



Republic of Macedonia
PROTECTION AND RESCUE DIRECTORATE



Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative

Minutes of the XVIII DPPI SEE REGIONAL MEETING Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo 6-7 April 2009

The meeting was co-organized and hosted by the DPPI SEE Secretariat and CiO.

Twelve countries from SEE region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Hungary, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia Turkey and Greece), partner countries (Sweden and Denmark) and partners from international organizations/institutions (European Commission-EC, Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat - RCC, United Nations-UN OCHA, UN/ISDR/CADRI participated at the meeting (for more details, please see the List of Participants).

Mr. Shaban Saliu, Director of the Protection and Rescue Directorate of Macedonia and DPPI SEE Chair in Office, opened the XVIII DPPI SEE Regional Meeting and welcomed the participants. He asked Mr. Tarik Sadović, Minister Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina to take floor and welcome speech.

Mr. Sadović welcomed the participants and invited them for a one minute silence in memory of the Italian earthquake victims. After that he also emphasized that natural disasters and catastrophes do not recognize borders and could lead to disrupting the functioning of not only the disaster affected country, than its wider neighborhood, as well. Due to fact that, development is a processes and progress, and stabilization of the region by strong relationship between DPPI SEE countries are essential, and especially after the conclusion of DPPI by its transformation to the regional ownership, are extremely important steps of DPPI SEE for further joint work around the issue of protection and rescue as well as the struggle against natural and human made disasters.

Mr. Orhan Topcu, Head of DPPI SEE Secretariat also welcomed the participants and expressed the importance of Disaster Risk reduction Issues for the Millennium goals and for a sustainable development in the region as well. Than he announced that Serbia finished internal procedures and will sign the MoU on this meeting just prior to the beginning of agenda items than he invited Ms. Vildana Bijedić, DPPI SEE Administrative/Finance Assistant to pass the Annex III to MoU, Signatory Page, for Mr. Babić, Deputy Head of Protection and Rescue Sector of the Ministry of Interior and he signed the MoU on behalf of Republic Of Serbia. All participants welcomed the new member with a great applause and Mr. Topcu announced that DPPI has much more stronger than before with its new 11th participation, as signatory country with a full commitment to MoU as other signatories.

Mr. Saliu started XVIII DPPI SEE Regional Meeting according to the agenda with out any objection, and the discussions were as follows:

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

DPPI SEE MoU Status

(Slovenia, Albania, Turkey, Moldova, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, fulfilled contributions for 2008 and only Moldova, Slovenia, Croatia and Turkey, fulfilled contribution for 2009-*updated on May 2009-*).

Bosnia and Herzegovina stated that the MoFA of Bosnia and Herzegovina will fulfill contribution and it's in process; **Bulgaria** called article 5 of the MoU and stated that because the MoFA of Bulgaria still didn't receive information from depository country about the number of the countries that have ratified the MoU. Bulgaria considerate that there is no appropriate legal basis for a valid payment due to the contribution unless there won't be any official information arrives in about ratification, **Romania** stated that contribution payment is in process; **Macedonia** stated that, at the moment, they can only pay contribution for 2009; **Montenegro** also stated that the payment of contribution is in process. Republic of Croatia has stated that diplomatic note was sent to the depository about ratification of the MoU.

Greece requested to refer the same statement which was done in Sofia Meeting 2008 as a part of minutes of XVIII DPPI SEE Regional Meeting concerning the signing of the MoU by Macedonia under the name "Republic of Macedonia" instead of legal name agreed upon the framework of the UN (FYROM).

DPPI SEE Legal Status

Mr.Topcu pointed out cause of current problems of not being registered in BiH and not having a legal base for the scope of daily operational work and especially concerning the financial dimension. He stressed out that with out a legal base operation of Secretariat is almost getting impractical.

Slovenia told that the issue was discussed on DMTP and Advisory Board Meeting as well and they advised Secretariat to search and prepare the legal papers and documentation first for members to decide for further action in accordance to MoU.

Croatia supported opinion of Slovenia.

Turkey said that all countries should discuss about legal status on this meeting and make a decision right now.

DPPI SEE Policies and Procedures

Mr.Topcu mentioned that basically reimbursement policy for DPPI SEE was adopted and just lecturer/s fee issue has not been finalized yet.

