

Strengthening the capacities of Aarhus Centres in disaster risk reduction (DRR) in order to enhance awareness of local communities

With financial support of



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A joint project of



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



UNEP



Background

- 2014 OSCE Swiss Chairmanship
- OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on:
“Responding to environmental challenges with a view
to promoting cooperation and security in the OSCE
area”



Main objective

- To contribute to security and stability by strengthening
the capacities and roles of civilian population and
communities in DRR through the Aarhus Centres



Project countries

- Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan



Desk studies on needs analysis of DRR education for civilian population for each of the countries involved (UNDP)

Seven national reports

- Overview of disaster-prone areas in the countries concerned
 - Identification local stakeholders active in this field
 - Overview of existing government policies as well as donor activities on DRR, especially community-based DRR and awareness raising
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- Identification of areas with need for DRR education
 - Prevention of duplication of existing activities.
 - Basis for National Training Workshops on DRR awareness raising

Desk study on implementation analysis of abilities of Aarhus Centres and NGOs in DRR education (OSCE)

- Online Survey among 35 Aarhus Centres (ACs) in the seven project countries
- Self-assessment of their capabilities and their collaboration with local NGOs on issues related to DRR
- Identification of capacity development needs to be addressed in the national training workshops

National Training Workshops (OSCE, UNDP, REC)

23-24 October, 13-16 November, 25-27 November 2014: Armenia

19-21 November 2014: Bosnia and Herzegovina

8-9 December 2014 Serbia

16-17 December: Tajikistan

12-13 February 2015: Kyrgyzstan

19-20 February 2015: Albania

25-26 February 2015: Moldova



Key elements of the workshops:

1. Study visits
2. Disaster and Risk Information and Early Warning Systems
3. Disaster Communication & Prevention
4. Content based on experience from the Czech Republic
5. Practical Exercise

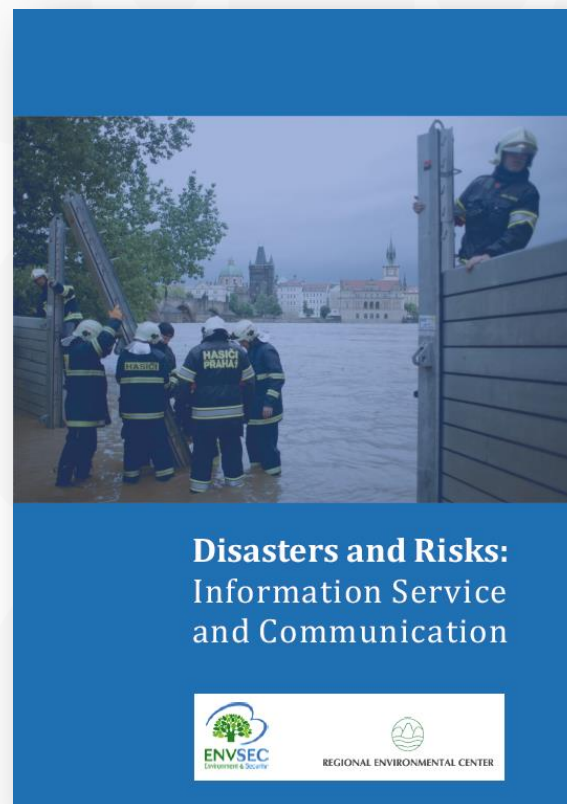
Key results:

1. Over 200 participants trained
2. Strengthened relationships between Aarhus centers, Emergency Management Authorities and NGOs

Educational reference material (REC)

Publication: **Disasters and Risks:**
Information Service and
Communication

- Content covers: Warning and forecasting systems, Integrated rescue service, Appropriate legislation, Planning and urban planning, International cooperation, Education and awareness raising
- Emphasis on education and information dissemination
- Available in English, Russian, Tajik, Serbian, Albanian and Armenian



Development of community awareness-raising action plans on DRR and implementation of a priority activity out of the Action Plan (OSCE)

Selected Aarhus Centres:

Albania: AC Shkodra

Armenia: AC Gavar, AC Yeghegnadzor

Bosnia and Herzegovina: AC Sarajevo, AC Banja Luka

Kyrgyzstan: AC Osh

Moldova: AC Chisinau

Serbia: AC Novi Sad, AC Kragujevac

Tajikistan: AC Garm, AC Kurgan-Tyube, AC Kumsangir

Pilot activities

Albania: Twelve trainings in public schools, meetings with farmers in eight administrative units, 400 DRR family guides and flood management leaflets. Together with the GIZ, information billboards were placed to show evacuation steps in case of floodings.

Armenia: Memorandum of Understanding with the Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform (ARNAP). Establishment of community resilience teams (CRTs), preparation Local Level Risk Management (LLRM) assessment and training of CRTs and residents to operationalize newly installed early warning systems.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: meetings and workshops in eleven local communities and with media representatives, leaflets and posters on landslides, forest fires, earthquakes and floods, International Day for DRR with five primary schools.

Pilot activities

Kyrgyzstan/Tajikistan: Regional Eco-Journalism Festival focusing on DRR with 30 journalists from both countries.

Moldova: trainings for pupils of four schools and for volunteers on disaster management.

Serbia: Establishment of a local “DRR network”, which includes 20 representatives of media, ERSTE bank, government institutions and CSOs. Trainings for civil protection staff and school teachers from five vulnerable communities. Street promotions and five DRR-related lectures delivered to elementary schoolchildren.

Tajikistan: 16 information sessions with representatives of local administrations, neighborhood committees, women groups, youth, health centre workers and school teachers. Eight information sessions on DRR in secondary schools. Articles in local newspapers and 480 booklets on DRR.

Regional conclusion meeting, 7-8 April 2016, Vienna



Thanks to all partners for their commitment and the good co- operation!



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