

ANNEX 7

of the Commission Implementing Decision on ENPI East Regional Action Programme 2013
Part II

Action Fiche for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made disasters in Eastern Partnership countries (PPRD East II)

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made disasters in Eastern Partnership countries (PPRD East II) CRIS number: ENPI/2013/024761		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 5.5 million Total amount of EU budget: EUR 5.5 million.		
Aid method / Method of implementation	Project Approach Direct centralised management – procurement of services		
DAC-code	74010	Sector	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The Programme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made disasters was defined as the Flagship initiative under the multilateral track of the Eastern Partnership Platform 1 (Democracy, good governance and stability) and consists of two phases. The first project (phase 1 – PPRD East) was launched in 2010 and the second, which is the project described here, will be launched in 2014.

The second phase of the programme will give more emphasis to and further develop the prevention component building on the Risk Assessment Policy/Strategy developed under phase I, while at the same time activities on information and awareness raising (preparedness) will be further developed and activities strengthening the response capacities will continue.

The Flagship initiative aims at contributing to the peace, stability, security and prosperity of the Eastern Partner Countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova¹ and Ukraine) and to protect the environment, the population, the cultural heritage, the resources and the infrastructures of the region by strengthening the countries' resilience, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters. It is doing this by implementing four main activity areas:

¹ hereinafter Moldova.

- Increase the knowledge of risk exposure and available resources for enhanced preparedness and response capacities in the region by continuing the development and implementation of the Electronic Regional Risk Atlas.
- Bring partner countries closer to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism² and improve their capacities to effectively collaborate with the Participating States of the Mechanism.
- Enhance partner countries' legislative, administrative and operational civil protection capacities in the field of prevention, preparedness and response.
- Improve information, awareness and participation of stakeholders regarding disaster prevention, preparedness and response.

2.2. Context

2.2.1. Regional context

2.2.1.1. Economic and social situation and poverty analysis

The targeted countries are classified as countries with low-middle-income (Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) and upper-middle- income (Azerbaijan, Belarus) by the OECD/DAC List of ODA Recipients. One of the key findings of the United Nations 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction³ is that in the low and the low-middle income countries with rapid economic growth “the exposure of people and assets to natural hazards is growing at a faster rate than risk-reducing capacities are being strengthened, leading to increasing disaster risk”. The same report identifies that “the land-locked developing countries (LLDCs), have the highest economic vulnerability to natural hazards”, as is the case of Moldova and Armenia. The second edition of the report published in 2011 reports that “economic loss risk continues to increase across all regions – and seriously threatens the economies of low-income countries” and “the risk of being killed by a flood is lower today than it was 20 years ago, except for those who live in a country with low GDP and weak governance”

The targeted region is characterised by a highly complex disaster profile. Due to their large geographical coverage the targeted countries can be characterised by a variation of exposure to natural and man-made disaster risks, ranging from earthquakes, floods, landslides, to risks of nuclear, biological, chemical and industrial origin. The most common disasters of the region are:

² The Community Civil Protection Mechanism (the Mechanism) was established in 2001 to facilitate the mobilization of support and assistance from Member States in the event of major emergencies. Throughout the years it has developed into comprehensive cooperation framework in the field of disaster prevention, preparedness and response of its 32 Participating states (28 Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Norway) and the European Commission. Among the key activities under the Mechanism are preparedness and prevention actions such as training, exchanges of experts, exercises, exchanges of best practices, risk assessment and developing EU minimum standards for disaster prevention, etc.

³ <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/report/index.php?id=1130>

Floods: Recurrent flooding and water management problems are often associated with other threats such as landslides and erosion. Flooding occurs in varying degrees of severity in all countries.

Landslides, as a type of natural disaster, is one of the most acute problems in the Caucasus region. It is estimated that 70% of landslide spots are occupied by rural populations. During last 40 years, dozens of villages have been abandoned due to landslides.