Romania suggested that the lecturer fee would be considerate case by case and all participants accepted the idea.

Financial Report for 2008 and Financial Interim Report 1st quarter of 2009

Ms.Bijedic reminded participants that besides the other documents, they could find both financial reports in folders prepared for the meeting.

Croatia asked for more detailed financial reports and events as well. Slovenia supported opinion of Croatia.

Next, XVIII DPPI SEE Regional meeting, date and place

Turkey offered to host XIX DPPI SEE Regional Meeting in Istanbul and date would be announced later on. Turkey also offered to be Chair-in-Office for 2010 and Croatia reminded that it was agreed at the last Regional Meeting in Skopje that the CiO will be appointed in alphabetical order and Albania would be the CiO for 2010.

Bosnia and Herzegovina stated that whether Turkey can not organize next regional meeting due to any reason, Bosnia and Herzegovina will be a host.

After group photo and coffee break, the meeting was continued.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Adopting of DPPI SEE Strategy and Action Plan

Mr.Saliu pointed out that the DPPI SEE Strategy and Action Plan has been sent to all participants via e-mail before the meeting and asked for adoption of above Plan.

Croatia, Slovenia, Romania considered that the DPPI SEE Strategy and Action Plan needs to be updated and after productive discussing between the countries, adopted. The secretariat will work on the update.

Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP)

Romania reported DMTP meeting that was held on 6th April (please see report and conclusions, Annex 1).

Montenegro reminded countries that they could find scenario of Firefighting Exercise to be held in Budva on June 8-12, 2009 and asked every country to send information whether they are going to participate or not.

European Commission pointed out that they open the training for candidate countries and potential candidate countries and it could be seen on European Commission web page.

Advisory Board Meeting

Macedonia reported the Advisory Board Meeting that was held on 6th April (please see report and conclusions, Annex 2).

PROJECTS

On going Projects:

- Harmonization of Seismic Hazard Maps

NATO gave an update of on going project and emphasized that full implementation of the project still missing funds and the DPPI SEE countries and international partners have been invited for a financial support.

- JERU

Croatia gave a short background of the project that begins on 2006 and for a region of Danube-Sava and an interest of DPPI SEE countries is needed for continuation and development of the project.

Romania fully support above project and from the reason of their problems concerning the floods, they considerate that JERU Project should be improved and developed.

Slovenia stated that they weren't so active in the project, but generally supports the continuation and development of the project.

Montenegro also fully supports the project and pointed out a necessity and importance of JERU teams.

- Joint Fire Fighting Units

Albania fully supports an objective of forest fire project and emphasized a necessity for stronger cooperation between countries in the field of fires.

Future Projects

Virtual South Eastern Disaster Cooperation Platform

Mr.Topcu introduced with essential points of the project and especially described the project as a technical tools for man made and natural disasters.

Slovenia expressed appreciation and asked more detailed information for technical data, database, operational system costs and financing as well. As it was mentioned that the main funding would be from IPA funds and pointed out that the countries which are already members of European Union can't be financed from that source. Therefore they requested a clear structure on financing the project for already EU member countries.

European Commission asked for submission of detailed project to them, as well.

Mr.Topcu said that the detailed project documentation would be sent to everybody by e-mail. EC also stated that it should be careful while establishing new platforms that could possibly duplicate the work of the existing.

Project out of DPPI Family

Regional Center for Fire Fighting Operations

SEEFREC

Political Advisor of the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat (RCC) Mr. SOLEN shortly introduced the project and reminded that the task of coordination is given to RCC under the umbrella of SEECF and RCC is consisting of different member countries than DPPI. Therefore it is quite normal to disseminate the information through their point of contacts and the deadline for the project has been already extended twice and he also stated that DPPI is and will be a major partner to the project as well.

Mr.Topcu expressed his gratitude and stated that sharing information is the key for future cooperation and he also asked RCC to disseminate the project information through the DPPI SEE Secretariat as well.

COOPERATION WITH DPPI SEE PARTNERS

A- Implemented Activities

-UNDP – Regional Programme on Disaster Risk Reduction in SEE

Shortly presented on going project and informed that about project, the DPPI SEE countries were already informed through the DPPI SEE Secretariat.

