response preparedness and yet of strengthening the prevention of flood risk in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

Over the last year the Consortium laid the groundwork for the Programme's development and successfully achieved the completion of the first activities of the work-plan endorsed at the first Programme Steering Group meeting on 23 June 2015 in Rome.

From the fact-finding missions in all beneficiaries to the 1st workshop on the development of national teams/multinational civil protection modules for Flood Rescue using Boats (FRB) and up to the launch and conclusion of the open call for tender for the FRB equipment, we have reached our first milestones. Furthermore, we have carried out a baseline analysis on existing arrangements for border-crossing and Host Nation Support (HNS) within the region, organized informal advisory group meetings in all the beneficiaries regarding the approximation to the EU Floods Directive (EUFD) and developed relevant recommendations on areas that might be requiring ad hoc capacity building initiatives. Follow up activities have already taken place at the beginning of 2016, such as the 2nd workshop on the development of national teams/multinational Civil Protection Modules for FRB in Ljubljana (Slovenia), the first workshop on High Capacity Pumping and Flood Containment in Bonn (Germany), the regional workshop on Border-Crossing Protocols and HNS in Budva (Montenegro), the Initial Planning Conference of the IPA FLOODS CRO 2016 regional field-exercise in Zagreb (Croatia), and the regional workshop on the EU Flood Directive (EUFD) back to back with the 2nd Programme Steering Group meeting on 8-9 March in Sarajevo (Bosnia Herzegovina).

Since the beginning of our activities, the Consortium's approach to the Programme was bound to seek a broad consultation with the beneficiaries and its different stakeholders, as well as to ensure the compliance with the EU framework and the implementation of its best practices in the field of flood's prevention. On the other hand, we have paid particular attention to the assessment and integration of existing capacities and resources already present in the region and at local level, having a look at the use of lessons learned, including the ones from recent emergencies and at the cooperation with other relevant initiatives and networks. At the same

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time, the Consortium ensured that the regional dimension of the Programme – although combined with measures tailored as much as possible to the context in each beneficiary – was considered as a priority in all the activities. Thanks to that and to the involvement of the beneficiaries in the Programme inception and development phase, we have progressively built a Programme’s ownership whose signs can be definitely noticed in the proactive attitude of each target group we have liaised with.

Last but not least, the Consortium could not achieve its goals without the dialogue and continuous cooperation among its partners, who have all tried to contribute with their specific skills and competences to the successful implementation of all the initiatives.

We are proud of what we have been able to do together so far and ready for our next endeavours.

*Luigi D’Angelo
IPA FLOODS Director*

Insight on the IPA FLOODS regional workshop on Host Nation Support and Border Crossing Protocols taken place on 19-21 January in Budva

Under the auspices of the National Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of Croatia (NPDR) and with the kind support of the Directorate for Emergency Management of Montenegro, the regional workshop on Host Nation Support and border crossing protocols was held in Budva (Montenegro) from 19 to 21 January 2016. The event highlighted key actions to be taken in relation to emergency planning and management, logistics, transport and legal

issues when requesting or receiving international assistance. Within this operational framework, the workshop was intended to familiarize the participants with the EU procedures and relevant formal arrangements when happens to deploy flood response teams or set-up rapid border-crossing interventions in case of severe floods. The participants, appointed by four different national administration in the beneficiaries: the Civil

Protection, the Border Police, the Customs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, have been actively involved in group work and discussions.

The event was opened by Mirsad Mulic, Director General of the Directorate for Emergency Management of Montenegro and chaired by Luigi D’Angelo, Director of IPA FLOODS and Arabela Vahtaric, Head of International Relations Unit at the NPRD Croatia.



Plenary Room



Photo Group



Break-out sessions



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Successfully organized the first workshop on “High Capacity Pumping” and “Flood Containment” Modules on 26-28 January 2016

