

## **Recommendations from the Croatia National Policy Dialogue**

Based on the detailed assessments of the DRR policies and practices as well as the NMHS capacities, gaps and needs in the beneficiaries to support DRR, policy recommendations were developed. Initial results were presented to national stakeholders for review and discussions during National Policy Dialogues organised by WMO together with the UNDP in Zagreb, on 7-8 June 2010. During this meeting, high-level participants endorsed the assessment, as well as the set of recommendations emanating from it and presented hereunder.

### **HFA priority 1: Ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation**

**Recommendation 1:** To encourage all existing disaster risk reduction actors in Croatia, as defined by the existing legal framework, to work together and invest additional efforts in recognizing and fulfilling existing disaster risk reduction tasks and responsibilities.

**Recommendation 2:** To strengthen coordination, strategic planning and management of disaster risk reduction at the national level through modifications of the existing institutional set-up by empowering, i.e. providing authority, accountability and responsibility to the National Platform to evolve into a multi-stakeholder national mechanism that serves as an advocate of disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction; provides coordination, analysis and advice on areas of priority; and undertakes strategic DRR planning and management.

**Recommendation 3:** To facilitate and support establishment of mirrored/similar/same mechanisms at the county and local self-government levels through strengthening and reinforcing local capacities, institutions and governance capabilities.

### **HFA priority 2: Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning**

**Recommendation 4:** To enhance the early warning system and interoperability of the System 112 through modernization of the continuous and real-time collection and information sharing by expanding the hydrological, meteorological and air-quality monitoring networks, establishing integrated fire-protection system and ensuring functional horizontal and vertical links among all disaster risk reduction actors.

**Recommendation 5:** To strengthen technical and human resources of the State Seismological Survey, and enhance the modernization and improvement of the seismological monitoring network and data transmission system.

**Recommendation 6:** To enhance technical and human resources of the Meteorological and Hydrological Service in operational monitoring, warning, forecasting and mapping of hydrological, meteorological and ecological risks.

**Recommendation 7:** To further strengthen operational cooperation of the National Protection and Rescue Directorate and the Hydrological and Meteorological Service through joint training and improvements to the standard operating procedures across agencies linked to the different threat levels and lessons learnt from each disaster event.

**Recommendation 8:** To enhance investments in climate modelling and forecasting and analysis to support strategic and sectoral planning for at-risk sectors.

**Recommendation 9:** To increase the awareness of the citizens and media regarding the early warning system and the European Emergency Number 112.

### **HFA priority 3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels**

**Recommendation 10:** The Ministry for Science, Education and Sport is mandated to mainstream disaster risk reduction into national educational curriculum by establishing Curriculum Revision Working Group composed of the representatives from the Ministry for Science, Education and Sport, from the National Protection and Rescue Directorate, Meteorological and Hydrological Service, the Republic Seismological Survey, other respective line Ministries, the Croatian Red Cross, expert organizations and individuals.

#### **HFA priority 4: Reduce the underlying risk factors**

**Recommendation 11:** To develop the disaster risk reduction Strategy and corresponding Implementation/Action Plan as a first mutual step undertaken by the key disaster risk reduction actors, e.g. the National Protection and Rescue Directorate, the Hydrological and Meteorological Service, the Republic Seismological Survey, line Ministries and respective public enterprises, the Croatian Red Cross, civil society and business community toward integration of disaster risk reduction into the development policies, strategies and sectoral plans, followed with the implementation of the said Strategy.

**Recommendation 12:** To develop national capacities for climate services to support medium and long-term sectoral planning through strong collaboration and cooperation across line ministries and with the Meteorological and Hydrological Service, and through enhanced regional cooperation with other South Eastern European and EU countries.

#### **HFA priority 5: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels**

**Recommendation 13:** To proceed with the establishment, in Croatia, of the Centre of Excellence for a training of fire fighters and coordination of response to forest fires in the countries of South Eastern Europe, including the harmonization of the development of fire-fighting brigades in the countries of the region through standardization of equipment and procedures, thus promoting regional cooperation and collaboration in disaster risk reduction in South Eastern Europe.