- INSARAG/USAR – INSARAG Awareness Training Course

NATO informed about on going training course that will be held in RACVIAC Center Croatia on 27-29 April 2009 and remind the DPPI SEE countries that information course have been submitted to them by the DPPI SEE Secretariat.

- UNISDR- Disaster Risk management in SEE, Database of Experts, Training Components

UNISDR informed about on going project and possible projects in future based on cooperation DPPI SEE and UNISDR.

Albania added that in coordination of World Bank and UNISDR in Albania started a project with duration of 3 years and in following fields: Emergency response mechanism, European codes, Seismic risks, Project management and strengthening disaster management.

B- Future DPPI SEE cooperation with International/Regional partners

UNOCHA informed about on going Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Reduction in South Eastern Europe 2009-2010 and pointed out that one-week course focuses on a holistic approach to reducing risks, responding to and recovering from disasters specific to the region of South-Eastern Europe. The information course has been submitted before to DPPI SEE countries through the DPPI SEE Secretariat.

EC informed that European Commission is currently developing some amount of million EURs value the programme “Civil protection cooperation with the candidate countries and potential candidates, which builds upon Bled (Slovenia) seminar and the Council conclusions. The forecast notice for the programme is expects to be published in early June. The announcement will be made on EC webpage.

NATO/SPS informed new projects and interesting countries and international partners could visit NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme web page.

DEMA will continue activities in the region of South Eastern Europe with more close cooperation with DPPI SEE.

MSB informed that on 31st December 2008 the SRSA was closed down and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) replaced SRSA. The MSB will work with humanitarian operations and humanitarian mine section, capacity building, early recovery and support for peace-promoting missions.

Any other business

Slovenia presented short information on the Protection and Rescue Days 2007 which will take place from 15 to 17 October 2009 in Novo mesto in Slovenia. As main part of the event National Rescue and Relief Field Exercise "Krka 2009" will be carried out on Friday, 16 October 2009, to which the representatives of DPPI SEE countries will be invited.

Serbia expressed pleasure for joining DPPI SEE MoU signatory countries family by signing the MoU. Mr. Babic shared the information on the current reorganisation of the Protection and Rescue Sector into the Sector for Emergency Management within the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia. He also stated that Serbia had the approval of the Government to sign the MoU on the XIV Regional Meeting held in Bucharest in 2007, but MoU suffered some changes and was not signed. Even though Serbia was not among signatory countries of MoU, Serbia was actively involved in all DPPI SEE activities.

Conclusions of XVII DPPI SEE Regional Meeting

-Serbia signed the MoU and become 11th DPPI SEE MoU signatory country,

-The official announcement of MoU ratifications and the contribution of payments by the countries, which still didn't make contribution yet, the DPPI SEE Secretariat will send to all countries a request in order to receive the official answer through respectful Ministries of Foreign Affairs about the finalization information on ratification of MoU to the Depository country (The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina),

-The DPPI SEE Secretariat will start work on documents needed for DPPI SEE legal status,

-The Lecturer fee as a part of DPPI SEE reimbursement policy will be determinate case by case,

- The DPPI SEE Secretariat's financial reporting will be prepared in more detailed financial format,

-The XIX DPPI SEE Regional Meeting will be held and hosted by Turkey (Istanbul) and autumn time 2009 (an exact date will be subject to determination later on),

-The DPPI SEE Strategy and Action Plan will be updated and sent to all member countries, by mid June and final draft will be distributed by Secretariat in mid July. The paper will be finalized in August 1st.

-The DMTP activities have been done in accordance to Working Plan 2009 and with support of the European Commission, UN OCHA, MSB, DEMA and, other international partners.

- Fire fighting field exercise to be held in Montenegro in June 2009, the countries will send information about their interest to participation to the exercise not later than May 15th.

-The reports of DMTP Steering Group Meeting and DPPI SEE Advisory Board Meeting will be distributed as annexes to these Minutes

-The DPPI SEE Secretariat will send the project Virtual South Eastern Disaster Cooperation Platform in details to everybody by e-mail,

-The DPPI SEE will continue cooperation with all international partners.

-DPPI SEE member Nations will inform DPPI Secretariat whether they are interested to participate in the JERU project, until the 15 May.

Annexes attached

Prepared by:

DPPI SEE Secretariat and Chair in Office
23rd April 2009