The impact of droughts and/or extreme summer temperature becomes more and more destructive. Their frequency clearly indicates real climate changes happening in the region for the past one to two decades.

Forest and ground fires in peat lands have become much more common in the past years in the EaP countries. These fires are often linked with the occurrence of periodic drought but are more closely linked to the ground to forestry or agricultural clearance or drainage activities.

Obsolete pesticides (OPs) are a significant environmental and health concern, stemming from overuse and mismanagement of pesticides during the Soviet era, now either deregistered locally or banned internationally or unusable because of long-term storage leading to degradation. Most of these chemicals have not been safely eliminated, but are instead kept in burial sites, illegal dumps and warehouses. Local populations use and trade these substances and contaminated construction materials from the sites.

Structure fires: The number of structure fires per population very much differs from country to country. But in general, the whole region is characterised by high life and property loss rates from structure fires. Due to climate conditions Belarus and Ukraine face some specific problems linked to winter fires. Winter months put extraordinary strains on fire-fighter abilities - more hazardous getting to the fire, frozen water supplies, increased risk of injury and dehydration. Providing shelter, food and clothes for victims is more complicated in comparison with summer seasons.

Industrial, road accidents and hazardous material incidents: These incidents occur frequently and have significant potential for causing major loss of life and destruction of property. The life loss rates from road accidents are very high in the region.

Seismic activity: Geological zones characterized by large seismic event with historical evidence of major earthquake activity in Moldova and the South Caucasus countries.

In the field of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risk assessment the approaches widely used by the partner countries are largely inherited from the Soviet era and are based on the concept of "maximum allowed concentration". It is important to translate the current risk calculation methods into the risk function calculation based on the "hazard index" calculation, which allows a better forecast of

possible damages and losses and better contingency and response planning respectively.

Nuclear power incidents or accidents: There is a relatively dense nuclear power plants network operating within or immediately adjacent to the region. Belarus and Ukraine still deal with the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe. Within the framework of this programme this sub-theme will not be dealt with, however, synergies with other existing and upcoming relevant European Union (and other donors) programmes should be established.

However, being embedded in a broader socio-economic context and, meanwhile, being dependent on that context, the capacity of the national authorities in every single Partner Country to effectively meet disasters vary significantly.

Moreover, adaptation to climate change should not be performed in isolation. Adaptation action is closely related but is not implemented in synergy and full coordination with disaster risk management policies.

2.2.1.2. *Regional development policy*

The Eastern Partnership

The Eastern Partnership (EaP), launched in 2009 with its main goal to create conditions to accelerate political association and further economic integration between the EU and partner countries, is guiding this action. This translates among other things under platform 1 (Democracy, good governance and stability), into significant strengthening of EU policy with regard to the partner countries and promotion of stability and multilateral confidence building. Partner countries should also be brought closer to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

Eastern Partnership Flagship Initiatives

The multilateral track of the EaP advances through a number of Flagship initiatives. These initiatives aim at giving additional momentum, concrete substance and more visibility to the EaP. They also seek to mobilise multi-donor support, funding from different IFIs and investment from the private sector. For the moment, the following Flagship initiatives are on-going:

1. Integrated Border Management Programme
2. Small and Medium-size enterprise (SME) Facility
3. Regional energy markets and energy efficiency
4. Prevention of, preparedness for, and response to natural and man-made disasters (PPRD)
5. Good environmental governance

In general one can say that nearly all of these initiatives can have direct or indirect links or impacts to civil protection/disaster preparedness and management issues.

The Flagship initiative on civil protection was launched on 9 December 2009 in Gothenburg and was planned to be implemented in two phases. The present project is the second phase.

2.2.2. National Policy and Institutional & Regulatory Frameworks

2.2.2.1. Civil Protection/Disaster Preparedness and Management Frameworks

The civil protection/disaster preparedness and management system in all of the targeted countries is relatively young. Only after the collapse of the Soviet Union the focus was shifted from civil defence towards civil protection, from highly militarized defence measures towards civilian disaster management activities.

