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Funded by the
European Union

Interim Technical Implementation Report

Reporting period
1 October 2020 – 30 September 2021

Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural
and man-made disasters in Eastern Partnership
countries - phase 3 (PPRD East 3)

Preface

This document provides the first Interim Technical Implementation Report for the programme; “Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made disasters in Eastern Neighbourhood Partner Countries – Phase 3 (PPRD East 3)”. The reporting period is 1 October 2020 – 30 September 2021.

The overall objective of the PPRD East 3 is to increase the resilience to natural and man-made disasters in the Eastern Partnership Countries, with the specific objectives to:

- 1) Build sustainable capacities of Partner Countries’ respective civil protection institutions for disaster risk prevention, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters;
- 2) Strengthen interlinkages between all relevant governmental actors and civil society organisations as well as the scientific community, promoting a national inclusive approach to prevention, preparedness and response to natural and manmade disasters;
- 3) Enhance regional coordination, institutional and operational cooperation between the UCPM and the Eastern neighbourhood countries and among Eastern neighbourhood countries

Partners in the PPRD East 3 are civil protection agencies and disaster risk management (DRM) institutions in the six Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine).

The implementation of the PPRD East 3 was commissioned to a Consortium established by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agencies (MSB), as lead agency, jointly with the Emergency Services Academy Finland (ESAF), the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – Section of Crisis Management (SKR MV), the Centro Internazionale in Monitoraggio Ambientale (CIMA) and the Italian Red Cross (CRI) and started on 1 October 2020 and will last until the 30 September 2024.

PPRD East 3 started in the midst of a global pandemic, which certainly created challenges but has at the same time been a reminder, that adapting, learning and the continuous development of capabilities are key features in a civil protection system. The aim of the report is to provide an overview of the first year of implementation which include the inception and assessment phases and with information on activities, results and programme priorities, but also lessons learned.

On behalf of the Consortium and the Team of Experts, I hope you will have an interesting read.

29/11/2021

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Report title	Interim Technical Implementation Report Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made disasters in Eastern Neighbourhood Partner Countries – phase 3 (PPRD East 3)
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Abbreviations

CCI	Cross Cutting Issues
CIMA	Centro Internazionale in Monitoraggio Ambientale
CRI	Italian Red Cross
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DLD	Disaster Loss Data
DRA	Disaster Risk Assessment
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EFAS	European Flood Awareness System
EFDRR	European Forum For DRR
EFFIS	European Forest Fire Information System
ERCC	Emergency Response Coordination Center
ESAF	Emergency Services Academy Finland
EWS	Early Warning System
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HNS	Host Nation Support
IBF	Impact Based Forecast
JRC	Joint Research Centre
LFA	Logical Framework Approach
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MS	Member State
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingency Agency
PC	Partner Country
PG	Practical Guidelines
SKR MV	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – Section of Crisis Management
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TOT	Training of Trainers
TTX	Table Top Exercise
UCPM	Union Civil Protection Mechanism
UNDRR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation

WP
WG

Work Package
Working Group

1. Executive Summary

This document provides the *first Interim Technical Implementation Report* for the programme; “Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made disasters in Eastern Neighbourhood Partner Countries – Phase 3 (PPRD East 3)”. The reporting period is 1st of October 2020 – 30th of September 2021.

The first year of implementation covers an *Inception Phase* (October 2020 – January 2021) with the main purpose to establish working relations with the partner countries (PCs) and define their needs and priorities, followed by a longer *Assessment Phase* (February 2021 –September 2021) with the purpose to carry out an assessment of the national civil protection system in each PC. The main components of the assessment phase was the development of an assessment framework, working group consultations in PCs, *digital Table Top Exercises (TTXs)* – four executed in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, and desk reviews. The report provides summaries of the findings (good practices and areas for improvement) together with the capacity development strategies to reach the expected results on an overall regional level.

New ways of working

PPRD East 3 started in the midst of the *COVID-19 pandemic*, which presented complex challenges that the programme addressed in various ways, but mainly by taking the opportunity of *learning new ways of working*. One example is that the TTX’s were conducted through digital means in a hybrid set-up where a digital dashboard helped the Exercise control team and observers to monitor the actions taken by the participants in real time. Further actions taken to utilize the digital means of communication, the programme presents a *Series of Webinars* with the purpose to share good practices between EU member states and Eastern Neighbourhood countries.

Integration of cross-cutting issues is a priority in programme implementation and one of the main activities during the first year was the development of “*The practical guidelines for integrating gender, human rights and environmental issues in Disaster Risk Management*”. It is an online publication where the main target group is the programme expert team and partner organisations, but is also a resource that could be used outside of the Programme.

Operational priorities

Through the assessment phase, the programme has identified three operational priorities: *1) Digitalisation; 2) Enhancing the European dimension and 3) Effective programme implementation*. The programme aims to equip partners with necessary skills-set, methods and resources to support the adaptation to a more digitalized world by increase the numbers of digital learning events, which will also contribute to the COVID -19 contingency plan and *less negative climate impact*.

PPRD East 3 creates an ***essential platform*** for strengthening the relations between the European Union and the Eastern Partnership countries and the programme aims at enhancing that bridge by actively work on the partnership building through different networks and more specifically with Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM).

The key for an effective implementation has been identified to include ***field presence, translation/interpretation into local languages and user-friendly communication***. Aspects that will be taken into account in the further implementation of the programme.

Lessons learnt and the next steps

There are several lessons learnt during this first year of programme implementation. To have a ***flexible approach*** and making efforts to ***adjust to the context and PCs situation*** is one of them. To identify, and regularly revise and update ***contextual, programmatic and institutional risks*** is another key to be prepared and mitigate consequences for the programme.

During the next reporting period, there are many ***regional activities*** planned and the report provides a concrete 6-months' plan. This is to set the base, which is common to all countries, and at the same time establish the ***cooperation on technical level between the PCs***. On national level, the programme team will follow-up the assessment results and the on-going ***establishment of the national programme working groups*** will be central to the implementation.

2. Disposition of Report

The report is structured to guide the reader through the first year of implementation of PPRD East 3.

The first part gives a brief overview of the programme through a programme description to set the context. The next chapter will focus on the implementation process itself, where purpose and approaches for both the inception phase and the following assessment phase is described. The next section describes the main activities during the first year of implementation, followed by a presentation of the technical results and deliverables.

In the section on evaluation of the technical results and deliverables, progress towards programme objectives are presented as well as the operational priorities decided for the programme, followed by lessons learnt and risk management. The last chapter of the report describes the regional six-month activity plan, and national activities and processes in each partner country (PC).

3. Programme Description

The EU-funded programme “Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made disasters in Eastern Neighbourhood PCs (PPRD East)” was firstly initiated in 2010 under the Eastern Partnership initiative. The overall objective is to increase the resilience to natural and man-made disasters in the Eastern Neighbourhood Partner Countries; Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The third phase of the programme (PPRD East 3), that was officially launched on 1st October 2020, builds on the achievements of the two previous phases and will be implemented during the years 2020–2024.

The implementing consortium is led by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and includes the Emergency Services Academy Finland (ESAF), the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – Section of Crisis Management (SKR MV), the Centro Internazionale in Monitoraggio Ambientale (CIMA) and the Italian Red Cross (CRI).

3.1 Programme objectives

The specific objectives for PPRD East 3 are the following;

1. Build sustainable capabilities of Partner Countries’ respective civil protection institutions for disaster risk prevention, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters.
2. Strengthen interlinkages between all relevant governmental actors and civil society stakeholders as well as the scientific community, promoting a national inclusive approach to prevention, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters.
3. Enhance regional coordination, institutional and operational cooperation between the UCPM and the Eastern neighbourhood countries and among Eastern neighbourhood countries.

3.2 Target group and stakeholders

National civil protection authorities in the PCs are the main stakeholders in programme implementation. Other key ministries and public agencies, as well as local stakeholders such as administrative regions, municipalities, local civil protection offices etc. are also crucial actors in the programme to ensure involvement on all levels. PPRD East 3 has an all of society inclusive approach to civil protection development and therefore representatives from the scientific community, civil society and the private sector involved in disaster risk reduction and crises management are stakeholders with important roles to play in the programme.

3.3 Programme approach

PPRD East 3 takes a comprehensive approach towards capacity development. For a successful implementation the programme is built on several corner stones which are presented below;

Programme approach
A. Build on, and adapt to PCs individual needs and priorities.
B. Sustainability strategy
C. Enhancing European dimension
D. Ensuring capturing and communication of outcomes
E. Inclusion of stakeholders and focus on man-made disasters

The programme approaches are there to guide and steer the programme implementation. During the first year of PPRD East 3 a special focus have been on the first approach; ***Build on, and adapt to PCs individual needs and priorities***, as both the inception phase and the following assessment phase have had the purpose of setting the scene for the programme based on the countries current status. Building on existing structures and “what works” is key to ensure continuity which are essential for the sustainability of the results of the programme.

The ***Sustainability strategy*** is a constant dimension in the programme connected to the previous mentioned approach, and it is also about creating ownership by establishing good coordination and working modalities with the PCs for the long term results. This process has begun and will continue to play a key role in programme implementation.

