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FOCUS ON IPA FLOODS - Issue n°7

IPA FLOODS Editorial

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the seventh edition of the IPA FLOODS Newsletter, which informs you about IPA FLOODS milestones and achievements, and highlights the work that is being performed within the Programme throughout its duration.

This issue is dedicated to the outcomes of the Programme 3rd Steering Group Meeting held on 24 January in Skopje. December 2016 marked the closure of the Lot 1, therefore in Skopje the Consortium presented the main achievements within this Lot, including the valuable work conducted in providing assistance to the beneficiaries in their path towards the EU FLOODS Directive approximation.

After the preparatory activities of last year, in the following months the IPA FLOODS Consortium will be fully engaged in implementing the operational phase of Lot 2 - according to a similar structure with Lot 1 - with the objective to train and exercise the capacities of the multinational Civil Protection Modules for "High Capacity Pumping" (HCP) and "Flood Containment" (FC) in line with EU framework and practices. This issue will explain more also on the Annex to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Border-crossing/HNS that were updated by the Consortium on the basis of the lessons learnt from IPA FLOODS - CRO 2016, the HCP-FC trainings foreseen in March and April as well as on the progress of the procurement process for the relevant flood response equipment.

Enjoy your reading!

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Skopje Steering Group marks closure of Lot 1 and prepares the ground for Lot 2

Since the last IPA FLOODS Steering Group Meeting held in Sarajevo on March 2016, the Programme Consortium - in close cooperation with the IPA FLOODS beneficiaries - carried out and successfully completed all the activities planned in the framework of the Programme Lot 1. Moreover, the last 10 months were dedicated also to the preparation of the ground for implementing the operational phase of Lot 2 that will run until January 2018. These were the two main issues at stake in Skopje, hosting city of the last Steering Group Meeting convened under Lot 1 officially ended on last 31st December.



GROUP PHOTO

The event started with the **warm welcome by Shaban Saliu**, Director General of the Macedonian Protection and Rescue Directorate, followed by an enthusiastic speech by **Biljana Zuber**, IPA FLOODS Programme Officer at the EC DG ECHO, who expressed **appreciation for the valuable results reached so far** and underlined the wish of the European Union to provide opportunities for further support towards the sustainability of this kind of cooperation.

The representatives from the Slovenian and Croatian civil protection authorities (**URSZR** and **NPRD**), the main partners in charge of the activities on flood preparedness within Lot 1, **presented** to the audience the **main features and results achieved** within the activities aimed establishing, training and exercising the **multinational Civil Protection Modules for flood response - Flood Rescue using Boats (FRB)**, and facilitating their deployment through **Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs)** along with appropriate arrangements for border-crossing and Host Nation Support. The meeting audience had also the chance for a sneak preview of the **video of IPA FLOODS - CRO 2016**, the Regional Field Exercise organised on last October in the Zagreb County (*video soon available through the web page dedicated to the exercise*).

On the other hand, the experts from **CIMA** Research Foundation (Italy) presented a summary of the implementation process within the programme

component on capacity-building for approximation to the EUFD (see the article "**IPA FLOODS proposes a Regional Roadmap for EU FD approximation in the beneficiaries**"). A round table allowed the **National Focal Points (NFPs)** from the beneficiaries to point out the **main challenges** faced during the work carried out so far; their feedbacks will provide the IPA FLOODS Consortium with a number of inputs to be taken into account during the remaining duration of the Programme.

Besides the **significant work carried out** by the Consortium it's important to recall the efforts done by the beneficiaries in the **elaboration process of the SOPs** along with the necessary **coordination** at the national level in order to establish the national teams FRB that sometimes include personnel from organizations and operational bodies other than the national Civil Protection Authorities (e.g. Police Forces and Fire-fighters).

In Skopje, the Programme Consortium has been glad to collect also very **positive feedbacks: high appreciation** for the excellent quality of the **trainings** and the technical assistance provided as well as for the **professional network** and mutual trust that has been reinforced among all the experts and professionals involved in Programme activities. Moreover, in order to enhance the effects of future actions, beneficiaries committed themselves to **improve their institutional coordination**, to promote towards decision-makers the allocation of appropriate resources on the **prevention** of floods and on additional **training opportunities** aimed to ensure the possible replacement of the specialised personnel of the modules established as well as to **organise more field exercises** to be better prepared to face such kind of disasters in the future.