Other similarities among the national legislative frameworks of the targeted countries caused not only by the common Soviet legacy but also by the recent processes at the global level include the commitments towards Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and other international reference frameworks agreed upon by the targeted countries.

2.2.2.2. National Disaster Preparedness and Management Policy, Plans, and Procedures

All countries recognize that disaster prevention and emergency response must be a priority function of the governments. It is however not a guarantee that the expression of political commitment to disaster risk reduction necessarily results in its implementation. In many cases lack of financial, human or technical resources and inadequate capacities have been cited as the most pressing obstacles. Being embedded in quite a diverse socio-economic context, the systems of civil protection/disaster preparedness in the targeted countries vary in their capacity to effectively and efficiently deal with natural and man-made disasters.

Although there are disaster/emergency management plans in most of these countries, they do not in many cases appear to be comprehensive enough. The roles of individual organisations can be better defined and an adequate framework for cooperation and coordination among various organizations and institutions within the country is still needed. A common problem for all countries covers relations and coordination of emergency response activities between national, regional (if they exist) and local authorities.

Most of the countries have established cooperation agreements with their neighbours regarding mutual assistance in case of major disasters but often a system of requesting and receiving of international assistance is not developed and fixed in the legislation, which is likely to impair the practical implementation of the pledged disaster response support.

The operation plans in the region and the accompanying management structures tend to be highly centralized and difficult to implement in actual practice. Some details of the plans are not accessible even for the involved parties because of the existing secrecy requirements.

2.2.2.3. National Civil Protection Authorities

In Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus there are assigned ministries on emergency situations called upon to provide the entire spectrum of disaster preparedness activities. In Moldova and Georgia the corresponding responsibilities are assigned under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of Interior Affairs while in Ukraine the newly established State Service of Emergency Situations rules under the Ministry of Defence. The national authorities dealing with the civil protection/disaster preparedness sector in all countries can be characterized by their hierarchical structure and vertical command line.

Azerbaijan has a strong Ministry for civil protection and disaster preparedness with a very wide range of power and responsibilities confirmed by the large financial support from the state budget.

The capacities of the national authorities in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine can be placed almost at the same level, which can be characterized as advanced yet unevenly distributed at national, regional, and local levels. Generally limited resources create deficiencies of emergency assets for daily operations.

2.2.2.4. Professional Training, Education and Exercises

The capacities of the national civil protection authorities to conduct professional training, education and exercises for the responders vary significantly throughout the countries. Ukraine and Belarus have established well-developed education/training systems in the field of civil protection/disaster management. These systems include training and education institutions of different levels that provide from two weeks on-the-job basic training up to bachelor and master programmes. Besides specialized training and education offered by the institutions belonging to the civil protection/disaster preparedness agencies, ordinary education institutions train experts in some related domains as well (for instance, safety engineers, geologists, etc.).

It is a common practice to train students from the EaP countries at the institutions of Ukraine and Belarus. As a rule, expenses are covered by the assigning country, yet in some cases the host country may provide some financial support as well.

Azerbaijan is developing its own training capabilities in the National Civil Protection Academy. In Armenia, the training system is being set up, while in Georgia and Moldova training capabilities need further development and support.

International full scale exercises are relatively frequent in the region, it is however difficult to recognize them as regular. As a rule, such exercises are conducted with the support of international organizations (like NATO or UN) or within various international programmes/activities. Bilateral exercises are more common and conducted within the framework of intergovernmental agreements, for instance, the agreements signed within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

2.2.2.5. Scientific and Methodological Approaches

In all of the targeted countries there is an obvious lack of a systematic approach to consolidate efforts of the scientific community and particularly of various research

and academic institutions dealing with the large scope of risk and hazard assessment and analyses in the region. In this regard, the expertise in the system is highly scattered and, therefore, special measures are required to identify and to systematize that expertise on the basis of a “multi-hazard” approach. However, it must be mentioned that the targeted countries have significant human resources with scientific, technical and practical knowledge of key aspects of disaster management.

