

## **Recommendations from the Serbia 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 Belgrade, on 25-26 October 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 Serbia, 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 the establishment of the National Platform as 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 further facilitate and enhance establishment of mirrored/similar/same mechanisms at the regional and local levels through strengthening and reinforcing local capacities, institutions and governance capabilities.

**Recommendation 4:** To develop the National Strategy for DRR and protection in emergencies and corresponding Implementation/Action Plan as a first mutual step undertaken by the key disaster risk reduction actors, e.g. the Sector for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior, the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia, the Republic Seismological Institute, line Ministries and respective public enterprises, the Serbian Red Cross, research and education institutions, NGOs, 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 National Strategy.

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

**Recommendation 5:** To enhance the early warning system and the establishment of the 112 system based in the Ministry of Interior through modernization of the continuous and real-time collection and information sharing by expanding the hydrological, meteorological, air, water, land, and biodiversity quality monitoring networks, establishing an integrated protection and rescue system and ensuring functional horizontal and vertical links among all disaster risk reduction actors.

**Recommendation 6:** To strengthen technical and human resources of the Republic Seismological Institute of Serbia, and enhance the modernization and improvement of the seismological monitoring network and data transmission system and of the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia in operational monitoring, warning, forecasting and mapping of hydrological, meteorological, climate-related and ecological risks.

**Recommendation 7:** To increase the awareness of the citizens and media regarding the early warning system and the Single European Emergency Call Number 112 as well as to raise public awareness and to inform and educate the population on disaster prevention measures.

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

**Recommendation 8:** To encourage mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into national educational curriculum by establishing Curriculum Revision Working Group composed of the representatives from the Ministry of Education, from the Sector for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior, the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia, the Republic Seismological Institute of Serbia, other respective line Ministries, the Serbian Red Cross, NGOs, international organisations, expert organizations and individuals as well as research and education institutions.

**Recommendation 9:** Coordinated DRR research should be undertaken to improve methods for predictive multi-risk assessments and socioeconomic cost–benefit analysis of risk reduction actions at all levels. These methods should be incorporated into decision-making processes at regional, national and local levels. Strengthen the technical and scientific capacity to develop and apply those methodologies, studies and models, including the improvement of regional monitoring capacities and assessments.

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

**Recommendation 10:** To incorporate disaster risk assessments into the urban and spatial planning and management of disaster-prone human settlements, in particular highly populated areas and quickly urbanizing settlements. The issues of informal or non-permanent housing and the location of housing in high-risk areas should be addressed as priorities. Also, to mainstream disaster risk considerations into planning procedures for major infrastructure projects, including the criteria for design, approval and implementation of such projects and considerations based on social, economic and environmental impact assessments.

**Recommendation 11:** 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 Republic Hydro-meteorological Service of Serbia, and through enhanced regional cooperation with other South Eastern European and EU countries and Centres.

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

**Recommendation 12:** To further strengthen operational cooperation of the Sector for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior and the Republic Hydro-meteorological Institute of Serbia 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 13:** To strengthen technical and human resources of the Sector for Emergency Management, build capacities of the operational units within the Sector and strengthen regional cooperation and collaboration on the technical level through joint training.

**Recommendation 14:** To enhance the development of the National Training Centre of the Sector for Emergency Management, i.e. to augment the implementation pace of the National Training Centre Action Plan (as defined by the USAID funded PPES Program) and promote education and training of individuals to properly respond in case of disasters.

**Recommendation 15:** To proceed with the establishment of the Regional Centre for Emergency Management in Serbia, which will serve as a training centre and as preparedness and response coordination and management centre in the South Eastern Europe, where multi-hazard rescue teams and first responders of different expertise will be situated with all necessary personal and team equipment and emergency relief goods, and which will be part of the network of regional centres of excellences promoting regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction in South Eastern Europe.