Enhancing the European Dimension is not only an approach but also an operational priority for the programme where a lot of effort has been and will be on bringing stakeholders together and facilitate networking on national, sub-regional, regional and international level to build closer ties between the Eastern Partnership Countries and the EU in general and to the UCPM more specifically.

Storytelling is essential to reach out and therefore ***ensuring capturing and communication of outcomes*** will play a central role in the continued implementation. The film produced during the first year on the learning from the digital TIX'es are one example of how the programme will address this approach also continuously.

PPRD East 3 presents an essential platform for enhancing relationships and bringing different stakeholders together at all levels. The civil society, scientific community and the privet sector all have role to play to achieve effective disaster risk management which is captured under the approach ***inclusion of stakeholders***.

3.4 Organisation and implementing structure

The PPRD East 3 programme presents a complex environment with many different stakeholders, which demands a clear organisation and implementing structure. The different layers of strategic and operational decision-making is presented in the figure below.

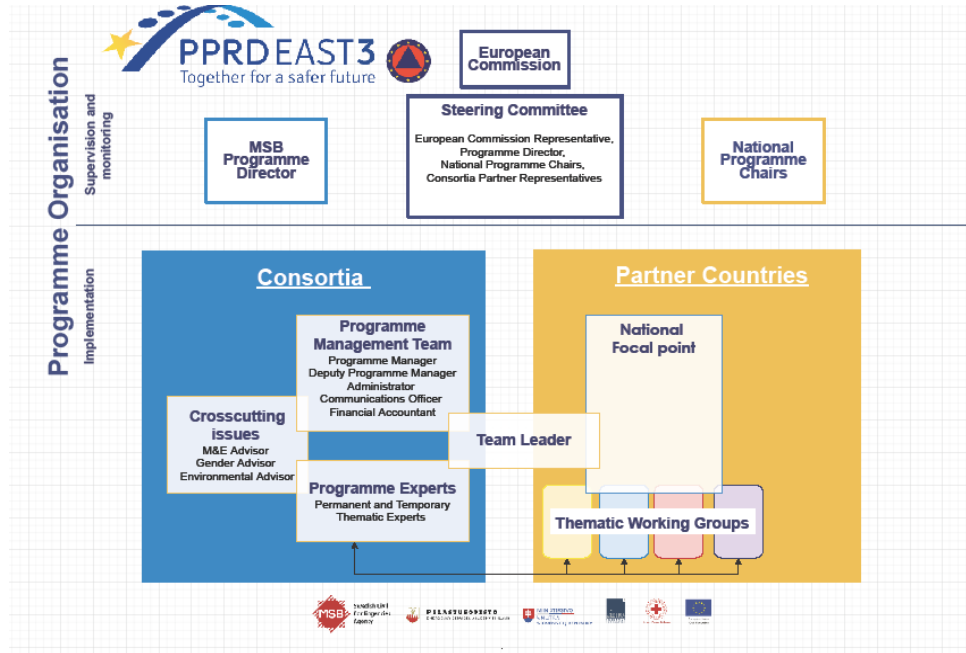


Figure 1: PPRD East 3 Organisational charter

3.5 Work Packages (WP)

The programme is designed to maximise impact in each partner country, by responding to the national needs and capacities and promotes mutual learning, sharing of experiences and good practices among the PCs and with EU member states. Thematically the programme focuses on eight tightly linked and mutually reinforcing Work Packages (WP). Each Work Package is led by an expert from the consortium which is also connected to a working group in each partner country.

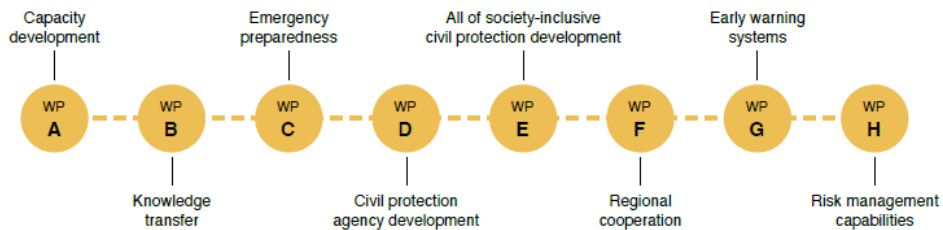


Figure 2: PPRD East 3 Work Packages

3.6 Cross-cutting issues; environment, gender & human rights

To achieve the PPRD East 3 outcomes and results, the integration of gender, human rights and environmental perspectives (i.e. cross-cutting issues) in the programme is crucial. This will ensure that the programme contributes to strengthening DRM system capacities in a way that enhances the resilience of society as a whole, leaving no one behind. It will also ensure that systems and actors account for the importance of the environmental, gender and human rights perspective throughout the different stages of the DRM cycle.

The PPRD East 3 aims to integrate Cross Cutting Issues (CCIs) throughout the programme. The approach to this task will be a **systematic application** of environment, gender and human rights perspectives to all phases of the programme, including planning, implementation, and follow-up of programme activities within all the thematic areas of the programme.

The work will be guided by **international normative framework**, e.g. Sendai Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris agreement, the EU Green deal and the EU Gender Equality strategy as well as by national legislation, policies and operational priorities.

Everyone involved in the programme have an important role to play, but the Programme also has two **Environmental and Gender Advisors** whose main task is to support the Expert team but also the **network of appointed Environmental and Gender Focal points** from the PCs. To guide this work, a *PPRD East 3 Practical guidelines for integrating gender, human rights and environmental issues in disaster risk management* has been developed.

Based on the initial assessment, consultations with the Expert team and the national focal points, **programme priorities** for the cross-cutting issues have been identified. The priorities seek to capitalise on current windows of opportunities that have been identified in the programme and the expressed needs and interests in the programme countries. (See chapter five (5).)



Figure 3: Illustration of inter-sectional factors

3.7 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system for the PPRD East 3 programme aims at serving the main purposes of promoting results accountability, continuous learning for programme adaptability, steering and risk management.

3.7.1 Guiding principles

Planning, monitoring, and evaluation are not separated events but are designed to be cyclical, with one feeding into the other. Thus, the programme M&E is regarded as an integrated part of the programme management and implementation. The ultimate responsibility for M&E of the programme lies with the programme management and the consortium coordination group, as part of its responsibility to implement the programme.

The M&E plan is guided by the principle of participation, which implies that all M&E activities are implemented in a participatory way. This means the involvement of national stakeholders from the PCs to the extent possible, regional stakeholders, consortium members, the EC, and the programme expert team.

3.7.2 M&E Framework

The M&E framework will follow up on outputs and immediate outcomes of the programme and will use two complementary methods for the monitoring of results. The Logical Framework Approach (LFA) is the foundation for the M&E system of the programme, whereby the outputs will be tracked and measured through monitoring processes, while the outcomes will be measured through outcome harvesting methodology. Outcome harvesting serves as the tool to capture changes in behaviour and practice (immediate and unexpected outcomes).

To learn more about the programme's M&E Framework see Annex 1.

4. Programme implementation process

4.1 The Inception phase

4.1.1 Purpose of the inception phase

The inception phase covered the period 1st of October 2020 – 31st of January 2021 with the primarily purpose to establish strategic and working relations in the PCs, and to carry out a preliminary situational assessment to define the priorities and needs in each country - a process that would shape the course of the continued programme implementation. With the overall programme approach - to build on existing structures - it was also important to explore learnings and findings from previous phases of the programme and developments taken place in the PCs since the end of PPRD East 2.

4.1.2 A different reality

Inevitably, the COVID-19 pandemic presented a complex challenge that the programme addressed in various ways, but mainly by taking the opportunity in learning new ways of working. The programme team started to extensively utilize digital solutions for communication and organization of online activities. Digital interaction cannot completely replace the physical interaction, especially when it comes to partnership building, but there are means and methods to apply which makes the interaction easy and inclusive. Something that the programme team put a lot of efforts in.



Photo 1: Photo from the digital Launch of PPRD East 3, 14 December 2020

Digital country meetings were held to discuss needs, priorities and expectations, both on strategic high-level and on technical level with focus on the operational implementation. The inception phase was also the starting point to establish working groups (WG) in the PCs that follows the structure of the work packages, see further under chapter 4. This process was in line with the overall purpose of

creating a strong governance mechanism around PPRD East 3 with a broad participation in each partner country. However, also this process was affected by the pandemic and some working groups are yet to be established.

The inception phase played an important role for the consortium and the expert team to develop and fine-tune a shared strategy towards the implementation of the PPRD East 3 and to ensure strong interlinkages between all work packages. For the sustainability of programme results, the integration of cross-cutting issues in implementation as well as an inclusive M&E approach are important and highly prioritized by the programme. How the programme will work with these processes in implementation were also further fine-tuned during the inception phase.

4.1.3 Strategic decision for the next step

An important outcome from the inception phase was the strategic decision within the consortium to conceptualize an assessment phase in order to create the best preconditions for the programme implementation considering the circumstances. This was agreed with the European Commission as well with the partner countries during the first Steering Committee meeting that was held in February 2021.

4.2 The Assessment Phase

4.2.1 Purpose and approach to the assessment phase

The **purpose** of the assessment phase was to carry out an assessment of the national civil protection system, limited to the programme WPs, in all PCs in order to (a) identify good practices to build on and share regionally and areas for improvement to inform the priorities of each WP (b) to provide the baseline for the PPRD East 3 and (c) to develop national and regional plans of action which will guide the implementation.