2.2.2.6. Monitoring, Information and Warning Systems

In none of the targeted countries there is an effective system of early warning to allow people exposed to hazards to take appropriate actions to avoid or reduce their risk and prepare an effective response. An effective early-warning system should include mapping of hazards, monitoring and forecasting of impending events and disseminating warnings to the authorities and the public. There are national research institutions that are involved in risk assessment and analysis with regard to various hazards, yet, their technical and technological capacities are highly outdated and require significant investments.

2.2.2.7. Disaster Awareness and Public Information

The experience and the capacities of the targeted countries to organize and implement public awareness/education campaigns vary significantly throughout the region. In most of the cases traditional tools are being used, such as posters, newspapers, children’s books, and TV and radio programmes. More technologically advanced methods with the use of Internet are not sufficiently explored yet. In Ukraine the public awareness/education activities are organized mainly under the auspices of the government. In the rest of the targeted countries the international donor organizations, particularly, Red Cross/Red Crescent organizations play a significant role in this regard. In Armenia and Georgia elements of disaster preparedness and life skills are included in the secondary school curriculum. In most countries the general public is getting involved in the simulation drills and exercises, for instance in Ukraine, Armenia, and Belarus. However, all these attempts can hardly be classified as a well-developed strategy with a developed set of indicators measuring both success and failure of the public awareness/education campaign.

2.2.3. Sector context: policies and challenges

2.2.3.1. Regional Coordination and Collaboration.

Due to the cross-boundary character of many natural hazards and cross-sectoral linkages required for the effective disaster management, the regional coordination and collaboration in this field should entail institutional coordination and collaboration between neighbouring countries, i.e. between hydrological and meteorological services, civil protection authorities, fire brigades, representatives of health and education sectors, the private sector, etc. Yet, in some cases despite the fact that the neighbouring countries have similar risk and vulnerability profiles and geographic proximity there are not necessarily established contacts or any sort of cooperation between them.

The situation is much more advanced with regard to environment related activities, which can be explained by the interests and involvement of donors in the field. There

are several cross border initiatives in the region mainly in the environmental field or those related to trans-boundary water cooperation in the region.

There are already established relationships among targeted countries on the level of bilateral agreements as well as on a more operational level, for instance between Ukraine-Moldova and Ukraine-Belarus.

Furthermore, Ukraine (Ministry of Ukraine of Emergencies and Affairs of Popular Protection from the Consequences of Chernobyl Catastrophe) and the Ministry of Emergency situations of Moldova have already concluded an Administrative Arrangement with the Commission (EC's Monitoring and Information Centre-MIC).

2.2.3.2. Hyogo Framework for Action

All countries have signed the Hyogo Framework Agreement (HFA) but only Armenia has established a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which is a requirement of the HFA.

2.2.3.3. Role of the Private Sector

The involvement of the private sector in civil protection/disaster preparedness is virtually non-existent in the partner countries.

2.2.3.4. Role of Civil Society

The field of civil protection/disaster preparedness is an emerging terrain for the international and local civil society organizations to apply their expertise. Traditionally, among the nongovernmental organizations present in the field of civil protection/disaster preparedness are the Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies, yet in the targeted countries they are mainly involved in disaster response activities and, to a certain degree, in preparedness (first aid, public awareness, and voluntary response forces).

Professional and public associations of fire-fighters and rescuers, including youth organizations (for instance, Belarusian Youth Organization of Rescuers-firemen) have relatively recently established in the targeted countries. Some of them have legally defined status of public (non-governmental) organization, others do not have. Both categories of organizations depend strongly on support of relevant national civil protection/disaster preparedness and management authorities.