Among the actions foreseen to further test the functionality and efficiency of their units, **Montenegro** and **Serbia** informed the Consortium that their civil protection authorities are partners of the Consortium



ALBANIAN FRB TEAM ON THE FIELD NOVEMBER 2016

composed by the Italian Civil Protection Department (DPC), the leader, jointly with the Austrian, French and Slovenian Civil Protection Authorities that is organising the **North Eastern Italy Flood Exercise (NEIFLEX)** foreseen at end 2017. In addition to the simulations, some countries had already the opportunity to **deploy their teams in**



real emergencies (e.g. Albanian floods in November 2016).

At the closure of the Meeting, the Programme Consortium and DG ECHO confirmed their availability to provide support and advise upon request by the beneficiaries to enhance the sustainability of the results achieved by IPA FLOODS. In this respect, in particular, DG ECHO will investigate on opportunities to involve

Towards the finalisation of Border-Crossing and Host Nation Support (BC-HNS) Annex to SOPs

IPA FLOODS **work-package on Border-Crossing and Host Nation Support (BC-HNS)** is aimed at **setting out all the necessary arrangements** in the preparedness and response phases to **remove predictable obstacles** to the **rapid and effective delivery** of international **assistance** by the **multinational CPMs** established under Lot 1 and Lot 2 of the Programme. Arrangements deal with the **responsibilities of the Host Nation** and address the issues and requirements while **offering assistance** inside or outside the geographical borders of the countries participating in the CPM as well as when **receiving assistance** in case of disaster.

In the first 24 months of Programme implementation, the Croatian National Protection and Rescue Directorate (**NPRD**), the main partner in charge of supporting the IPA FLOODS beneficiaries in defining these arrangements, coordinated **several preparatory and practical activities** aimed at developing the annex to the SOPs on the **functioning, mobilization and deployment of multi-national Civil Protection Modules**. Initially, beneficiaries were asked to fill a **questionnaire** developed in order to get the clearest possible overview of the BC Procedures and HNS in force and, on the basis of its results, **NPRD** elaborated a **baseline analysis of existing cross-border agreements and HNS concepts** that served as starting point for drafting the BC and HNS Annex to the SOPs.

Establishment of Multinational Civil Protection Modules HCP-FC: the way forward

IPA FLOODS **Lot 2** supports capacity building for flood preparedness and response through the **development** of multinational Civil Protection Modules (**CPMs**) for High Capacity Pumping (**HCP**) and Flood Containment (**FC**) composed of national teams from different Programme beneficiaries **in line with the EU**

the beneficiaries in the trainings and exercises under the **Union Civil Protection Mechanism**.

The presentations delivered, the agenda and list of participants to the 3rd IPA FLOODS Steering Group Meeting are available through

<http://ipafloods.ipacivilprotection.eu/3rd-ipa-floods-steering-group-meeting-skopje-24-january-2017>.

In addition to these on desk activities, the Consortium organised a **Regional Workshop** (January 2015, Montenegro) followed by a **Regional table-top exercise “Crossing borders for a unified response”** (May 2016, Slovenia) gathering experts belonging to the **civil protection authorities, the border police, the customs authorities** and the **Ministries of Foreign Affairs** of the Programme beneficiaries. The **workshop** was aimed at **elaborating the draft version** of the **annex** which was then tested during the subsequent table-top exercise.

The annex, in particular, includes the border-crossing procedures specifically designed to create an effective operational framework for the smooth deployment of multinational CPMs and to define the relevant formal arrangements for the cooperation among the national flood response teams that are part of the multinational CPMs themselves. The functionality of the draft annex was further tested at the occasion of **IPA FLOODS - CRO 2016** Regional Field Exercise.

Taking into account the **lessons learnt** and the **outcomes** of this **Field Exercise** held on last October, **NPRD revised the annex** with the purpose to submit it during a final **Regional Workshop** that is planned for **May 2017**. Target audience of the event will be civil protection experts/emergency management experts at Headquarters level, the Team Leaders and their Deputies belonging to the multinational Civil Protection Modules established under IPA FLOODS Lot 2.

requirements for CPMs. **Analog to IPA FLOODS Lot 1, Lot 2** - whose grant contract has been signed on July 2015 between the Programme Consortium and the EC DG ECHO and will **run until January 2018** - is composed of **multiple activities**: the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (**THW**) and the Swedish Civil