The **approach** to the assessment is based on the following three principles:

1. **Systems based:** is an approach that allows understanding the complexity of the PPRD East 3 programme as a system and its elements, i.e. the relationships, interactions, and context of each WP geared towards a common purpose of realizing the specific objectives of the programme. *Therefore*, the assessment was organized using one unified framework for all WPs.
2. **Results-based:** is an approach that ensures that the assessment phase is geared towards the achievement of the programme outcomes. *Therefore*, the assessment findings will deliver detailed gap analysis on each thematic area so that this informs each WP in each PC.
3. **Built upon PPRD East 2 and other previous or ongoing initiatives:** is an approach that ensures the continuation of the PPRD East programme from phase 2 to phase 3 – and synergies with other projects or initiatives within the same field.

4.2.2 Methodology and process

The assessment methodology was designed to include the following components:

Assessment framework: During the preparatory stage, a unified and modular assessment framework was developed. The assessment framework is a diagnostic tool to assess the state of civil protection system in the PCs across key thematic areas and sub-areas critical for the programme implementation. The framework was used to facilitate working group consultations and collection of data, but will be further developed into a tool for baseline, midline and endline analysis.

Working group consultations: As part of the partnership building and stakeholder mapping, the PCs have established (or are in the process to establish) working groups¹ for the key programme areas in order to support the implementation in an inclusive and participatory way. The working group consultations supported the collection and understanding of data in order to make the assessment.

Assessment TTX in each PC: Specific scenarios and events, based on the main hazard and conditions in each of the PCs, were developed as a basis for the table top exercise (TTX). The purpose of the TTXs was to test the preparedness and response mechanisms during a disaster with secondary impacts – and with the possibility to observe and assess coordination, information management and decision making procedures related to programme areas.

Desk review: As complementary to the assessment framework data, working group consultations and TTX observation, primary data (legislative and policy framework) and secondary data (project reports and evaluations) have been reviewed.

Feedback and reporting: The findings were shared with the PCs and respective working group with the possibility to provide feedback in written. A presentation of the assessment findings and programme priorities, followed by a discussion, was organized in each partner country.

¹ Knowledge transfer, Multi-risk assessment, Early warning system and 24/7 operational centers, Integration of Civil society and Volunteerism, Emergency response planning, Regional exercise and Host Nation Support

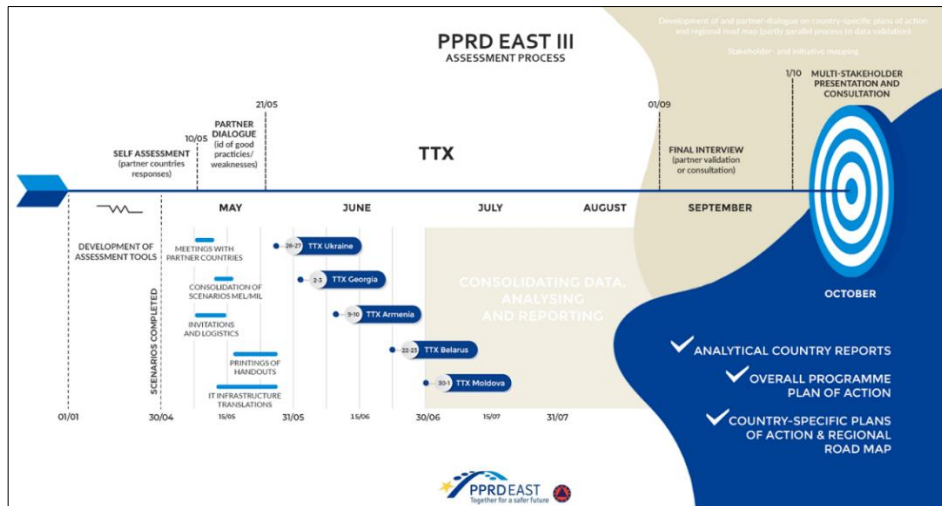


Figure 4: PPRD East 3 Assessment process (Annex 15)

4.2.3 Delimitations and challenges

The assessment did not have the ambition to assess the full civil protection system in the country, but aimed to focus strictly on the programme-related areas (so called work packages) to, based on the findings, identify areas within each work package to prioritise, in order to effectively reach the expected results (i.e. outcomes) during the duration of the programme implementation.

The consultations used to collect data were in many cases aimed to gather experts from different organisations. But as the working groups were in the process to be established, the composition of the working groups was not complete and relevant stakeholders were missing. This may have affected the overall understanding of the situation and consequently the analysis.

The developed assessment framework was in part extensive and challenging for partner agencies and experts to respond to, which left some gaps in the data collection.

Building the understanding of the context will be an ongoing process just as the monitoring of the implementation will be used to steer the direction of the programme.

4.2.4 Programme management

In April 2021 the then Team Leader Ms. Magda Stepanyan gave formal notice, resigning from the position as Team Leader of PPRD East 3. In agreement with the European Commission, MSB as lead organisation, nominated Ms. Hanna Norell from the Swedish Civil contingencies Agency (MSB) as interim/acting Team Leader, while initiating a new recruitment process of a permanent Team Leader.

Ms. Hanna Norell, who has previous Team Leader experience from regional EU-funded programmes, has led the implementation of the programme since April 2021 and throughout the reporting period.

5. Activities

5.1 Inception phase activities

During the inception phase the following activities were conducted to build a strong partnership with the PCs and to conduct the initial situational assessment, as well as ensuring a streamlined implementation process:

Country meetings: two online country meetings were organized in each PC with the purpose: (a) high-level introduction of the programme and learning from the PCs on their expectations; and (b) creation of an opportunity for the programme experts to interact on a deeper level with the national experts along the programme's thematic areas and sharpen the focus of the programme engagement in each PC.

Establishment of working groups: the process of establishing working groups to facilitate PCs engagement in the programme was initiated.

Official Launch 14 December 2020: participants in the Launch were representatives from the PCs, EC, the consortium and invited guests. Focus for the Launch was, besides the inauguration of the programme, to reflect on the enabling factor for regional cooperation and sharing of expectations for PPRD East 3.

Stakeholder mapping and establish relations: an initial stakeholder mapping was done during the inception phase and several meetings were held with important stakeholders representing other regional/bilateral programmes and initiatives in the PCs. Contact was also established with key actors such as EU-delegations, ERCC, JRC, UNDP etc.

Workshops on Crosscutting Issues and M&E: two workshops were held for the expert team to 1) create a common understanding of how to mainstream gender, human rights and environment across all work packages and 2) reflect on the outcome, outputs and indicators of the programme and to further fine-tune the LF-matrix.

Cross-cutting Issues Analysis: A Gender and Human Rights analysis and an Environment analysis were conducted with the aim to identify and provide recommendations of key gender and human rights issues as well as environmental issues to consider, and to identify entry points for integrating the perspectives in the design and implementation of activities in the programme.

Presentation of the final evaluation of PPRD East 2: the purpose was to facilitate the learning from the previous phase and to ensure that PPRD East 3 is sufficiently based upon its predecessors.

Consortium Coordination Group meetings: during the inception phase the programme team constantly needed to re-conceptualize and re-plan activities and methods, which was elaborated and discussed in the Consortium Coordination Group at several occasions.

5.2 Assessment phase activities

The assessment methodology included four inter-related elements 1) development of assessment framework and diagnostics tool; 2) working group consultations; 3) digital table-top exercises and 4) desk review.

5.2.1 Working Group Consultations/ Online Technical Advisory Missions

As part of the partnership building and stakeholder mapping, the PCs have established (or are in the process to establish) working groups for the key programme areas in order to support the implementation in an inclusive and participatory way. The working group consultations were guided by the assessment framework and supported the collection and understanding of data in order to make the assessment.

PPRE East 3 Working Groups	Knowledge Transfer	No of consultations: 35
	Multi-risk Assessment	
	Early Warning System/ 24-7 operational centers	
	All-of-society approach/ Volunteerism	
	Emergency Response Planning	
	Regional exercise/ Host Nation Support (HNS)	
	Inter-institutional coordination/ Public Awareness	

Figure 5: PPRD East 3 National Working Group structure

5.2.2 Table Top Exercise(s) (TTX)

The purpose of the TTX was to test the preparedness and response mechanisms for information management, decision-making and coordination during a disaster situation with secondary impacts. More precisely to:

- Test capacity to receive and forward EW data and alarms, as well as initiate response actions according to emergency response plans/preparedness plans (including coordination of volunteers);
- Test capacity for inter-institutional and multi-stakeholder coordination;
- Test capability to request and receive international support;
- Test capability to communicate coordinated with the public and media

Through the exercise, the programme team made observations in order to identify strengths and areas for improvement in resources, capacity and established practices.