2.3. Lessons learnt

The first phase of the PPRD East programme was launched in December 2010 and will finish in June 2014. The expected results and the main outcomes under the programme are 1) the review of the Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks, 2) the development of an Electronic Regional Risk Atlas (ERRA), 3) civil protection capacity building programme, 4) a prevention aimed Regional Communication Strategy with its Action Plan for 2012-2014, 5) development of a Risk Assessment policy/strategy and related training activities such on e.g the SevesoII directive.

Communication exercises with partner countries have been organised by European Commission on how to collaborate with EUs Civil Protection Mechanism. PPRD EaP II will build directly on the results achieved during the first phase of the

programme. As an example the Risk Assessment Strategy will together with the ERRA form the basis for further development of regional and national planning. Capacity development activities will be organised in collaboration with the European Commission.

Achievements: the work with the development of the Electronic Regional Risk Atlas (ERRA) is on-going. The design of the ERRA system is near its completion and the first prototype of the ERRA skeleton is in operation. Other significant results include the finalisation of the Regional Risk Assessment Policy/Strategy and the Regional Information & Communications Strategy.

In a monitoring exercise of the phase I project carried out in December 2012 all countries expressed that the development of regional cooperation, strengthening disaster management capacities and establish effective cooperation between the EU and partner countries are in line with the national needs. National Advisory Groups organised to guide the on-going PPRD East project have met in Georgia and Ukraine this year. They have both emphasised the importance of the project in relation to safety and secure development; protection of the environmental resources, infrastructure, population and cultural legacies; empowerment of the civil protection and natural and technogenic disaster management capacities and the approximation to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

2.4. Complementary actions

A number of EU-funded projects that are relevant to the disaster prevention and preparedness are currently being implemented in the EaP countries through the ENPI and the DCI. Among them it is worth mentioning the following regional projects, which address key environmental governance issues: Air Quality Governance in the ENPI-East Countries; Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS); Waste Governance in the ENPI-East countries; Obsolete Pesticides and other Hazardous Chemicals in the former Soviet Union. The DIPECHO programme (Disaster Preparedness ECHO) working with the Caucasus region and Central Asia helping people at risk from natural disasters is managed by Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of the European Commission. DIPECHO funded actions include disaster risk reduction in education, work with remote and vulnerable communities to develop early warning systems and community based planning to prepare for potential hazards and disasters, community level training and the strengthening of legislative frameworks that foster Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation (BST) promotes regional cooperation and good governance in the Wider Black Sea region.

The two-year project on Improving the safety of Tailings Management Facilities will be soon implemented in Ukraine funded by the German Federal Environment Agency Umweltbundesamt (UBA). The project will carry out a fundamental analysis of the legal framework with respect to tailings management facilities and introduce Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for Oil Terminals. The PPRD East I project has been invited by UBA to participate in training activities and will continuously be invited also in the second phase of the programme.

CRISHOPE⁴ has been working in the Greater Black Sea Area (GBSA) on early recovery and consequence management in the aftermath of disasters. NATO is also active in the region in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction. ENVSEC (the Environment & Security Initiative; a partnership of OSCE, UNDP, UNEP, UNECE, NATO and REC⁵) is implementing a project financed by the European Union Instrument for Stability.

The PPRD East I project is collaborating with the twinning project "Twinning on Support to the Emergency Management Department in development of emergency services in Georgia". Activities include Risk mapping, improved legislation and strengthened prevention activities and close coordination is necessary.

2.5. Donor coordination

The programme is developed in coherence with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation agreed in Busan 2011, the Agenda for Change and the EU Code of Conduct.

National ownership is strong: the programme is designed to support national policy and regulatory frameworks and the Partner Countries will take an active role in the implementation of this program through the National Advisory Groups. They will be represented in the Steering Committee, in the program management team (as National Coordinators) and every effort will be made in order to ensure that partner countries take on a leading role. Belarus and Ukraine have well-developed education/training systems in the field of civil protection/disaster management. These systems should be employed/involved in the training activities under this programme.

