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Findings and Recommendations

ALBANIA

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Glossary

EUFD	European Union Floods Directive [Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment and management of flood risks]
EUWFD	European Union Water Framework Directive [Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy]
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
APsFR	Areas with Potential Significant Flood Risk
FH&FRM	Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plans



PROTEZIONE CIVILE ADMINISTRATION
Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri
Dipartimento della Protezione Civile



FOR CIVIL PROTECTION
AND DISASTER RELIEF



Swedish Civil
Contingencies
Agency



Studiare Sviluppo



DesInventar	Conceptual and methodological tool for the generation of National Disaster Inventories and the construction of databases of damage, losses and in general the effects of disasters
GIZ	Germany Agency for International Cooperation
IGEWE	Institute of GeoSciences, Energy, Water and Environment in Albania
GDCE-MOI	Ministry of Interior, Directorate General of Civil Emergencies
DEWETRA	IT platform aimed at the prediction, prevention and monitoring of hydro-meteorological and risk of forest fires
FloodCAT	IT platform aimed to run as catalogue on floods

1. Legal and Institutional Framework for Flood Risk Management

The legal and policy framework of Albania for water and flood management has received important modifications in the last years. The Law 111/2012 “Integrated Management of Water Resources” transposes the EU Water Framework Directive into the National regulation. Though the Chapter X of the Law 111/2012 introduces the obligation for the preparation of Flood Risk Management Plans, it does not regulate the systematic assessment of flood risk as a base for the elaboration of FRMP. Very recently, the National Water Council has adopted the Decision n.4 of 17th February 2015 on *Proposal for approval, by the Council of Ministers, of the draft decision for “Contents, Development and Implementation of the National Strategy of Water Resource Management, River Basins Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans”*; the Decisions incorporate the provisions of EUFD, specifically, the *Annex III - procedures and contents for development and implementation of flood risk management plans* regulates the preparation of PFRA and FH&FRM as mandatory information needed for the development of FRMP. The full implementation of EUFD is estimated to be finished by 2020.

Several ministries and national organizations are involved in flood management without a clear distribution of responsibilities and roles: Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Prefectures and Local Government. The Law 11/2012 defines the mandate and responsibilities of the National Water Council (NWC), the technical Secretariat of NWC, the River Basin Councils and the River Basin Agencies. The technical secretariat is the executive body of the National Water Council (NWC). The role of the technical secretariat involves all issues related to water. The NWC is composed

by the line ministers that deal with water issues. The Integrated Policy Management Group (IPMG) established 4 thematic groups which are: water for people, water for food, water for industry and water for environment. Based on that, the technical secretariat is preparing the National Sector Program (NSP) which will address all water issues. One of the issues of the NSP will be related to floods. The group 'water for food' among others would deal with floods and very soon would be responsible for preparation of the National Flood Program. This will happen upon composition and approval of the groups by the end of December 2015; the technical secretariat NWC will coordinate the work of the thematic groups.

Technical Secretariat of National Water Council has considered IPA FLOODS Programme as part of the working group responsible for preparation of the program of floods with regard to prevention, preparedness and response, in order to fulfill the requirements of the National Strategy on Development and Integration (NSDI) and the EU Floods Directive (EUFD). It is recommended to include the provisions of EUFD into the National Flood Program (as part of the National Sector Program) that will be elaborated by the thematic group "Water for Food" of the Integrated Policy Management Group by the end of 2016.

It is further recommended to develop a program of measures (structural and non structural) that specifies the steps necessary for transposition and implementation of the EUFD, the methodologies and the estimation of costs associated for each measures. The "Guidelines for the implementation of EU Floods Directive and MSs Good practices" developed by IPA Floods Programme should be used as a base for the elaboration of the programme of measures.

It is recommended to harmonize the legislation (National Flood Programme) with the provision included into the new draft law on Civil Protection.

It is recommended also to strengthen the institutional capacity to implement the requirements of the EUFD by clarifying roles, functions and responsibilities of National Institutions and River Basin organizations (Councils and Agencies) for each of the steps envisaged by the EUFD, namely Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Mapping, Flood Risk Management Plans.

2. Units of Management

The Unit of Management is established by Decision n. 5, date 22/12/1998 by the National Water Council and by the Water Law Nr. 111/2012. Albania is divided in 6 Units of Management: Drin-Buna River Basin, Mati River Basin, Ishëm-Erzen River Basin, Shkumbini River Basin, Seman River Basin, and

Vjosa River Basin. According to the Law 111/2102 and Decision n. 5, River Basin Councils are responsible for the preparation of Flood Risk Management Plans, however the Councils are not fully operational.

It is recommended to promote the creation of multi-national River Basin Councils in the framework of existing international agreements among neighborhood countries - Greece, Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro- in order to improve flood management in trans-boundary catchments.*

3. International River Basin Authorities

Albania has signed the following agreements for water and flood management with neighborhood countries: "The Convention on the protection and use of international waters and international lake" ratified by Albania in 1994 and by Greece in 1996; " The Agreement for the Permanent Committee of Albanian - Greece, regarding the management of freshwater issues of transboundary basins", April 2003. Albania is also part of the "Memorandum of understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin" signed in Tirana, November 2011 by Ministers of the Water and Environmental Management of Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo* and Montenegro; the agreement aims at improving water resources management at transboundary level. Moreover, in order to improve flood preparedness and response in the Drin river Basin, Albania signed the "Joint Conclusions for the development and deepening of regional cooperation in the field of crisis management between the Republics of Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia", signed in Skopje on 27th May 2011 by the directors of the different institutions.