Contingencies Agency (MSB) are the main partners in charge of this Programme component for the development of HCP and FC Modules respectively. In 2016 the Consortium **implemented three working group meetings** aimed to develop the HCP and FC national teams and CPMs concepts and to create the necessary documentation - i.e. handbooks, Standard Operating Procedures ("SOPs"). *Studiare Sviluppo* is taking care of the **procurement** process for the supply of the relevant HCP and FC equipment that will be accomplished in early summer 2017 through the delivery of the materials to all the beneficiaries (*more on this topic is published in this issue*). During the last months, and after having agreed on holding combined HCP/FC activities, **THW and MSB** gathered **national experts** coming from the **beneficiaries** at the **working group (WG) meetings** that dealt with the **country teams** belonging to the modules along with their **technical specifications** (January 2016, Bonn), the **multinational modules** (April 2016, Split) and finally the last one **focusing on the finalisation of the related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** (December 2016, Split). In addition, the city of Podgorica hosted on June 2016 the **Team Management Course** aimed at **preparing the team management** - of the national teams/multinational Civil Protection Modules Team Leaders and their deputies - **for flood response operations** at **national and international level**. It is now time to **move on to the operational trainings** for the benefit of the national team members that will compose these multinational modules. On **March and April 2017** the national teams HCP and FC will be trained at a local THW section in Southern Germany through use of flood response equipment and materials made available by THW and MSB respectively and comparable to the equipment which is being purchased and will be handed over through IPA FLOODS. This training concept was designed by the Consortium also with the aim to **overcome the time constraints and the challenges** within the overall **delivery process** of the materials in the beneficiary and allow conducting the training phase in line with the work-plan. Soon after the actual delivery of the materials **Consortium experts** will **conduct tailored country missions** to assist all the beneficiaries with the new equipment.

IPA FLOODS proposes a Regional Roadmap for EU FD approximation in the beneficiaries

As the last under Lot 1 officially closed on 31st December 2016, the **3rd IPA FLOODS Steering Group Meeting** held in Skopje on 24th January **gathered for the last time the**

Programme appointed National Focal Points in charge of IPA FLOODS component on capacity building for **EU FLOODS Directive** approximation (**EUFD NFP**).

While you are reading this newsletter, the experts from **CIMA Research Foundation**, the Consortium Partner in charge of this component, are collecting the precious feedbacks and comments from their counterparts in the beneficiaries. Indeed during the **parallel session** organised in the afternoon of 24 January, experts coming from National Agencies and Institutions in charge for water management and implementation of flood risk prevention measures in the beneficiaries were asked to **contribute to the elaboration of a road-map for future regional actions** in disaster risk management with focus **on Flood Risk Management** and aspects with multi-beneficiary dimension.

The path leading to this roadmap started officially on Spring 2016 with **country visits** organised in each beneficiary in order to **better understand their real needs** and for allowing Consortium experts to **assess the level of approximation and implementation of the EU FD** in all beneficiaries as well as the **needs and gaps** to be deal with.

In order to understand the valuable work conducted by the Consortium, it is worth mentioning the **five pillars** that have guided the actions during the 24 months of implementation of this IPA FLOODS Programme component: 1) **needs assessment, gap analysis and survey** of existing data and maps on flood risk, 2) **development of guidelines, recommendations and good practices** from the EU Member States and the Programme beneficiaries on EU FD, 3) **tailored technical assistance** upon request by the beneficiaries based on the needs and gaps identified, 4) **development of a "Flood Risk Information System"** for preliminary risk assessment in all the beneficiaries so as to include a web-portal aimed to visualize data and information from different sources and ensure interoperable applications with the existing EU "Water Information System" and other disaster risk-related information systems, and finally 5) the **roadmap** that was drafted and proposed to the Programme stakeholders in Skopje.

This **roadmap** addresses **six aspects**: the **legal and institutional frameworks** for **Flood Risk Management**

(FRM), the **FRM in international river basins**, the **preliminary flood risk assessment**, the **flood hazard and flood risk mapping**, the **FRM planning**, the **data sharing and data information systems** covering this topic.



Having regard to the improvement of the **legal framework in the beneficiaries**, the roadmap suggests to further **raise awareness of national decision makers** on the benefits of the **implementation of an integrated flood risk management approach** based on the EUFD, the benchmark of the whole roadmap. The completion of legal approximation to the EUFD in all beneficiaries and the **harmonisation of national legislation** are considered conditions *sine qua non* for the fulfilment of this important objective.