The programme has been designed in accordance with the principles of effective aid delivery. The partner countries are already involved in the first phase of the programme and have been given first-hand information at the Second Steering Committee which took place in February 2013. They have been consulted on the phase I monitoring reports. They will be invited to comment on the terms of references for phase II and they will be involved in the review and evaluation of the programmes' results after it is completed. The programme will be presented at the meetings with Platform 1 under the EaP in May and November 2013.

Some of these countries (such as Ukraine, and Moldova) have recently signed Administration Agreements with the EU in order to facilitate mutual assistance in case of emergencies, cooperate on disasters' assessment and strengthening cooperation on civil protection capacities. With Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia a chapter on civil protection has been negotiated in the Association Agreements with the European Union.

⁴ Early Recovery and Consequence Management in the Aftermath of Natural and Man-Made Disasters in the Greater Black Sea Area

⁵ Regional Environmental Centre

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective is to contribute to the peace, stability, security and prosperity of the Eastern partner countries and to protect the environment, the population, the cultural heritage, the resources and the infrastructures of the region by strengthening the countries' resilience, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters in the Eastern Partnership countries.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- 1) Strengthening of the partner countries' civil protection capacities for disaster prevention, preparedness and response
- 2) Strengthening regional cooperation and bringing the partner countries progressively closer to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism

3.2. Expected results and main activities

Expected results:

- a) The Electronic Regional Risk Atlas is further developed and put in practical use by countries;
- b) Improved knowledge base on disaster risks and economic and social losses by enhancing regional cooperation on data accessibility and comparability;
- c) Extension of the European monitoring tools and early warning systems (e.g. EFAS/European Flood Alert System) to the partner countries;
- d) Development of regional and national action plans implementing Risk Assessment Policies/Strategies;
- e) Improvement of countries' institutional or legislative framework based on the recommendations made in the PPRD East Phase I;
- f) Partner countries have initiated preparations for approximation towards the EU *acquis* and best practices related to disaster management (e.g. EU Floods Directive, Seveso-industrial accidents, EU Civil Protection policies);
- g) Partner countries and Participating States of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism cooperate more closely through exchange of expertise and best practices, study visits, joint exercises, etc;
- h) Improved information, awareness and participation of stakeholders regarding disaster prevention, preparedness and response;
- i) Improved implementation of the requirements of the Hyogo Framework for Action Agreement and post 2015 Hyogo Framework;
- j) Incorporation of climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) into national public investment and development planning system as outlined

in the European Commission Communication on an EU strategy on adaptation to climate change adopted in April 2013 and the EU disaster management policies.

Main activities to be implemented:

- further development of the Electronic Regional Risk Atlas – the coverage is improved geographically and qualitatively, and extended to risks not covered in the first version; further training for ERRA users to be delivered;
- further development and implementation of the Risk Assessment Strategy at regional and national level;
- organise trainings, workshops, study visits and expert exchange programs tailor-made for the different types of stakeholders involved in disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response on a variety of topics;
- training on EFAS/European Flood Alert System (in collaboration with EUs Joint Research Centres – JRC);
- organise technical assistance missions on the basis of specific demands by the partner countries' authorities;
- continued work with the contact points in the various national operational centres in order to further strengthening the network of national correspondents and operational 24/7 contact points for sharing early warning information;
- organise table-top exercises and a full-scale field exercise with all countries involved in line with the exercises taking place within the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism;
- further development and implementation of the communication strategy; organize information and awareness-raising activities for targeted stakeholders and the general population;
- review of existing national budgeting and public spending and of current mechanisms to include DRR in public investment.

These activities will be implemented using a multi-disciplinary approach and will focus on a number of different topics (for example, building codes and legislation, urban and land planning, early warning systems, host nation support, reinforcement of critical infrastructure, definition of safe areas, recovery strategies, emergency planning, developing a lessons-learned approach to risk management, etc) relating to disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response, and to a number of different risks (as relevant to the area).

