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IPA FLOODS NEWS-ALERT



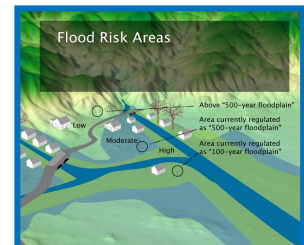
IPA FLOODS official logo

Dear Readers,

This news-alert is aimed to **introduce** the recently launched **Programme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Floods in the Western Balkans and Turkey (IPA FLOODS)** - the Regional initiative funded by the European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) - and **inform** you on **activities** that are being conducted in this **very inception phase**.

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 (**Italy**) and StudiareSviluppo (**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, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo¹, 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.



Flood Risk Areas



High Capacity Pumps

Programme activities are grouped into two closely interrelated lots (Lot 1 and Lot 2) which implementation falls under two separate grant contracts. **Lot 1** officially started implementation on **1st January 2015**. The signing of the grant contract for **Lot 2** is expected to be finalized in the next months.

The implementing Consortium is committed to adopt an approach to Programme implementation based on **beneficiaries' proactive participation** in assessing needs and developing activities and aimed at strengthening regional and cross-border cooperation.

¹ 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

Since the **beginning of February 2015** representatives from the IPA FLOODS implementing Consortium are conducting first visits in the beneficiaries with the aim to provide a presentation of Programme components and approach to implementation and prepare ground for fruitful cooperation with the main stakeholders involved. To this purpose, meetings are taking place with national Disaster Management Authorities, agencies and institutions in charge of water management and/or of implementing measures for effective flood risk prevention, relevant regional initiatives and networks and EU Delegations and Offices to the beneficiaries.

On **10 February 2015** IPA FLOODS representatives visited the Protection and Rescue Directorate and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the former Yugoslav Republic of **Macedonia** in Skopje. On **11 February 2015**, meetings were held with the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies and the Technical Secretariat of the National Water Council of **Albania**.

On **23 February** the IPA FLOODS delegation met with representatives from the Protection and Rescue Sector of the Ministry of Security of **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the Republic Civil Protection Administration of the Republic of Sprska, the Federal Civil Protection Administration of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo.

On **24 February 2015** a meeting was held with representatives from the National Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of **Croatia** and the Croatian Water Authority in Zagreb.



From left to right: Luigi D'Angelo (DPC and IPA FLOODS Programme Director), Shaban Saliu (Director of FYROM PRD) and Branko Dervodel (Deputy Director General of URSZR)

IPA FLOODS visits to Sarajevo and Zagreb were also opportunities to establish cooperation with the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South-Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE) and the International Sava River Basin Commission respectively.

Further meetings are taking place **today 3 March 2015** with the Emergency Management Agency of **Kosovo**² and on **4 March 2015** with the Sector for Emergency Management of **Montenegro**.

In the **forthcoming weeks** IPA FLOODS representatives intend to complete this first round of meetings and will arrange visits to **Serbia** and **Turkey** respectively.

Stay tuned to learn more about us!

Annex:

IPA FLOODS Factsheet (Lot 1 and Lot 2)

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² See above