Concerning the **institutional framework** and related capacity for **FRM**, being the institutional set-up in the beneficiaries generally fragmented, the roadmap proposes the **strengthening of institutional capacities** by **clarifying role and responsibilities** of the institutions coupled with the **improvement of coordination** among the **different authorities** dealing with flood management at **local, regional, national and international** level. Development of institutional capacities is intended also in the sense of strongly **supporting the enhancement of human capacities and expertise** by promoting the **cooperation among universities and research institutions** with the authorities dealing with flood management in order to facilitate the **transfer of knowledge between the scientific community and the operational structures**. This should be obtained also through the **development of specific educational programmes**, international trainings and study tours.

The roadmap mentions several times the **International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)** and the **International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)** as solid references for a better **FRM in international river basins** that are still at early stage in the Western Balkans and Turkey. On the basis of the valuable example offered by the ISRBC, mechanisms of cooperation and the establishment of **multinational River Basin Councils** are considered to be the most relevant fora for **developing common risk management plans** that together with **preliminary flood risk assessment, flood hazard and risk mapping** are mostly embryonic or still in progress in almost all beneficiaries.

[My Dewetra | IPA FLOODS](#) is the Flood Risk Information System developed and provided in kind by CIMA Foundation, and will be **maintained after the end of the project** as a **mean to facilitate the capacity** of

beneficiaries in the **collection and sharing of geospatial information** needed for **Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and Flood Hazard and Risk Mapping**. This platform is **cloud-based** and designed with different modules variously accessible through a policy on profiles: **Geonode** has been introduced as web-based application for uploading data; **Esri Geoportal Server** has to be intended as open source metadata management tool. In addition, two applications designed by CIMA Foundation and the Italian Civil Protection have been thought as the core elements of the system: **Dewetra 2.0** is customized here to be only a surfer of geospatial information implemented according to INSPIRE Data Themes in the access to data via tags and according to EUFD components accessing data with the logic of folders; the second application developed is **FloodCat** that is built under specific reporting schema for EUFD so to populate Flood Catalogues for recording and sharing data on historical floods, their consequences and impacts to human health, economic activity, environment and cultural heritage. Another Achilles' heel in the Region, apart from Croatia, is the **Flood Risk Management Planning including Early Warning Systems**. These could be developed on the basis of the **good practices of EU Member States** collected and analysed by CIMA experts throughout their 24 months of work in the frame of IPA FLOODS Programme.

In addition to all the aspects addressed above, the roadmap recommends as crucial an enhancement of **data sharing and data information systems**, the foremost tools facilitating the strengthening of the institutional and technical capacities of relevant institutions for the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive that together with the EU Floods Directive are the legal references aimed at support flood risk prevention and management in the countries.

The **roadmap is an open document** intended to **provide the European Commission with useful guidelines** for preparing and proposing to **Western Balkans and Turkey new tailored initiatives** aimed at supporting as much as possible these countries in the institutional and regulatory processes necessary to **improve their capacity to deal with the requirements of the EU Floods Directive** and as a consequence to **effectively address flood prevention**.

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Status of the Procurement for Multinational Civil Protection Modules for HCP – FC

On October 2016 **Studiare Sviluppo**, IPA FLOODS Consortium partner in charge, launched the European open tender for the procurement of the equipment for the **Multinational Civil Protection Modules High Capacity Pumping (HCP) and Flood Containment (FC)** and **awarded** supply contracts to the selected providers on **end-January 2017**. At the closure of the open tender, an evaluation committee including designated

Consortium **experts** assessed the relevance and **quality of the offers** against the **technical specifications** defined for this equipment.

Taking into account the **results and lessons learnt** on the procurement for the equipment related to the CPMs of the type *Flood Rescue using Boats* (FRB) established under Lot 1, **Studiare Sviluppo** has **signed the contracts** with the providers on **February 2017** and foresees that **Spring 2017** will be dedicated to the **signatures of the donation agreements** with the beneficiaries while the **delivery on site** of the equipment is planned in **early Summer 2017**.



Upcoming Activities and Events

Operational Trainings High Capacity Pumping (HCP) 26 - 29 March and Flood Containment (FC) 29 March - 1st April 2017 both in Germany

Regional Workshop/TTX on “Border-crossing Protocols and Host Nation Support”, 16 - 18 May 2017 Zagreb (Croatia)

4th IPA FLOODS Steering Group Meeting on June 2017

2nd IPA FLOODS Regional field-exercise, second half of October 2017 (location to be defined)

*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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*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