Scenarios

Main scenario and subsequent events were studied and developed, in collaboration with PCs, considering the following:

- Realistic scenarios in critical areas
- Proximity to borders and simulation of transboundary activities
- Activation of Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and management of host national support (HNS) guidelines

State	Scenario	Region
Moldova	Flood, Reservoir failure, COVID	Prut River Basin
Ukraine	Flood, Reservoir failure, COVID	Dniester River Basin
Georgia	Forest Fire, COVID, Vehicle accident	Borjomi
Armenia	Forest Fire, COVID, Vehicle accident	Lori province
Belarus	Forest Fire, CBRN incident, COVID	<i>Not implemented</i>

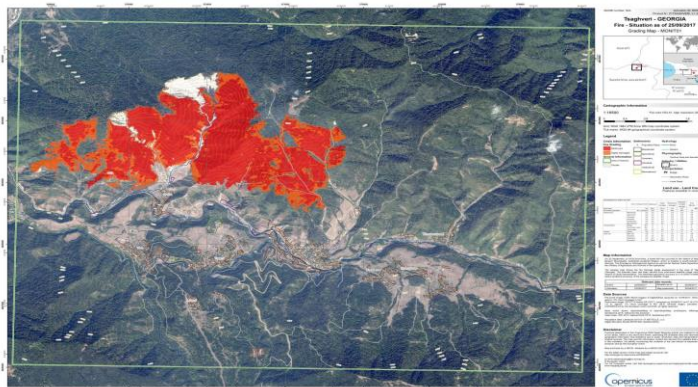


Figure 6: Situation map of Georgia as a basis for scenario development

Scope and methodology

The TTXs was organized to observe decision making processes, coordination mechanisms and information-sharing practices and evaluate the use and existence of SOPs and guidelines at Strategic, Tactical and Operational level. The TTX was alternated with discussion-based elements, where specific questions coming from the management of the incidents and the injections was addressed to the players, to better understand the processes.

Digital/ hybrid mode

In order to adapt to the current situation, and as an opportunity to test new innovative methods, the TTX was conducted through digital means in a hybrid set-up.

- A hybrid format refers to the physical location of participants. In this hybrid format, one or several subset(s) of the persons in the partner country

attending the TTX, were located together in the same place. Other participants, among them experts from consortium countries, joined the TTX by web conference.

- The implementation and monitoring of the exercise was conducted through digitalised forms which allowed the Exercise control and observers to monitor actions in real time. A digital dashboard had been established to visualise the actions.



Figure 7: PPRD East 3 Virtual TTX Dashboard

Target audience

Based on each country's system, and as relevant, the following actors were included but not be limited to:

- Representatives national civil protection agencies
- Line ministries
- Institutions/organization involved in the management of the relevant scenarios
- River basin management authorities
- Hydro-meteorological services
- Local authorities
- Civil Society Organization representatives
- National Red Cross

Conclusions and lessons learned

The results from the TTXs is included in the overall country assessments. It also resulted in [a short film](#) and a [pre-recorded webinar](#) which was part of the EFDRR 2021 official programme. Some of the lessons learned:

- **“Mission mode & mood”** was deemed imperative for a successful result and could be enabled through realistic settings and realistic scenarios, but also the use of different methodologies eg. role play as well as use of different communication and media tools.
- **Choice of communication platform**, based on need, was important and in PPRD East 3 the need for simultaneous interpretation and digital break-out rooms guided the decision in platform.
- **Virtual monitoring system/ dashboard** was successful as it gave immediate access to data in a systematic way.
- There were **limitations in observing processes and soft capacities**, which can be helped by:

- Involvement of **national experts inside the exercise control** (management) which increased the relevance and made it possible to adjust to the situation which played out.
- Having at least one **international expert on the ground to facilitate the discussion-based** and reflective elements will improve the result from the de-briefings and feedback sessions.

Annex 2: TTX Country reports

5.2.3 PPRD East 3 Series of Disaster Risk Management Webinars

To bridge the assessment and implementation phases, and as an introduction to a selected number of the thematic areas relevant to the PPRD East 3 Programme, A Series of DRM Webinars is offered to all PCs. The purpose is to offer informal learning opportunities through the sharing of good practices between EU member states and Eastern Neighbourhood countries. The Series will be extended throughout the programme.

Date	Webinar topic	No of participants
6 Oct	<i>“Learnings from the Forest fires in Sweden 2018, the request of international support and the strengthening of national and local capacities”</i> (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB)	61
3 Nov	<i>“Inter-agency coordination and public awareness in the Swedish crisis management system”</i> (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB)	57
1 Dec	<i>“Gender, human rights and environment in Disaster Risk Management; The launch of PPRD East 3 Practical Guideline”</i> (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB)	40
8 Dec	<i>“An introduction to Early Warning Systems (EWS) and the Italian example”</i> (CIMA Foundation, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Italian Civil Protection Department)	19

The webinars were successfully conducted as many participants from all PCs attended and actively raised many questions. The webinars were recorded and published on the programme website via MSB’s YouTube channel for further dissemination. (Annex 3: Invitation and description of topics)

5.2.4 Sendai Framework and the European Forum For DRR Webinar

Based on the event for the triennial European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR), PPRD East 3 offered PCs an informative webinar with UNDRR and national Sendai Focal Points. The purpose was to provide a platform to share experiences from the implementation of the SFDRR, enable networking between national disaster risk management actors, Sendai focal points and UNDRR - and to

promote the active participation among PCs in the up-coming EFDRR. (Annex 4: Invitation)

5.3 Cross-cutting issues

During the reporting period, main activities to support the integration of cross-cutting issues (CCI) in the programme have been;

5.3.1 Development of the Practical guidelines for integrating gender, human rights and environmental issues in Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

The Guidelines build upon global standards and best practices and present practical advice on how to integrate gender, human rights and environment into nine thematic areas of the programme. Examples of thematic areas include, training and exercises, Multi-Risk Assessments, Early Warning Systems, Public awareness, volunteerism and Host Nation Support. The main target groups of the guidelines are the programme experts and partner organisation staff in the PCs. However, they may also be of use outside the programme, and could support other actors in the Eastern Partnership region, and beyond.

The document was produced in collaboration with the programme experts and PCs' organisations to enhance the quality and relevance of the guidance. The Guidelines were produced as an interactive online resource and is available in English and Russian. It was launched during a webinar 1 December 2021 and is available on the programme [website](#) and in Annex 5.

5.3.2 Forming a Network of partner country CCI focal points

Each partner in the PPRD East 3 programme is expected to have a focal point for the two CCIs. During 2021, bilateral meetings have been held with the focal points. The purpose of the meetings was to start building a relation and exploring the countries' needs and interests to strengthen the countries' capacity to integrate the CCIs and how the focal points and advisors could collaborate in the programme.

5.3.3 Consultations with and support to the PPRD East 3 Experts' Team

The two CCI Advisors have engaged actively with the programme team in the assessment phase to ensure the integration of CCIs in the difference processes and activities. For example, the advisors have had continued discussions with the KEs and programme management and provided input and advice on how to consider CCIs in the assessment tool, TTX, country profiles and Plan of Action.

5.4 PPRD East 3 participation and representation in external events

EU-CHEM-REACT 2 Full-scale exercise (27-29 September 2021, Lvov): PPRD East 3 was invited to observe the full-scale field exercise organised by EU funded project EU-CHEM-REACT 2 – in order to collect learnings to use in PPRD East 3 Full-scale exercise. (See activity report annex 6)

5.5 Deviations from original activity plan

The PPRD East 3 programme was conceptualized before the pandemic which have had consequences for the reporting period's activity plan. Activities have been re-planned and others have been postponed to a later stage. Some of the major deviations from the original activity plan for the reporting period are presented below:

Inception phase: The inception phase were extended with one month, from three to four month.

Country visits: The expected starting point for the programme were the initially planned country visits with the purpose of establishing relations and as well as conducting stakeholder mapping. Travel restriction made this activity impossible to conduct and instead online meetings were held.

Assessment phase: The assessment phase, described in previous chapter, was not originally planned for, but was a strategic decision taken under the inception phase. Due to the challenging COVID-situation in the different PCs, as well as the geo-political situation in the region, the assessment phase was prolonged from 6 months to 10 months.

Technical Advisory Missions: The technical advisory missions within the different work packages needed to be re-planned due to the current situation. In some work-packages the decision was made to use digital consultations for the same purpose, while in other work-packages the missions to the PCs have been postponed.

Table Top Exercises: The Table Top Exercises (TTX) were conceptualized as part of the assessment process and with a shift from physical TTX:s to digital hybrid-based exercises. Four TTX:s have been conducted in Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and Armenia. See chapter four and Annex 4: TTX Country Reports.

Programme countries involvement:

- **Azerbaijan** decided to withdraw their participation from the programme during the inception phase, and re-entered into the programme in November 2021, which means they have not taken part in the assessment phase. Dialogue between the programme and the Ministry of Emergency Situations in the Republic of Azerbaijan on their continued participation and country specific plan of action is currently (November 2021) ongoing.

- The state of EU-Belarus relations has affected the implementation. The assessment of the national civil protection system in Belarus has not been finalized and the TTX was postponed. Continued adaptation and re-planning is foreseen.

Programme priorities:

- One result of the initial situational assessment with the purpose to define priorities and needs in each country, was that Host Nation Support (HNS) is a high priority for many countries. Several PC's raised the work done on HNS during PPRD East 2 as very successful and wanted continue/finalize that work. Since HSN also is well-connect to the operation priority Enhancing the European Dimension the programme decided to add HNS to the programme curriculum under Work Package F.
- Crises Communication is another priority area that has been highlighted by PC's during the assessment process. A strategic decision is to have a stronger focus on crises communication in correlation with interagency coordination under WP D in the updated activity plan.