It is recommended to promote the creation of multi-national River Basin Councils in the framework of existing international agreements among neighborhood countries - Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro - in order to improve flood management in transboundary catchments.*

4. Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment is not developed in Albania, however there are some on-going activities and projects that are relevant for PFRA. Specifically, data on floods and their associated

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

losses are systematically collected by the General Directorate of Civil Emergency of Ministry of Internal Affairs by using the methodology and tools DesInventar¹. Furthermore, in 2012 the flood prone areas have been mapped for the lower part of the Buna and Drini river as part of the *Post-Disaster Comprehensive Flood Risk Assessment & Management Study , Risk Analysis of Flood Hazard & Impact* - supported by the General Directorate of Civil Emergency – Ministry of Internal Affairs and World Bank. These actions represent a starting point for conducting PRA at national level.

It is recommended: to develop common methodologies and techniques for Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment in line with the provision of EUFD and by considering the Good Practices in Member States. The “Guidelines for the implementation of EU Floods Directive and MSs Good practices” developed by IPA Floods Programme should be used as reference for the methodology.

It is recommended to implement a training/capacity building programme dedicated to National institutions and stakeholders for conducting PFRA in the whole country and targeted to the identification of the Areas with Potential Significant Flood Risk in the whole country.

5. Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Mapping

The current state of flood hazard and flood risk mapping is at an early stage in Albania and no substantial activities are present in the country. Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Mapping have been produced on project base for the lower part of Drini and Buna river by three different initiatives: 1) IncREO project “Increasing Resilience through Earth Observation (<http://www.increo-fp7.eu/project-overview/project-structure/flooding-use-case-albania/>), supported by EU–FP7; 2) “Climate Change Adaptation in Western Balkans” programme, implemented by Germany Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ - <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/294.html>); “Drini and Buna risk assessment - A Post-Disaster Comprehensive Flood Risk Assessment & Management Study , Risk Analysis of Flood Hazard & Impact”, March 2012, implemented by the General Directorate of Civil Emergency – Ministry of Internal Affairs with the financial support of World Bank.

It is recommended to develop and adopt a common methodology for Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps, based on the experience gained during the implementation of different completed projects, in compliance with EUFD provision and Member States Good Practices. The “Guidelines for the

¹ www.desinventar.net

implementation of EU Floods Directive and MSs good practices” developed by IPA Floods Programme should be used as reference for the methodology.

It is recommended to implement a training/capacity building program dedicated to national institutions and stakeholders that will have the mandate for conducting Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Assessment in the whole country.

6. Flood Risk Management Plans

Though the elaboration of FRMP is included into Law 11/2012, only few pilot attempts of FRMPs are currently present in Albania and there is not a systematic elaboration of FRMPs for each Unit of Management. FRMPs have been developed for the lower part of the Buna and Drini Rivers in the framework of project “Climate Change Adaptation in Western Balkans - Flood Risk Management Plan for Shkodër Region” 2015 - implemented by Germany Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ GmbH) in collaboration with key National institutions such as: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration, Ministry of Internal Affairs – General Directorate of Civil Emergencies, and local government of Shkodër Region.

It is recommended to develop FRMPs for all Units of Management and to fully integrate them into River Basin Management Plans as required by the EUWFD, EUFD and the Law 11/2012.

It is recommended to establish a mechanism for the effective implementation of the FRMs, including the establishment of the National Early Warning System, the identification of structural and non-structural measures for flood risk reduction and mitigation with particular attention to measures that have transnational dimension. The FRMPs should also contain the provision on emergency management as set by National, territorial and local Emergency Plans.

7. Data Sharing and Data Information Systems

The web-based platform DEWETRA² is operationally used for exchanging real-time data and Information on flood risk by the Institute of Geoscience Energy and Water - Polytechnic University of Tirana (Ministry of Education and Sports) and the General Directorate of Civil Emergency (Ministry of Internal Affairs). Furthermore, the General Directorate of Civil Emergency (Ministry of Internal Affairs) has adopted the system DesInventar for systematically collect and record disaster loss data in Albania. The two systems are a good base for data sharing, however the exchanges of data among other stakeholders need to be facilitated and highly enhanced.

The Technical Secretariat NWC is currently coordinating the development of the Integrated Water Information System as a GIS system in line with the provisions of INSPIRE Directive. This will include, information on water resources and infrastructure, civil emergencies etc.

It is recommended to develop and adopt a data sharing policy framework among national and international institutions, organizations and general stakeholders to access flood risk data and maps. It is also recommended to adopt standards for geospatial data in line with WISE system and INSPIRE Directive.

It is recommended to further develop the current systems in use in order to improve collection, recording and sharing of flood risk information and map for Preliminary Risk Assessment and Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Mapping. The system should allow the recording of historical floods in line with the guidance document of the EUFD. The Flood Risk Information System, developed under IPA Floods, and the Integrated Water Information System should be used as assets for addressing this recommendation.

²<http://dewetrabk.cimafoundation.org/dewetra/>