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PRESS RELEASE

IPA FLOODS: the Regional Field Exercise IPA FLOODS - VARAŽDIN 2017



IPA FLOODS - VARAŽDIN 2017
REGIONAL FIELD EXERCISE LOGO

funding under IPA FLOODS - Lot 2.

The **IPA FLOODS Consortium** is proud to announce that the Regional Field Exercise **IPA FLOODS - VARAŽDIN 2017** will take place in **Varaždin, Croatia, from 9 to 13 October 2017**. The event, organised under the **auspices** of the **National Protection and Rescue Directorate (NPRD)** of **Croatia**, is aimed at **testing** the functionality and interoperability of the **multinational Civil Protection Modules (CPMs)** of the type **High Capacity Pumping (HCP)** and **Flood Containment (FC)** developed with EU-

IPA FLOODS - VARAŽDIN 2017 will involve more than **five hundred participants: national teams HCP and FC** from **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo***, the former **Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey** composing the respective **multinational CPMs**, and **two Civil Protection Modules HCP** from **Germany and Italy respectively**, will bring their expertise into the exercise. In addition, experts trained within the framework of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (**UCPM**) will compose the **European Civil Protection Team (EUCPT)** and Technical Assistance Support Team (**TAST**) that will help the Croatian authorities in the reception and coordination of international assistance; the **Emergency Response and Coordination Centre (ERCC)** will take part of the play and serve as permanent contact point for the **EUCPT, NPRD**, as well as for the Headquarters of the Beneficiaries in the multinational modules.

Ten experts selected by IPA FLOODS Consortium and coming from the Civil Protection Authorities of **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and Turkey** will compose the **exercise evaluation team** that will assess the event and provide with feed-backs and recommendations after the exercise itself.

Moreover, **high level officials** from the Beneficiaries Civil Protection Authorities, **Consortium** members, as well as representatives from **DG ECHO, Participating States to the UCPM, Embassies** based in Zagreb, and from **regional initiatives** as **ISRBC** are welcome take part as observers in the highlight of the event through the **Observers Programme**.

Finally, around 50 professionals coming from the Croatian **firefighters, Police, Non-Governmental Organisations and Medical Services**, together with the **150 role-players**, will join the teams in Varaždin to ensure operational environment as well as implementation of **safety and security rules** during the exercise and to support the realistic implementation of the different scenarios.

IPA FLOODS - VARAŽDIN 2017 will start on **9 October** with a **Table Top Exercise (TTX)** with command post features (**CPX**) aimed at exercising the procedures for request, offer and acceptance of international disaster assistance. On **10 October** the attention will move to selected areas of **Varaždin County** where the participating CPMs will start the **exercise** itself. Set up to look as realistic as possible, the exercise scenario will simulate a major disaster involving severe floods, whose intensity, dimension and impact will force to trigger a request for international assistance through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. On this occasion IPA FLOODS Beneficiaries will also have the opportunity to **use the HCP and FC materials and equipment purchased and donated by the Programme** and to **test** the Standard Operating Procedures (**SOPs**) and the border-crossing and Host Nation Support (**HNS**) **protocols** developed by the Programme. Indeed this field exercise comes after almost 30 months of regular activities among the beneficiaries, whose civil protection staff has been engaged in workshops and trainings with the purpose of improving the coordination capacity of the national teams, their knowledge of border-crossing procedures and the function of the **UCPM** in the context of an international deployment.

For updated information and follow up on IPA FLOODS - VARAŽDIN 2017, visit the event web page

<http://ipafloods.ipacivilprotection.eu/ipa-floods-varazdin-2017>

*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.