New activities: Due to the fact that the assessment phase was prolonged and activities in the implementation phase were delayed, the programme team decided to carry out a number of other events and opportunities for the PCs to take part in, as described in more details above:

- PPRD East 3 Series of Disaster Risk Management Webinars
- Sendai Framework and the European Forum For DRR Webinar
- The Practical Guidelines for integrating gender, human rights and environmental issues in Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

6. Presentation of the technical results and deliverables

6.1 Assessment process results

Although the assessments have been carried out on national level to address country-specific conditions, common factors have been identified which allows for an overall approach to reach the programme objectives. The implementation will then be based on national conditions, and the identified good practices as well as areas for improvement. Annex 7: Country Assessment Reports.

<p>WP B: Knowledge Transfer</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Civil protection actors are better trained and local training capacities are strengthened and interlinked with UCPM trainings (mainly but not limited to CMI and OPM)2. Ability to participate in regional and international trainings and exercises, including leading, organising, and hosting them, is increased3. Civil Protection authorities are well equipped with knowledge required to apply European good practices and international standards for response capacities and increased interoperability of response capacities with other Partner Countries' as well as Member States'/Participating States' teams during exercises and real-life emergencies4. Linkages are created with the upcoming Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network
<p>Assessment overview</p> <p>The assessment provided an opportunity to identify and prioritize the PCs' training needs and areas of interest. The findings from the assessment and identified training needs of the PCs turned out to be close to each other, although the civil protection training system and structure vary between the PCs.</p> <p>Three priority areas emerged: development of training capacities (including training of trainers), increasing knowledge and interoperability both regionally and with UCPM and needs based knowledge transfer that include wider variety of training events. Other shared training needs were related to increased disaster risk management capabilities e.g. via new, innovative methods of response and DRM-training.</p>
<p>Capacity development strategy to reach expected result (outcome)</p> <p>Work package B aims to increase both the training capacities in general and the knowledge / skills on specified areas of PCs' interest. By organising training of trainers the work package will support the future training activities in the region. WPB also aims to support organisation of local trainings, i.e. trainings that the PCs can offer each other during the course of the programme. All training material will be offered to the participants so that they are able to distribute the knowledge built during the training events. Exchange of Experts programme (WPF) will be used to introduce examples of e.g. training grounds that will offer insight on</p>

capacity development in that specific field. (See further the Training Road Map Annex 8 and the Training Manual Annex 9).

Priority areas

- B.1 Training development capacities
- B.2 UCPM interoperability
- B.3 DRM capacities

WP C: Emergency preparedness

Outcomes:

1. Strengthened capacities for emergency planning
2. Strengthened capacities for transboundary emergency planning
3. Civil Society organisations, including representation of women's organisations, are consulted in the preparation of the Emergency response plans in order to ensure that their knowledge and experience is used (WP E)

Assessment overview

The emergency management systems are mainly referring to a strong national regulation for managing emergency operations, and are mainly focusing on firefighting, rescue and evacuation. The services provided to ensure the assistance to the affected population are under the authority of the local governments. Part of the emergency preparedness plans are classified, considering sensitivities regarding the identification of risks and their mitigation. Most of the responsibilities related to risk prevention are managed by other ministries than the civil protection agencies. Regional trans-boundary or international support is regulated through MoU or bilateral agreements.

Among the gaps identified is that most of the systems are “reactive”, which creates room for improvement to integrate preventive (as well as more innovative) elements in the preparedness planning. The data is not easily accessible. There is also a general lack of specific procedures for the inclusion of the community and the civil society in the emergency preparedness planning.

Capacity development strategy to reach expected result (outcome)

- SOPs development, to support the application of the CP law, through a proper decision making system, able to be easily updated, according to a lesson learning process
- Identification of guidelines that can support the application of International Disaster Law and a framework for trans-boundary interventions that can be enhanced in preparedness.
- Identification of planning guidelines that can be used for supporting data sharing, but also to enhance innovative thinking in developing local capacities, reducing operational costs and environmental impact.

Priority areas

- C.1 National planning guidelines and common planning approach
- C.2 Transboundary emergency planning and response plan
- C.3 Pilot area emergency plans

WP D: Civil protection agency development

Outcomes:

1. The network of national correspondents and operational 24/7 contact points for sharing early warning information is strengthened;

2. Stronger inter-institutional coordination between relevant ministries and agencies is achieved;
3. Awareness is raised about natural and man-made disasters among civil protection professionals, volunteers and the general public

Assessment overview

The assessment found that it was generally important to develop a continuity of inter-agency coordination from prevention and preparedness phases to the response phase. This means connecting many established fora for coordination in DRA and Disaster Risk Reduction to the often established inter-agency groups for response at the ministerial level.

The assessment also found a need for developing methodology for inter-agency coordination, and a need for a thorough analysis and mapping of relevant stakeholders including NGOs and private organizations, in order to update/develop/review existing inter-agency fora for coordination.

It is vital to ensure that organizations that represent women's issues or are aware of gender issues, as well as organizations that are aware of environmental issues, are included in fora for inter-agency coordination. There is a general expressed need for capacity-building/training for Duty Officers, and challenges in communications technologies for Duty Officers, but methodologies need to be developed to work around this.

In terms of crisis communication and public awareness, initiatives are generally in place, but understanding and methodology of crisis communication is generally underdeveloped, why there is a need for capacity building at all levels on crisis communication, and development of communications/public awareness strategies.

Capacity development strategy to reach expected result (outcome)

WP D will work on broadening the perspective to identify and include more stakeholders at the local and national level, as well as providing key stakeholders with the increased capacity to conduct inter-agency coordination for a more effective response and increase the capacity for effective crisis communication in an emergency. Work package D will also work on a more targeted and effective campaign of public awareness on disaster risk reduction and management among the population.

A regional workshop/training will start the work by providing relevant key functions with knowledge and tools to implement the identified activities in each partner country, such as conducting a stakeholder analysis to identify a wider range of stakeholders to include in inter-agency coordination, developing SOPs for coordination for duty officers/executive officers, as well as higher level officials, establishment of network for sharing early warning information among stakeholders, standardizing the minimum requirements of 24/7 centres, developing a communication strategy, public awareness campaign and conducting a gap analysis to map the needs for public awareness among the population.

Priority areas

- D.1 Integrated approach to enhance methodologies
- D.2 Inter-agency coordination
- D.3 24/7 operational centres
- D.4 Crisis communication & Public Awareness

WP E: All-of-society inclusive civil protection

Outcomes:

1. Participants of targeted Non-CP non-civil protection actors including civil society organisations and scientific community are actors (incl. CSOs and academia)

involved in prevention, preparedness, response to disasters
2. The Network of civil protection volunteers is strengthened (both women and men)
Assessment overview
There is not a clear legal base framework that includes CSOs and Academia in the National Civil protection systems and regulates their involvement in both prevention and response phases; Within the CSOs and Academia network there are not defined coordination mechanisms and there is no solid mutual knowledge about respective organizations' roles and responsibilities. There is no common volunteer management system at national level where it is possible to identify capacities and roles of the volunteers and outline common training and learning paths according to the different areas of intervention in disaster management and response
Capacity development strategy to reach expected result (outcome)
To map out, with the support of local Red Cross Societies, CSOs and Academia so as to enhance mutual knowledge about respective organizations' roles and responsibilities, and to establish country level working groups with focal points from CSOs, Academia, Community of Practitioners and government representatives at Civil Protection; Through face to face and online workshops which will help relevant CSO and National Civil Protection Agencies to share best practices on volunteers' management in emergency settings and through the definition of a minimum set of action points to enhance coordination with government stakeholders and definition of responsibilities.
Priority areas
E.1 Coordination mechanisms between Governmental and CSOs and the Academia E.2 Volunteers management systems and skills

WP F: Regional Cooperation/ Host Nation Support (HNS)
Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cooperation and exchange of good practices among neighbourhood countries and between Neighbourhood countries and the Member States/Participating States of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism are enhanced regarding prevention, preparedness and response Regional coordination and HNS capacities 2. Mutual support between neighbouring countries is more efficient and capacities to receive and provide international assistance are reinforced
Assessment overview
Legal framework for Host Nation Support (HNS) is existing in three PCs (BY, GE and MD) while AM and UA still need to finalise adoption process of the national HNS laws. Regarding the next step of the development of the national HNS system – development of the HNS SOPs – it is only BY and MD that have HNS SOPs already in place. It means that HNS SOPs yet need to be developed and finalised in AM, GE and UA. HNS teams/WGs are existing in BY and MD, and ad hoc version in UA (“situational” HNS team). HNS teams/WGs in AM and GE need to be formally established. Training programme for HNS is existing only in BY, it means to be developed in AM, GE, MD and UA.
Capacity development strategy to reach expected result (outcome)
Development of the HNS SOPs (AM, GE, UA) and HNS training programmes (AM, GE, MD, UA) will be supported during the programme through remote expert advisory support (online meetings of all HNS focal points, online bilateral meetings, consultations, revision of draft documents, etc.). Then, the HNS systems of all PCs will be tested during the Regional TTX and Full-scale Field Exercise in 2023. Additionally, there will be one HNS training

course organised within WPB focused to support the PCs to develop the HNS training programmes.

