

Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for  
South Eastern Europe  
(DPPI SEE)

**Project Proposal**  
for

***“Mission is possible”***  
***Public awareness of natural disasters***  
***(earthquake, flood and forest fire)***

**Partners**

**Protection and Rescue Directorate of Macedonia,  
Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief of Slovenia,  
General Directorate for Civil Emergencies MIA of Albania and  
Directorate General Fire Safety and Civil Protection Mol of Bulgaria.**

**November 2016**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Over the past few years the Balkan region has experienced a number of events as a result of natural hazards such as heavy rainfall. These natural hazards have resulted in floods, wind damage and landslide. It is likely that such events will continue to cause problems in the region as a result of climate change and climate variability. During this events lack of public awareness is detected.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

This countries has similar problems about public awareness of DRR which is detected during events in the last few years. There is need of educating communities on disaster risks, increasing safety and resilience through campaigns, informal education, participatory learning and formal school-based interventions.

Special efforts must also be made to reach and plan for the care of particularly vulnerable segments of the population as children, the elderly, individuals in health care and people with disabilities with information about possible disasters and what to do in case of emergency.

Gathering together, the goal of the project will be reached easier and beneficiary countries will improve collaboration in this field. Outcome materials can be used for long term of time and adapted to the new situations in the future.

## **3. CURRENT SITUATION**

Current situation will be set through the project.

## **4. OBJECTIVES, INPUTS, OUTPUTS AND RESULTS**

*Overall objective of the project is to enhance population awareness of Disaster Risk Reduction of Natural Disasters (floods, forest fires and earthquakes) in Macedonia, Slovenia, Albania and Bulgaria.*

### **Long Term Objectives**

There are three long-term objectives that will be achieved through the implementation of this project:

- a) *Improving community resilience and sustainable development;*
- b) *Reducing potential casualties from the natural disasters;*
- c) *Encouraging and improving cooperation between experts who have responsibilities for public awareness and DRR in the beneficiary countries.*

### **Immediate Objectives**

- i. *Educational/training materials for trainers and designation groups (children, disabled or elderly persons, community, public officials);*
- ii. *Public awareness information about floods, forest fires and earthquakes;*
- iii. *Tools for information dissemination, using new technologies.*

## **Objectives and Results**

### **Objective 1**

Current situation.

Research and overview the available public materials about floods, forest fires and earthquakes in the beneficiary countries.

Survey the population for knowledge and understanding of DRR about floods, forest fires and earthquakes.

### **Result 1**

Level of public awareness of DRR of floods, forest fires and earthquakes.

### **Objective 2**

Creating bank (data base) of information about risks and DRR about floods, forest fires and earthquakes.

### **Result 2**

Available information about risks and understanding of DRR about floods, forest fires and earthquakes.

### **Objective 3**

Enhancing and sharing information between beneficiary countries.

### **Result 3**

Improve the cooperation and information dissemination between countries.

### **Objective 4**

Increasing public awareness (about floods, forest fires and earthquakes) and understanding the DRR.

### **Result 4**

Producing public awareness materials (phone app, audio and video materials, printed and web materials), informational and educational campaigns.

## **5. CHALLENGES AND RISKS**

The materials will be done on English and should be localized for the beneficiary countries in four local languages. There should be many experts involved.

## **6. PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

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**i. Project Leader Country**

*One of Macedonia,*

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**ii. Beneficiary Countries / Partners**

*Macedonia, Slovenia, Albania and Bulgaria.*

## **7. Fund – Union Civil Protection Mechanism**

## 8. CONCLUSION

To achieve this goal, we propose that information campaigns and educational efforts be developed and that their effectiveness be evaluated and, where possible, continually improved:

- 1.1. **Home.** Household survival plans should provide basic information on what hazardous events are most likely to occur in particular communities, what emergency equipment and supplies should be on hand, what precautions should be taken to limit damage, and what preparations should be made for escape and evacuation. Such information might best be conveyed graphically, both in print and on television. Dramatic, easily recognizable graphic symbols signifying each natural hazard should be created and widely publicized to identify impending emergencies and quickly alert the public to the degree of seriousness and the imminence of danger.
- 1.2. **The community.** Community-wide planning and education should be encouraged. Schools, special schools, homes for elderly, government organizations, community, hospital and medical groups, and the news media should all be involved. Checklists, information handouts, and training videos should be created and widely distributed to convey such information as the location of nearby emergency resources both during and after a disaster. Regional and community demonstration programs, disaster day exercises and conferences should be undertaken and evaluated for their effectiveness.
- 1.3. **School.** Educational materials about preparedness, warnings, and self-protection should be distributed to schools. Teachers should be given training on integrating the materials into the regular curricula so that all children receive the information they need to protect themselves from disasters. Similar training initiatives should be directed to teachers at day-care centers and preschools as well as to caretakers of the elderly. These steps will also raise the level of awareness and preparedness at home.
- 1.4. **The workplace.** Awareness and education for disaster mitigation and preparedness should be encouraged in the workplace. Labor unions, industry management, government employers, and business groups should work with disaster specialists and community agencies to produce and acquire the necessary training and information materials. Existing work safety and security programs should be expanded to include disaster preparedness measures and emergency response procedures. Workplace safety drills and disaster exercises are essential to ensure that procedures are followed in an emergency. Prime movers of this effort should include insurance companies, labor unions, Chambers of Commerce, public utilities, and Industrial Crisis Conference participants.
- 1.5. **Colleges and universities.** Community colleges as well as other colleges and universities should be encouraged to include disaster management training in their curricula. Preparation of books, articles, and teaching aids, and research by faculty and students should be encouraged and supported.
- 1.6. **Public officials and the press.** Special attention should be given to raising the level of knowledge and expertise of public officials and the press, both of whom have central responsibilities for dealing with natural disasters. There is a need to develop procedures, protocols, and priorities for disseminating information to the public. Contingency plans should be put in place so that vital emergency services and key elements of the press are prepared to function even when electricity, transportation, telephone transmission, and other communications and production capabilities are severely disrupted. Community emergency procedures, warning signals, disaster resources, and relief facilities and responsibilities should be spelled out in advance and reviewed and tested periodically by public officials and the press.
- 1.7. **Professionals.** Disaster education is essential in the training of the government and private sector professionals, emergency management personnel, and emergency service providers who have the major responsibility for mitigation and emergency response. Professional continuing education programs on mitigating the effects of natural disasters should be made widely available through colleges, universities, and professional associations. Development of advanced materials for use in curricula, workshops, conferences, and similar activities should be encouraged.

