



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made Disasters (PPRD East)

Flagship Initiative



What is the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made Disasters (PPRD East) Flagship Initiative?

Worldwide natural hazards and man-made disasters are on the rise, often leading to loss of lives, displacement of populations and destructions of costly infrastructures. These disasters can have dramatic negative effects on the economic growth of a country and can critically undermine the region's efforts for sustainable development. It is therefore of the utmost importance that risks of disasters are mitigated and that countries are better prepared to deal with them – individually and collectively. The Eastern Partnership Flagship Initiative on Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made Disasters (PPRD East) was launched in 2010 by the European Union to strengthen the countries' resilience, preparedness and response in addressing these challenges. With this regional initiative, the European Union provides the six Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) with dedicated assistance to enhance legislative, administrative and operational civil protection capacities as well as increase access to information on risk exposure and involvement of stakeholders.

What results are achieved so far?

Enhanced knowledge of risk exposure and management of risks

Since the launching of the initiative, a number of activities have been supported such as the development of an Electronic Regional Risk Atlas (ERRA) a major instrument to monitor hazards and assess risks in the six participating countries. In addition to that, the programme has been supporting on-the-job trainings and installation of the ERRA at national level; the simulation of emergencies with cross-border effects to test coordination procedures between countries and emergency services («Host Nation Support»); training on risk assessment and risk management; awareness campaigns and early warning systems on specific risks such as earthquakes, landslides, floods and fires. Through these activities, the programme has helped increasing the understanding of risks related to floods and resources that can be made available to enhance preparedness and response capacity in the region.



A closer and stronger civil protection partnership

Partner countries became familiar with the work of the European Civil Protection Mechanism and its best practices in areas such as the analysis of real-time information, hazards monitoring, planning for rapid deployment of experts, response teams and equipment.



EU Civil Protection Exercise

Through the European Civil Protection Mechanism, relevant civil protection institutions share information and best practices, set up common policy goals and guidelines, establish Europe-wide early warning systems and monitoring tools.

In addition, they join forces during major emergencies affecting the EU territory and any other third country in order to achieve a more efficient and effective disaster response, thus demonstrating EU solidarity.



EU Civil Protection Exercise

Improvements of national legal frameworks and increased awareness on disasters

The programme has been contributing to improvements of national legislation including for instance the review of Georgia's legislation on disaster risk management, the development of national risk maps, the publication of specific guides for the public, such as the 'Guide for family on how to behave in emergencies' in Azerbaijan. The PPRD East started in 2011 and in 2015 a new phase was launched with a budget of EUR 5.5 million.



EU Civil Protection Exercise

What are the future actions?

The PPRD East programme will continue supporting the countries in the improvement of their civil protection mechanisms with a focus on:

Learning to better understand risks

The programme will further expand risk data collection in the region and further enhance the Electronic Regional Risk Atlas developed during the first phase.

The disaster risk maps will be used to assess existing capacity to tackle disasters and to discuss the preparation of prevention measures and preparedness plans which should involve all national disaster risk management actors including the population.



Shaping a future for better prepared population

Civil Protection is a complex matter involving many stakeholders. Prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation should be worked out at different levels. All entities exposed to disaster risks should be aware of them and know how to prevent and mitigate them, how to react and what to do in case of emergency, and how to recover in the most effective and efficient manner. The programme will support partner countries' efforts in improving communication with citizens thus making them better prepared to address future disasters.



EU Civil Protection team in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine

Find out more about PPRD East on the web!

- Check the video on the projects' key achievements so far:

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo3_hDmD_Bg

- Link to the PPRD East project website:

 www.pprdeast2.eu

- Link to a presentation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism:

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bba35Wjz-ml#t=12>

What are the Eastern Partnership Flagship Initiatives?

As part of the Eastern Partnership, the following six Flagship Initiatives were created to support the specific priority of cooperation between the European Union and its Eastern European partner countries:

- Integrated border management
- Small and medium-sized enterprises
- Energy
- Sustainable municipal development
- Good environmental governance and climate change prevention
- Prevention, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters.



These initiatives are priority areas for EU support. They will give more visibility to the Eastern Partnership, and will result in concrete actions to the benefits of the populations of the partner countries.

Find out more about the Eastern Partnership:

European Commission, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/eastern-partnership>

Facebook: EU neighbourhood & enlargement

Twitter: @eu-near

EU Neighbourhood Info Centre: <http://www.enpi-info.eu/indexeast.php>