Priority areas

- F.1 Regional knowledge exchange
- F.2 Exercise planning capacities
- F.3 Testing of response capacities and regional interoperability
- F.4 Host Nation Support (HNS) system

WP G: Early Warning Systems

Outcomes:

1. Early warning systems are improved with the support of the scientific community

Assessment overview

All PCs are very active in the revision of the legal framework. In most countries the legislator revises the most important laws on a yearly basis updating and linking with newly adopted laws and by-laws. Furthermore, Civil Protection authorities are extremely keen in developing or adapting new regulations on the basis of EU good practices and directives. This proactive behaviour is also seen at the local level (municipal/regional). During practical activities and field missions carried out (Armenia and Georgia) there is a visible interest of participants in being part of the activities and, more importantly, in identifying gaps and weaknesses of their systems with the intention of strengthening their capacities and implanting a functional EWS.. Some initiatives exist between countries to facilitate information sharing (i.e. Dniester river basin authority and bilateral agreements between hydromet institutions of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania; mutual agreements – not codified- for the support in forest fire management between Georgia and Armenia and Georgia and Azerbaijan).

State of the art numerical weather prediction models are not in place in each state which lowers the forecasting capacities of the civil protection systems. Within the PCs, the national EWS is not fully functional as important components are missing (i.e. none of the assessed countries is currently delivering a daily Impact Based Forecast, poor meteorological observations, few SOPs between relevant stakeholders in place, etc.) and this is reflected at regional level. The hydrometeorological monitoring infrastructure is considerably weak in each state which compromises observation capabilities at regional level.

Capacity development strategy to reach expected result (outcome)

In order to comply with UNDRR and WMO indications for the implementation of efficient Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) there is the need to implement a holistic strategy capable of involving all relevant stakeholders and data producers. Nevertheless, some good practices, albeit only partially covering the EWS, exist in each country. The programme is going to support the strengthening of such capacities and will support the development of practical tools/information which will be then injected in a revised legal and procedural framework.

In order to have daily Impact Based Forecast (IBF) as a main achievement, the programme will support the: 1) Development of hazard/risk information for lead scenarios. In this instance Forest Fires have been chosen for technical reasons. The reason for this choice is both practical (given the limited budget of the programme hydrological modelling is out of reach) and strategic. Forest Fires in fact are not covered in the UN funded Green Fund Programme in Georgia and are not covered in WMO Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems in South-East Europe that covers also Ukraine and Moldova. PPRD EAST3 is going to develop active synergies with both above mention initiatives. Furthermore, hazard and risk

mapping can be conducted with good resolution using open data which will allow the consortium to be independent from national data sharing policies which can be cumbersome to cope with. And lastly, given the regional dimension of the programme, forest fires are one of the major hazards between the borders of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan and between Ukraine and Belarus where there is the aggravation of the radiological fallout in case of forest fires in the Chernobyl area.

The PPRD EAST 3 programme approach will follow with its multi-risk nature, but in order to provide a strong methodological approach and to practically improve the coping capacities of the countries, full hazard and risk mapping for Forest Fires will be conducted. This output is clearly data dependant, thus the better data the countries will provide, the better the final results will be. Hazard and risk mapping is of paramount importance for the elaboration of an efficient Impact Based Forecast. In fact, the knowledge of hazard is one of the determining factors for the evaluation of prospected impacts and deriving potential damage of an event. Furthermore, this programme output has a strategic connotation for the Member States as none of them currently has updated and officially adopted risk maps for forest fires. This output will also provide a basilar tool for emergency planning at national and at local and regional level; 2) Development of SOPs needed to evaluate potential scenarios merging meteorological forecast and risk information; 3) Development of SOPs ensuring the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the issuance of a daily IBF 4) Granting access to adequate IT infrastructures providing needed and available information (global meteorological models, available satellite data, etc) using what already exists (and free of charge) at international level; 5) Mainstreaming EFFIS and EFAS as operational early warning and monitoring systems; 6) Drafting of bulletins with development of scenarios, colour coding, etc.; 7) Developing communication channels from national to local and regional level 8) strengthening communications between Civil Protections and EU/UCPM/JRC

Priority areas

- G.1 EWS framework (at both tactical and strategic level)
- G.2 Early Warning to Early Action strategies (at national and regional level)
- G.3 Operationalization of early warning tools

WP H: Risk Management Capabilities

Outcomes:

1. National capacities for Disaster Risk Assessment and production of Disaster Loss Data are strengthened
2. Stronger national analytical capabilities, multi-risk assessments and planning covering both prevention and preparedness are developed planning (local level, pilot areas) (WP G)

Assessment overview

In all PCs there is an availability of regularly updated DRM and DRR Strategies, in accordance with legislation. There is also an availability of disaster risk assessments (DRA) at local level and for key sectors with associated emergency plans which are updated regularly. There are also good practices of the collection of disaster loss data by local authorities which supports the availability of aggregated loss data at national level. The disaster loss data collection is carried out in line with the Classifications on Emergency Situations defining the procedure for collecting and presenting information in the field of population and territory protection. The classifications provide as well definition of disaster events and assigning them to a specific class (natural, technogenic, biological, ecological, military and other), and group (hydrological, geological, transport, fires, accidents, geological, human and plant diseases). Also, emergency situations are divided according to the scale of distribution and severity of consequences into the following types: facility, local, regional, national and transboundary.

However, in most countries a general methodology for developing a disaster risk assessment is missing and thus streamlined guidance for local level and a developed national disaster risk assessment, although other kind of risk analyses. There is also a general need to update relevant legislation in accordance with international and EU DRA standards, guidelines, recommendations and terminology, and with definition of coordinating/ responsible stakeholders. The disaster loss data system can be strengthened through unified databases on national level, with disaggregated sex, age and disability data (and socioeconomic status) in accordance with the Sendai Framework.

Capacity development strategy to reach expected result (outcome)

The findings from the assessment consultations reveal a general lack of national disaster risk assessment report and methodology, whilst at the local level, preparedness against disaster risk reduction is more present (through the availability of risk information, DRA reports and DRM plans), but severely scattered. Despite the existence of databases on the local level, disaster loss data accounting, as a rule, is carried out on paper accounting journals, MS Excel sheets, or digital platforms needed updates. For what concerns Disaster Loss Data and Database development, except for Ukraine, instruments and tools are either obsolete either absent. In Ukraine the digital loss database is developed. In Georgia with UNDP support the methodology for disaster loss data collection and accounting was recently developed and currently pending for approval.

Therefore, the capacity development foreseen, revolves all around: development and reinforcement of DRA methodology and process at national and local levels, implementation of tools for DLD, and support on risk scenario and multi-risks evaluation development at the local level (see WP G), to bring uniformity in the scattered risk scenarios development of the local level.

Priority areas

- H.1 National Disaster Risk Assessment Methodology
- H.2 Regional Coordination Mechanism & Standardization
- H.3 Local Disaster Risk Assessment, Risk scenarios & Risk Evaluation

6.1.1 Cross-cutting issues

Based on the initial assessment, consultations with the Expert team and the national focal points, programme priorities for the cross-cutting issues have been identified. The priorities seek to capitalise on current windows of opportunities that have been identified in the programme and the expressed needs/ interests in the programme countries, and are elaborated in the Country assessment reports (Annex 7).

Environment – programme priorities

<i>Prioritised WP/ working groups in PPRD East 3</i>	<i>Prioritised thematic areas in PPRD East 3</i>
<p>Trainings & Exercises</p> <p>Multi-Hazard Risk assessment</p> <p>Civil Society Integration & Volunteerism</p>	<p>Climate change and other environmental drivers of disaster risk</p> <p>DRR efforts with special attention to Nature based solutions</p> <p>CBRN</p>

Gender & Human Rights – programme priorities

<i>Prioritised WP/ working groups in PPRD East 3</i>	<i>Prioritised thematic areas in PPRD East 3</i>
<p>Trainings & Exercises</p> <p>Multi-Hazard Risk assessment</p> <p>Civil Society Integration & Volunteerism</p> <p>Public awareness and crisis communication</p>	<p>Promoting gender-sensitive and inclusive training and exercise opportunities</p> <p>Enhance the involvement of organisations representing a diversity of groups in the society</p> <p>Strengthen disaggregation of disaster risk and loss data by sex, age, disability, income level and other relevant factors</p> <p>Promote equal access to disaster risks and crisis information</p> <p>Preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV) in emergencies</p>

To support the integration of CCIs in the programme ahead, the CCI advisors will focus on three different areas.

- First of all, operational support will be provided to activities carried out within the prioritised WPs (see the assessment report for further information on the prioritised WPs). This may involve carrying out own targeted activities within the WP, or to support the KEs and WGs in their work e.g. by providing input on the development of different processes, methods and tools.
- Secondly, focus will be to strengthen the capacity of the KE team to become more independent to promote the CCIs in their work in the WGs. Their use of relevant tools in the Practical Guidelines will be the main strategy and best practice and lessons learned from doing so will be followed up regularly.
- Finally, the CCI advisors will continue to build the relationships and deepen the collaboration with the appointed country focal points for gender and human rights, and environment, with the aim to establish regional networks in the countries for the two CCIs. The idea is for these networks to be a platform for sharing best practice between the countries and where support could be offered to strengthen the integration of CCIs in DRM in the countries.