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The political situation in the region, specifically in the South Caucasus and in Ukraine, may hamper the successful implementation of the project. Furthermore, experience from phase I shows that cooperation on risk assessment and mapping is sometimes delicate when it comes to sharing of what is regarded as sensitive

information. The program will only be successful if it succeeds in building up a climate of cooperation and transparent data sharing. However, as political commitment under the Eastern Partnership is relatively strong, there is reasonable assurance that cooperation will continue to be quite effective.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

Good governance and human rights: Several civil society actors are involved in the field of disaster prevention and response. These actors will be closely associated in the program and encouraged to work in a participative and transparent manner, and to take into account the special needs of most vulnerable groups of people (women, children, disabled, elderly, destitute, or vulnerable because of their work/geographical location, etc.).

Gender equality: Women have a key role to play in the disaster prevention and response. Efforts will be made to promote strong women's participation in the programme.

Environmental sustainability: The impact of disasters on the natural environment is evident. Therefore, environmental sustainability is considered to be a main objective rather than a cross-cutting issue. Strategic Environmental Assessments will be conducted as necessary.

3.5. Stakeholders

National civil protection authorities are main stakeholders since they play a key role in disaster response. Ministries of Environment will also be closely involved in project implementation especially in actions addressing the prevention of natural disasters. Ministries responsible for the development of infrastructure and land planning could also be involved in various activities when appropriate. Civil Society Organisations (local and international NGOs, EaP Civil Society Forum, volunteer groups, community-based organisations, the private sector, trade unions etc), international and donor organisations (the UN specialized agencies, NATO, the World Bank, etc.), as well as key local and national actors (such as municipal authorities and relevant Ministries) also play vital roles in the field of disaster prevention, preparation, and response. These stakeholders will also be targeted by the programme. Finally, the local population is the ultimate beneficiary of the programme and the importance of community awareness and community involvement in preparation and mitigation activities is inestimable. Vulnerable population groups will be targeted more specifically. In this context, synergies and linkages with actions undertaken in the context of the DIPECHO programme should be explored.

The Participating States of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and General Directorate for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of the European Commission (ECHO) are also essential actors for their expertise in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery know-how.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2. and 4.3. will be carried out, is 48 months, subject to modifications to be agreed by the responsible authorising officer in the relevant agreements.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

The action will be implemented through a service contract under direct centralised management.

Subject	Type	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Technical assistance	Services	1	4/2013

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement in direct centralised and decentralised management

Subject to the following, the geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement procedures and in terms of origin of supplies and materials purchased as established in the basic act shall apply.

The responsible authorising officer may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article ENPI 21(7) on the basis of the unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, for reasons of extreme urgency, or if the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult

4.5. Indicative budget

Module	Amount in EUR
Procurement (direct centralised)	5,500,000
Total	5,500,000

4.6. Performance monitoring

Objectively verifiable indicators (qualitative and quantitative) will be part of the methodology included in the technical proposal submitted for the programme.

Besides the regular follow up by the EU Delegations and Headquarters, monitoring missions (contracted by the European Commission) will ensure the external follow-up.

4.7. Evaluation and audit

Mid-term and final evaluations of the results achieved may be entrusted to independent consultants, as well as external audits (which may be carried out if necessary).

Evaluations and audits will be funded from other sources than the project budget.

4.8. Communication and visibility

Special attention will be given to communication and visibility aspects.

The specific Communication and Awareness Raising Strategy developed under phase I will be part of the project in order to ensure the visibility of the programme and to raise awareness of programme objectives and rationale. The EuropeAid's ENPI Newsletter will also be used regularly and press releases will be prepared when appropriate.

Visibility and communication actions in the partner countries will also be carried out in collaboration with the Delegations, in line with the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions. Typical activities would include production of TV and video programmes for national television, brochures, news-letters, the already existing web-site (<http://www.euroeastcp.eu/en/>) and the presentation on Facebook.