



### **The DPPI Regional Meeting Conclusions and Recommendations**

The DPPI Regional Meeting participants **agreed upon** the following **conclusions and recommendations**:

- under the topic of **the future role of the DPPI in emergencies situations** that
  1. The Regional Meeting has discussed the proposals by the Governments of Romania and of Serbia and Montenegro to strengthen the role of DPPI to prepare for and respond to disasters in SEE. The Meeting unanimously subscribed to the need to strengthen regional cooperation on disaster preparedness, prevention and response.
  2. In this context the existence of a number of regional emergency response mechanisms, with the support of international partners, such as NATO, IFRC, UN-OCHA and the EU Community Mechanism for Cooperation in Civil Protection Assistance and Interventions (MIC) was acknowledged. The Regional Meeting recommended that SEE Governments should make optimal use of these mechanisms and recommended that such mechanisms should be easily accessible to responsible authorities from all SEE countries.
  3. The Regional Meeting took note of the overview report describing these existing mechanisms, prepared by the DPPI Secretariat, and requested the Secretariat, with the assistance of a few experts from the DPPI network,
    - a) to inform the Chairs of these mechanisms periodically on DPPI program activities,
    - b) to explore with the Chairs how the DPPI program activities could be better used to strengthen capacities of these regional disaster response mechanisms, and
    - c) to explore how the DPPI network could further contribute to optimizing the effectiveness of these disaster response mechanisms.
  4. The Regional Meeting also discussed a proposal by Romania that the Governments of DPPI members countries should prepare better for mutual assistance in the case of disasters, by effective use of available national response teams, in accordance with European standards, and by agreeing on national border crossing procedures for such teams. Romania will submit a working document on this proposal to DPPI members.
- under the topic of further **regionalisation of the DPPI** that
  1. A Legal Working Group should be established and coordinated by the DPPI Secretariat to work on the institutionalization of DPPI, by defining a legal status for the Secretariat and drafting an Institutional Legal Framework, in which DPPI members countries define their contribution in terms of financial resources and personnel.
  2. All countries from the SEE region will delegate one member to the Legal Working Group, which should operate as an open-end group; members of the Legal Working Group ideally should be layers close to the DPPI.
  3. The Legal Working Group should develop the draft Institutional Legal Framework to be presented, discussed, agreed upon, accepted and signed until next DPPI Regional Meeting.
  4. The Senior Review Group for the reform of the Stability Pact ("Rusi group") should be informed on the conclusions of this DPPI Regional Meeting.
  5. The preliminary findings/initial report of the Senior Review Group for the reform of the Stability Pact ("Rusi group"), which is to be presented at the Stability Pact Regional Table in November in Prague, should be shared with the DPPI Regional Meeting participants by the DPPI Secretariat.
- under the topic of the outline of **the DPPI Work Plan 2006** activities that
  1. Complementary to regionalization efforts, the Disaster Management Training Project aimed at building-up the human capacity and capability of the Civil Protection/Disaster Prevention Agencies in the field of disaster preparedness, prevention and management will remain one of the strong focus of DPPI in 2006.



2. The Draft Annual Plan for the Disaster Management Training Project for 2006 shall be agreed by the **October 28, 2005**, which is the deadline for submission of proposals/offers from other countries from the region for participation in this project. The proposals/offers should be sent to Croatia, as project lead country in 2005. At the same time there will be left the flexibility to include the recommendations resulting from the Mid Term Review.
3. The need for the assessment of the Disaster Management Training Project in order to identify possible ways to improve the quality of the project and to give it a more concrete focus and clearer outputs towards the building of national and regional capacity has been recognized and accepted and it has been agreed upon that the DPPI Secretariat will proceed, with the support of UNDP/Bureau for Crisis Prevention & Recovery/ Disaster Reduction and Recovery Unit, with the organisation of the assessment to be carried-out as soon as possible.. Preliminary recommendation of the assessment should be available until the first half of December 2005 to be incorporated into the Draft Annual Plan for the Disaster Management Training Project for 2006. To facilitate the focus of the assessment all countries from the region should respond to the questions presented by Croatia, as project lead country in 2005, by the **October 28, 2005** and the responses should be sent to Croatia and to the DPPI Secretariat.
4. In 2006 additional efforts will be utilized for the facilitation and coordination of the development, fund raising and implementation of the projects initiated and proposed by the countries from the region resulting in the establishment of joint response mechanisms at regional or local level, standards harmonization, regional legal and procedural agreements and an increased focus on prevention issues. Cooperation with other international initiatives, organizations and agencies will be improved.
5. Information dissemination, program promotion and public outreach will be enhanced with an aim of raising general public knowledge and awareness of natural and man-made Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative in the South Eastern Europe.
6. Hungary will continue coordination and seeking support for the second phase of the Project on the Establishment of Emergency response Units in case of floods in the Sava-Danube region. The first phase on Training was considered a success by all the participants. IFRC stressed the positive impact of the project on the local population and UNDP/DRRU offered to Hungary its expertise to enhance the prevention aspects of the Project.
7. BiH will share with the DPPI Secretariat the draft version of the multilateral agreement on facilitation of the border crossing procedures for humanitarian assistance, presented initially in Budapest few years ago, to be further shared with the rest of the delegations and adjusted where needed with the view at seeking political consensus of SEE countries to sign it in a closer future. A listing of existing bilateral and multilateral agreements will be established by the Secretariat.
8. The DPPI Work Plan for 2006 will be finally defined and developed after inputs, proposals and comments are received from participants of the Regional Meeting. It will be subsequently submitted to delegations for adoption through electronic communication.

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