6.2 Stakeholder and project mapping

In order to build on the existing work and on-going developments in the PCs, the programme has developed a Stakeholder and project mapping which includes all ongoing projects of relevance to the PPRD East 3 thematic areas. The programme team will reach out and establish relations to relevant stakeholders in order to build

synergies and avoid overlaps. The document (Annex 10) will be updated on regular basis.

6.3 Communication deliverables

All communication activities should be considered to aim at the PPRD East 3 primary and secondary target groups, identified in the communication plan (Annex 11).

6.3.1 Guiding principles

All communication and visibility activities use accurate and factual information. The communication approach strive to be people-centred, adopting a story-telling approach that emphasises the impact of the action on an individual level, without compromising the EU's fundamental values and principles.

All communication consider gender equality and diversity perspectives, as well as environmental aspects in image, language and in adaptation to the recipient. Particular attention is paid to language and style, a clear and simple as well as consistent and precise terminology is adopted. Communication activities consider the proportion to the scale of the action in terms of cost-benefit.

6.3.2 Graphical profile

The PPRD East 3 graphical profile is essential for the programme's visual identity. In order to ensure visibility, the logo appears on all documents, publications, websites and promotional materials presenting the programme. Templates for presentation material and relevant documents are available to all partners involved in the programme.

6.3.3 Communication Activities

During the reporting period, the following communication and visibility activities have been conducted.

- **Website:** The PPRD East website (www.pprdeast3.eu) was launched January 2021. The website aims to give an overview of the programme and its objectives and to share contact details to the project management and the experts involved. The *news* column focus on upcoming events and articles about the programme and its activities. News published include information about the Table Top Exercises, recordings of webinars and a special highlight on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- **Facebook:** The PPRD East 3 official Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pprdeast3) was launched in May 2021. The purpose of the page is to promote dialogue and participation, inform about programme activities and raise awareness of PPRD East 3 programme activities, as well as to share live updates about ongoing activities. It is also a means to direct our target group to the website for more information. Posts published include live

updates from the Table Top Exercises, news about upcoming activities and articles on the website and sharing the link to the promotion video. The Facebook page has 141 followers, where 52,5 % are men and 47,5% women, the total post reach is 560 and post engagement 326 (2021-11-08).

A social media strategy has been developed to guide the consortium partners in their use of Facebook and other platforms. In the strategy, guidelines for gender and diversity, tone, image policy and private use of social media are included.

- **Newsletter:** The PPRD East 3 Newsletter is a means to send direct information about the programme to our partners and stakeholders. On the website, there is an archive of all newsletters. The focus of the newsletters have been Table Top Exercises, webinars and the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. The newsletter has 221 subscribers (2021-11-08).
- **Press releases:** Press releases have been sent out to PCs and the EU delegations in order to disseminate information about programme activities. They were also published on the EUDigitool platform.
- **Promotion video:** A hybrid animation/filmed promotion video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81OYYYoTgc8>) has been produced in order to visualise how the programme has developed a digital/ hybrid method for Table Top Exercises. The video is shared on the PPRD East 3 website, Facebook and on the MSB YouTube channel. The video was broadcasted during the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction in November 2021.
- **Digital flyer:** A one-pager digital flyer has been produced.
- **Rollups:** Two rollups have been printed.

7. Evaluation of the technical results and deliverables

7.1 Progress towards objectives

- 1. Build sustainable capacities of Partner Countries' respective civil protection institutions for disaster risk prevention, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters**

The main results of the reporting period, are the findings of the country assessments, and the concretised activity plans to address the gaps identified, in order to support building sustainable capacities of PCs' civil protection institutions.

- 2. Strengthen interlinkages between all relevant governmental actors and civil society organisations as well as the scientific community, promoting a national inclusive approach to prevention, preparedness and response to natural and manmade disasters**

The ongoing process to establish inter-institutional working groups will support the interlinkages between different actors. More specifically, work-package E will particularly contribute to this aim. During the reporting period, the Series of DRM webinars, has supported a broad participation to increase the exchange between different actors.

- 3. Enhance regional coordination, institutional and operational cooperation between the UCPM and the Eastern Neighbourhood countries and among Eastern Neighbourhood countries**

The Table-top exercise (ITX) which was organised in each of the PCs as part of the assessment process included a significant UCPM component through the activation of the system and the testing of the host nation support (HNS). Further, in building up the scenarios, the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) was used.

The PPRD East 3 Series of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) webinars provided an opportunity to share good practices between EU member states and the Eastern Partnership countries.

The programme has made contact and established partnerships with international actors such as World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UNDRR and Joint

Research Center (JRC) which have responded positively to supporting the programme implementation in the continuation, which will strengthen the international and EU standardisation processes.

7.2 Operational priorities

Through the assessment phase, the programme has identified three operational priorities: 1) *Digitalisation*; 2) *Enhancing the European dimension* and 3) *Effective programme implementation*. The operational priorities, which are based on the programme approaches and inform the budget allocations, will be mainstreamed in all work-packages and guide the programme implementation - to support the **sustainability** of the programme.

7.2.1 Digitalisation

The evolution towards more digitalised methods and ways of working started before the pandemic, but intensified and highlighted the need to continue on that road. The programme aims to equip partners with necessary skills-set, methods and resources to support the adaptation. This will not only open up new doors, but also contribute to less negative climate impact. This will be realised by:

- **Increased number of digital learning events:** *Webinars, e-learning courses, hybrid meetings and exercises*. This will strengthen the adaptation towards digital methods and learning methodologies.
- **E-learning platform:** *Moodle development*. With a digital platform to support pre-learning, training delivery as well as collect all training material, capacity can be built over and over again. The platform can be duplicated and installed PC agencies after the programme to support sustainability.
- **Online learning methodology and pedagogy:** *Training of trainers (ToT)*. Digital teaching will be part of the regional training for all partners.
- **Basic IT equipment:** Where needed, the programme can support partner agencies with basic IT equipment to enable digital meetings, workshops and exercises within the programme implementation.

7.2.2 Enhancing the European dimension

The European dimension is logically central in the programme, and reflected in the third specific objective of the programme “*Enhance regional coordination, institutional and operational cooperation between the UCPM and the Eastern neighbourhood countries and among Eastern neighbourhood countries*”.

- **Operational cooperation with EU institutions and functions:** Will be facilitated through the implementing organisations networks and contacts as part of various EU cooperation, working groups and fora,

e.g. Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).

- **Use of EU risk information, guidelines and tools:** in the implementation of all work-packages in order to familiarise PCs but also to promote the standardisation of practices and use in operations, e.g. EU Guidelines on Risk Assessment and HNS, the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS), European Flood Awareness System (EFAS).
- **UCPM knowledge:** The programme training roadmap will include trainings based on basic and advanced UCPM training modules and UCPM elements will be operationalised in the activities.
- **UCPM response capacities:** The trainings as well as the programme-facilitated exchanges of experts will include knowledge transfer on UCPM response capacities requirements. The knowledge of the UCPM response capacities will then be tested also during the Full-scale exercise.
- **Sharing of EU MS good practices and lessons learned:** will be integrated in all work-packages. It will be facilitated through expert to expert exchanges but also in workshops and webinars, such as the Series of DRM webinars will be extended and openly available.

7.2.3 Effective programme implementation

For an effective programme implementation, it is important to build up the partnership with the beneficiary agencies and hold a continuous communication and dialogue.

- **Field presence:** through *part-time local coordinators*. These will support the regular communication with PCs and the logistical planning of activities to ease the national focal points' coordination responsibilities due to the large number of activities in the countries.
- **Translation/ interpretation:** In order to ensure that the programme can reach the right persons through the capacity development efforts, interpretation will be offered to a higher extent than planned for, in local languages. In many cases, this support will be provided by the local coordinators.
- **Communication:** To ensure the programme visibility but also to enhance a more user-friendly communication to make complex processes understandable to stakeholders, the consortium will apply a *coordinated approach* and utilise different channels and means provided by the implementing organisations. The approach will also include the involvement of PCs and formerly established journalist network(s).

8. Lessons learnt & risk management

The PPRD East 3 programme was conceptualized before the COVID-19 pandemic and thus not originally planned with considerations to the situation that the programme has faced during the first year of implementation. The fact of not being able to meet with partners physically due to travel restrictions has had an effect on the initial partnership building process. Also the national management of the pandemic itself has affected the possibility to engage fully in the programme for the PCs. At the same time adapting to a new reality also meant learning new ways of working as well as testing our capability to rethink and re-plan in a short time frame. In the following section some of the main challenges, lessons learnt and risk mitigation measures are described.

8.1 Programme Management

The **geo-political situation** in the region has created uncertainties around PCs' involvement in the programme. On an operational level, the many changes in planning have been time-consuming processes and at the same time created difficulties in finding a consistent level of ambition to reach the objective of a strengthened regional cooperation.

- The programme management has a close cooperation with the European Commission and holds a continuous dialogue which supports decision making in the implementation.
- The programme continues to have a flexible approach and making efforts to adjust to the context and PCs' situation.

National focal points are central to a successful programme implementation, which relies on their commitment. However, the size of the programme and the large number of activities risks to be challenging for the focal points who have many other responsibilities besides the PPRD East 3 programme. In practice, this risks to hamper the implementation.