From 26 to 28 January the first workshop on the “Development of National Teams and Beneficiary Specific Documentation for High Capacity Pumping (HCP) and Flood Containment (FC)” was successfully organized at the Ringhotel Haus Oberwinter in Remagen (Bonn). The positive outcomes were also highlighted in the evaluation forms submitted at the end of the event in which the attendees reported high level of satisfaction. This workshop has started the discussion on the development of SOPs for FC and HCP national teams that will be followed up and finalised during the next two dedicated workshops. The participants were split in country teams with the purpose of developing country specific documents. In each group the discussions were

encouraged by a trainer and tailored to the specific requirements of each beneficiary. Main organizer of



the event were the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). According to Guillermo Griem, one of the organizer and trainer on behalf of THW, “the event was an opportunity to exchange experience on the one hand and also to bring forward the country specific concepts for their future HCP and FC teams”. He also

reported that: “It was good to see, how much all teams were involved in the discussions and how much commitment they showed. We are very much looking forward to the next workshop in April”. We also received positive feedbacks by David Norlin, trainer and organizer of the event on behalf of MSB, who stressed that: “Designing national flood response capacities during this first workshop is the first step in this process. This result will serve as the base when developing enhanced cross-border cooperation. Furthermore, the enthusiastic involvement of the participants indicate a promising continuation of this project for strengthened cooperation and capacity building”.

2nd workshop on “Flood Rescue using Boats” in Ljubljana on 9-11 February 2016

The second working group of the workshop on “Development of national teams and multinational Civil Protection Modules for Flood Rescue using Boats (FRB)” was held in Ljubljana (Slovenia) from 9 to 11 February 2016 under the leadership of the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection

and Disaster Relief (URSZR). In this second stage, the IPA FLOODS Consortium has outlined a workshop’s programme particularly focussed on the integration of national teams into the multinational civil protection module, encouraging discussions on operational aspects and future module’s

composition. To this purpose, the participants, sixteen national experts from all the beneficiaries, drafted SOPs on FRB that were presented and distributed at the second Steering Group meeting held in Sarajevo on 9 March.



Second Advisory Groups on the approximation to the EU Floods Directive

The visits to the beneficiaries for the development of tailored recommendations on the approximation to the EU Floods Directive continued during the second round of missions organized for the 2nd Advisory Group meetings, an informal group composed of key country representatives and institutions. The missions took place during the month of November in Kosovo*, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania, whereas in December the IPA FLOODS team reached Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Croatia. Turkey will be visited in spring 2016.

The assessment carried out during these missions produced a preliminary flood risk evaluation, a flood hazard and risk mapping, as well as flood risk management plans. Furthermore, the occasion was important to present and discuss a draft version of recommendations for capacity building actions specifically tailored for the beneficiaries, and to introduce draft Guidelines for the implementation of EU Floods Directive and MSs Good Practices.



The 2nd Advisory Group participants in Albania at National Center for Forecast and Monitoring of Natural Risks – IGEWE.

The proposed recommendations were divided in seven areas of work: Legal and Institutional Framework for Flood Risk Management, Units of Management, International River Basins, Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Mapping, Flood Risk Management Plans, Data Sharing and Data Information Systems. Given the whole set of actions, the representatives of each informal Advisory Group had a first opportunity to detect the most relevant and feasible ones to be developed under IPA FLOODS. The actions mainly focused on Preliminary Flood, Risk

Assessment (PFRA) and Data Sharing, with some important exceptions like the request of Albania for operational support in the legal framework, in particular the country requested the IPA FLOODS Programme to be part of the Water National Sector Program coordinated by the Technical Secretariat of the National Water Council, a high-level body responsible for water policy in the country.

Overall, the aim of the work is to have a strategic documentation, carried out through a broad consultation with local representatives, stressing the importance of implementing tailored structural and non-structural actions for each beneficiary in the next future. In this framework, IPA FLOODS activities will be organized through action plans focusing on capacity building initiatives, technical assistance and dissemination events.

IPA FLOODS Call for tender UPDATES – LOT 1 Flood Rescue Using Boats

We can now proudly announce that the winning companies of the call for tender opened in August 2015 and expired last October have been selected. The equipment are being prepared and will be delivered to the beneficiaries by mid-April.

The tender represents a milestone of the Programme, covering the objectives related to LOT 1 on the improvement of flood risk management capacities. The equipment will include: 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, management and logistics equipment for the Multinational Operational teams.

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Next events and activities



As you are reading this issue, the regional workshop on the EU Flood Directive (EUFD) and the 2nd

Programme Steering Group meeting on 8-9 March 2016 in Sarajevo (Bosnia Herzegovina) has just taken place. Next scheduled activities will follow in April: the Training Management level on Flood Rescue using Boats on 4-8 April

2016 in Bled (Slovenia), the 2nd Working Group Meeting on High Capacity Pumping and High Containment on 26-28 April in Split (Croatia) and the Cross-border meeting/table-top exercise on HNS/BC on 10-12 May 2016 in Trieste (Italy).

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.

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