- The programme strives to have a streamlined coordination and information sharing structure towards PCs to support an effective coordination, which will be further supported by the Moodle platform to systematic storage and sharing of information and documentation.
- The PCs are in the process to establish working groups on technical level, which will support the inter-institutional participation, but also coordination of activities and processes within respective work package.
- The programme intends to employ local part-time coordinators to support the coordination and logistics of the many activities in the PCs. But also the

important and daily (i.e. regular) communication with different stakeholders.

- Additional support from within the partner organisations to support the logistics could be beneficial as well as the institutional commitment to ensure continuity in case of changes in or absence of staff.

The **composition of the consortium** has shown to be a strength, both in terms of the combined knowledge and experience, but also for the credibility when meeting with different actors in the civil protection system in the region. The consortium partners are also active in different sectors and platforms which provides a strong base for networking and information dissemination of the programme. It has also been an added value to have a civil protection agency as the lead agency in partnership building communication.

8.2 Programme implementation

The pandemic provided an opportunity to explore **digital means** of communication and ways of working, to which the programme adjusted. Some of the positive results were the more regular communication and broader participation through digital events such as TTXs and webinars, which were made possible - also through the use of digital simultaneous interpretation. Financial and environmental savings were also among the benefits.

- The Programme intends to make parts of the adjustment permanent, but also acknowledges that there are challenges with the digital readiness and that personal encounters are necessary to complement digital means of partnership building and knowledge transfer.

The programme needs to be reminded that it takes time to fully understand the programme among PCs, considering its width and complexity, structured through a number of different inter-related work-packages. It therefore requires the programme to continuously go back to programme presentations and give room for explanations and questions. The Programme should also improve the visualisation of the processes and inter-linkages between the work-packages to better communicate its purpose. This will help the commitment and to involve the right people.

The **language barrier** has been a challenge and there is an unexpected need for interpretation in almost all meetings on technical level. Interpretation has become central for the communication and in developing capacity. While the digital simultaneous interpretation has provided an opportunity, the need itself has created an additional financial and administrative challenge.

- More funds will be allocated for interpretation and translation services, and local coordinators are also expected to support that cause.

There is a clear interest from PCs for **sharing and receiving good practices** between countries in the region as well as from EU member states. The PPRD East

3 Series of Webinars were well-visited and again provided the digital set-up an opportunity to reach out to a broader audience.

8.3 Contextual, Programmatic & Institutional Risks

Risks have been identified and divided between Contextual risks, Programmatic risks and Institutional (internal) risks and are found together with mitigating measures in the Risk Matrix: Annex 12.

9. Planning for the next reporting period

9.1 Programme Activity Plan 2022-2024

Based on the country assessments, the Programme team has elaborated on the original Activity plan provided in the Programme application, to better build on the existing capacities and address the most pressing areas for improvement in the programme countries. The Programme Activity Plan includes so called priority areas for each of the Work packages and Activities which will be adapted to the country context and annually reviewed. Based on this, a more detailed 6-months plan is being developed. Annex 14: Programme Activity Plan 2022-2024.

9.2 Training Road Map

Under Work package B, a long-term Training Roadmap has been developed based on the assessment findings. The regional trainings supports all work packages, and complement workshops, exercises and technical advisory missions - and specifically contributes to the objective to enhance the integration of UCPM capabilities in partner countries' civil protection systems. Annex 8: Training Roadmap

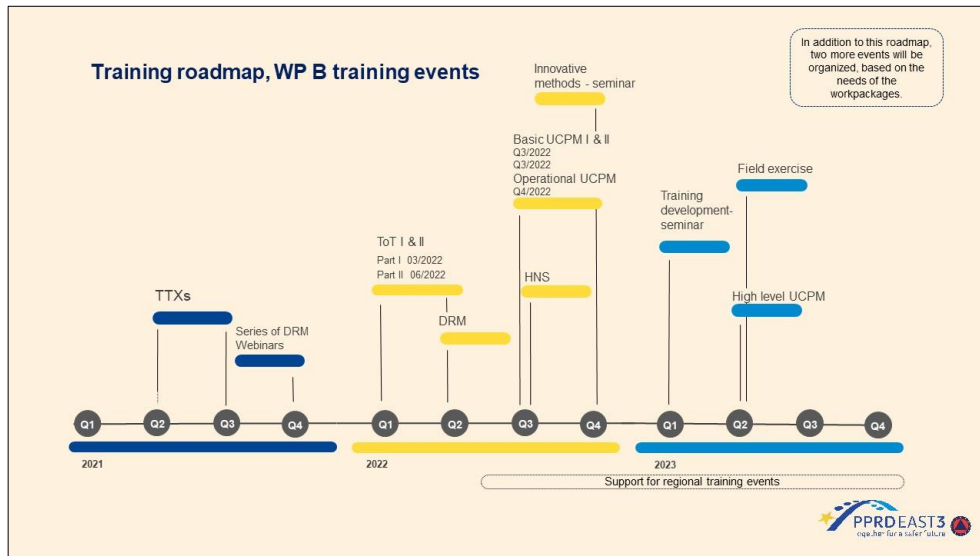


Figure 8: PPRD East 3 Training Road Map

9.3 Regional 6-months Activity Plan

During the next reporting period, there are many regional activities planned. This is to set the base (methodological approaches and terminology) which is common to all countries and at the same time establish the cooperation on technical level between the PCs. Most activities will also have elements of the sharing of good

practices from EU Member States. There is a mix of digital and on-site activities to support the strategy behind the operational priorities.

Date	WP	Activity	Target group
16-17 Dec (2021)	H	<i>Regional introductory workshop on Disaster Risk Assessment (digital)</i>	<i>DRM officers with DRA expertise from CP agency, academia and line ministry</i>
25-26 January	H	Regional workshop on Disaster Risk Assessment Guidelines	DRM officers with DRA expertise from CP agency, academia and line ministry
2 February	F	Regional Host Nation Support Round table (digital)	Host-nation support FPs
24 February		Steering Committee Meeting	Programme Chairs
1-2 March	G	Workshop on Early Warning information in emergency planning (digital)	Hydro meteorological and DRM officers involved in disaster risk warning
March	C	Webinar Guidelines on Preparedness plans	
29 March-1 April	B	Training of Trainers (ToT I)	Civil Protection Training officers
10-12 May	D, G	Regional workshop on methodologies for inter-agency coordination, early warning procedures and duty officer function	DRM policy-, planning-, decision making officers
April-May	C	Training of Trainers on Preparedness planning methodology	DRM Planning officers
April-May	C	Follow-up workshop to share preparedness planning activities based on ToT (digital)	DRM Planning officers
7-10 June	B	Training of Trainers (ToT II)	Civil Protection Training officers
June	D	Webinar on Crisis communication	Communication and DRM officers from different sectors

9.4 National activities/ processes

On national level, the Programme team will follow-up the assessment results on a technical level to ensure a wider understanding and agreement on the actions going forward. The on-going establishment of the national programme working groups will be central to the implementation and to support the inter-institutional coordination and cooperation. Besides the activities listed above (regional) and below (national), the programme team will establish regular communication with PC on technical level in order to provide regular remote support and advisory. The activities will be shaped based on the condition and level of development in each country (assessment findings).

Work-package C: Emergency Preparedness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to further development of preparedness planning on national level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Webinars on Planning, Information Management and Situation Awareness
Work-package D: Civil Protection Agency Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to inter-agency coordination, 24/7 operational centres and crisis communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Technical level meetings
Work-package E: All of society-inclusive civil protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the further integration of civil society and academia in the civil protection system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Technical Advisory Mission: Mapping of CSOs and academic institutions, definition of roles and responsibilities o Workshop on defining processes for coherence in volunteers mobilization and management
Work-package F: Regional Cooperation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote support to the further development of HNS system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o SOPs, legislation, training curriculum - Start the planning process for the full-scale exercise
Work-package G: Early Warning System
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical Advisory Missions to identify and assess pilot areas - Advisory support (national workshops and remote support) for the introduction of EWS elements in Emergency Planning
Work-package H: Risk Management Capabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to further development of DRA methodology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Workshop and remote support

Annexes

Annex 1: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Annex 2: TTX Country Reports

Annex 2.1 TTX Country Report Armenia

Annex 2.1.1 Armenia TTX Report Annexes

Annex 2.2 TTX Country Report Georgia

Annex 2.2.1 Georgia TTX Report Annexes

Annex 2.3 TTX Country Report Moldova

Annex 2.3.1 Moldova TTX Report Annexes

Annex 2.4 TTX Country Report Ukraine

Annex 2.4.1 Ukraine Report Annexes

Annex 3: A series of webinars: Invitation and description of topics

Annex 4: Sendai Framework and the European Forum for DRR Webinar: Invitation

Annex 5: Practical guidelines for integrating gender, human rights and environmental issues in Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

Annex 6: Activity report: EU-CHEM-REACT

Annex 7: Country Assessment Reports

Annex 8: Training Road Map

Annex 9: Training & Workshop Manual

Annex 10: Stakeholder mapping

Annex 11: Communication Plan

Annex 12: Risk Matrix

Annex 13: Programme Activity Plan 2022-2024 – with GANTT

Annex 14: Programme Activity Plan 2022-2024

Annex 15: Assessment Process Visualisation

Annex 16: PC's Technical Working Groups

Annex 17: Structure Work Packages, Working Groups & Key Experts