

Overview of National Platforms in Europe

Officially nominated in UNISDR Europe Region

Fact Sheets of European National Platforms

The document serves the purpose of providing up to date information relating to National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction within the UNISDR Europe Region

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Armenia

National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction “ARNAP”

Date of creation: December 2010

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History

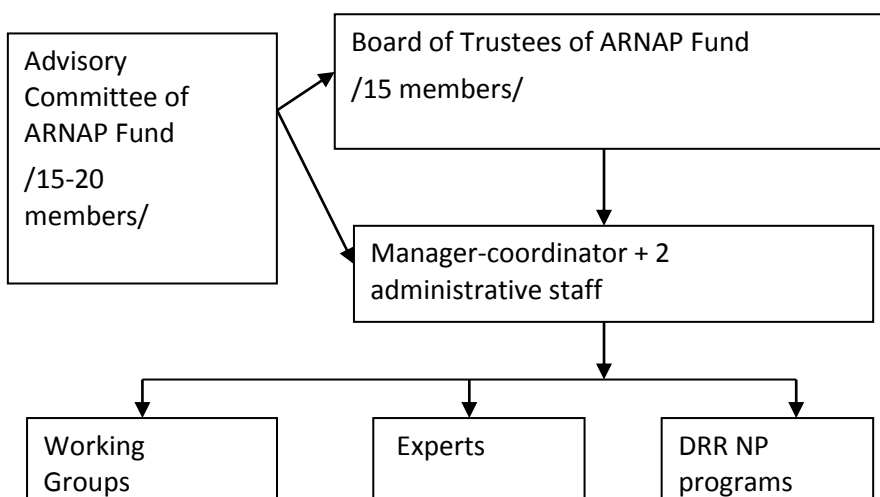
Natural and technological hazards threatening Armenia urge the need of development and strengthening of DRR system in Armenia. This process implies involvement of all the potential of the country, which can be achieved through elaboration of DRR National Platform.

December 2010 - National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction has been established. Fund was selected as a format of the platform out of all the alternatives discussed among the working group. Being a non-governmental organization, it provides opportunities for state, non-governmental, private and international institutions to participate in decision-making and consultation processes. At the same time, it provides opportunities for organizing and controlling day-to-day operational activities, implementing long-term projects; it also provides necessary flexibility to respond to new challenges. **ARNAP Fund** (Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform) has been suggested as a name for the fund.

DRR NP in Armenia is a structure elaborated and administered by the country with the involvement of stakeholders. It aims to promote DRR implementation at all levels, coordinate, analyze and consult in main sectors which require joined, participatory and coordinated actions.

Structure

Structure of the ARNAP Fund



Main participants of the DRR NP are government authorities of Armenia, Ministry of Emergency Situations, and international and donor organizations working in the field of DRR, UN, Armenian Red Cross, as well as scientific institutions and experts.

At different stages, **other participants** may be involved in the process, including representatives of various state and public agencies and organizations, private sector and religious institutions.

Advisory Committee – this committee is the main forum of the DRR NP where regular discussions are held on main issues of the DRR system, recommendations are developed which become guidelines for the activities of the platform. Decisions on quantity and quality of the Committee members are decided by the Board of Trustees. Committee sessions are advisable to hold on quarterly basis, and call for special sessions, as required.

Board of Trustees – is the managing body of the DRR NP which makes decisions on organizational, financial, structural and other important issues of the DRR NP. The Board decides on the strategy and work plan of the NP in close consultation with the Advisory Committee. Members in the Board are:

1. Minister of Emergency Situations- Head of the Board
2. Representative of the Ministry of Territorial Administration
3. Representative of the Ministry of Economy
4. Representative of the Ministry of Justice
5. Representative of the UN
6. Representative of World Bank
7. Representative of EU
8. Head of the Armenian Red Cross
9. Recognized expert of DRR
10. Recognized expert of DRR
- 11.–15. Representatives from International/Local NGO

Board sessions are held, as required, at least twice a year. The Board assigns Manager of the Fund who reports to the Board of Trustees.

Manager, administrative staff – a small staff headed by the Manager works on organizing ongoing activities of the Fund. In other countries, DRR NP usually has a secretariat the role of which is implemented by the administrative staff. Organizational and financial decisions of the administrative staff are made by the Board of Trustees. The Manager and the administrative staff assists in organization of the works of experts and working groups, and also initiates projects in accordance with the DRR NP objectives.

Working groups – main functions of the NP require thematic formation of working groups and organization of their work. This will assist in effective use of human and other resources for overcoming long-term and short-term issues of the system.

Experts – one of the objectives of the DRR NP is to involve local and international experts for strengthening the DRR system. In this sense, the DRR NP may expect active participation and assistance of international and donor organizations.

DRR NP programs – based on the DRR NP goals and objectives, special programs may be initiated and implemented to strengthen the DRR system and the DRR NP. Programs must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Aims

The goal of the DRR NP is to establish a multi-sectoral mechanism with involvement of all stakeholders.

Objectives of the DRR NP

1. Elaboration of DRR strategy and coordination of implementation. Improvement and development of the legislative field.
2. Clarification of roles and responsibilities of DRR stakeholders, harmonization of agency interests, provision of functioning and cooperation between and among DRR stakeholders, efficient use of resources.
3. Development of knowledge and learning, raising public awareness, strengthening of analytical skills.
4. Development of DRR methodology, including improvement of monitoring system.
5. Integration of DRR into development policies, program and planning.
6. Foster Partnership and environment for developing a culture of preparedness and advocacy for disaster resilient communities.

Expected outputs of DRR NP

1. DRR strategy and improvement of DRR sector legislative field.
2. Increase the effectiveness of decision-making in DRR system.
3. Introduction of DRR mechanisms, application of common methodology and creation of databases.
4. Strengthening DRR capacities and knowledge, introduction of DRR studies in education system, as well as raising awareness.
5. Inclusion of DRR in all development programs for empowering sustainable development of the country.
6. Establishment of gender-sensitive DRR system.
7. Expansion of integration into international cooperation, promoting implementation of HFA, implementation of MDGs and provision of transparency, and assistance in regional development in DRR cooperation.
8. Improvement of conditions for effective use of natural resources and protection of the environment.
9. Capacity Building of various stakeholders for integrating DRR into the development planning, policy and programs
10. Linking DRR into other sectoral interventions and ensuring disaster proof development in any developmental initiatives

Activities

Thematic-working groups were formed: gender group, education group, public awareness group, climate change and DRR group, DRR national strategy development group.

DRR National strategy will be presented for final discussion in October. A number of experts both internal and external have been involved in activities of the working groups.



Bulgaria

Chief Directorate Fire Safety and Civil Protection

Ministry of Interior

Date of creation: 2005

Website: <http://www.nspbzn.mvr.bg/default.htm>

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History

2001 - the former Civil Protection Service under the Ministry of Defense was transformed into the State Agency for Civil Protection under the Council of Ministers. The cooperation with IDNDR starts.

2006 – Ministry of State Policy for Disasters and Accidents including National Civil Protection Service Directorate General with territorial units in every region of Bulgaria; Becomes a National Platform for DRR

2008 - The Ministry of State Policy for Disasters and Accidents was renamed to Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES).

December 2009 - the structure became a Civil Protection Directorate-General under the Ministry of Interior.

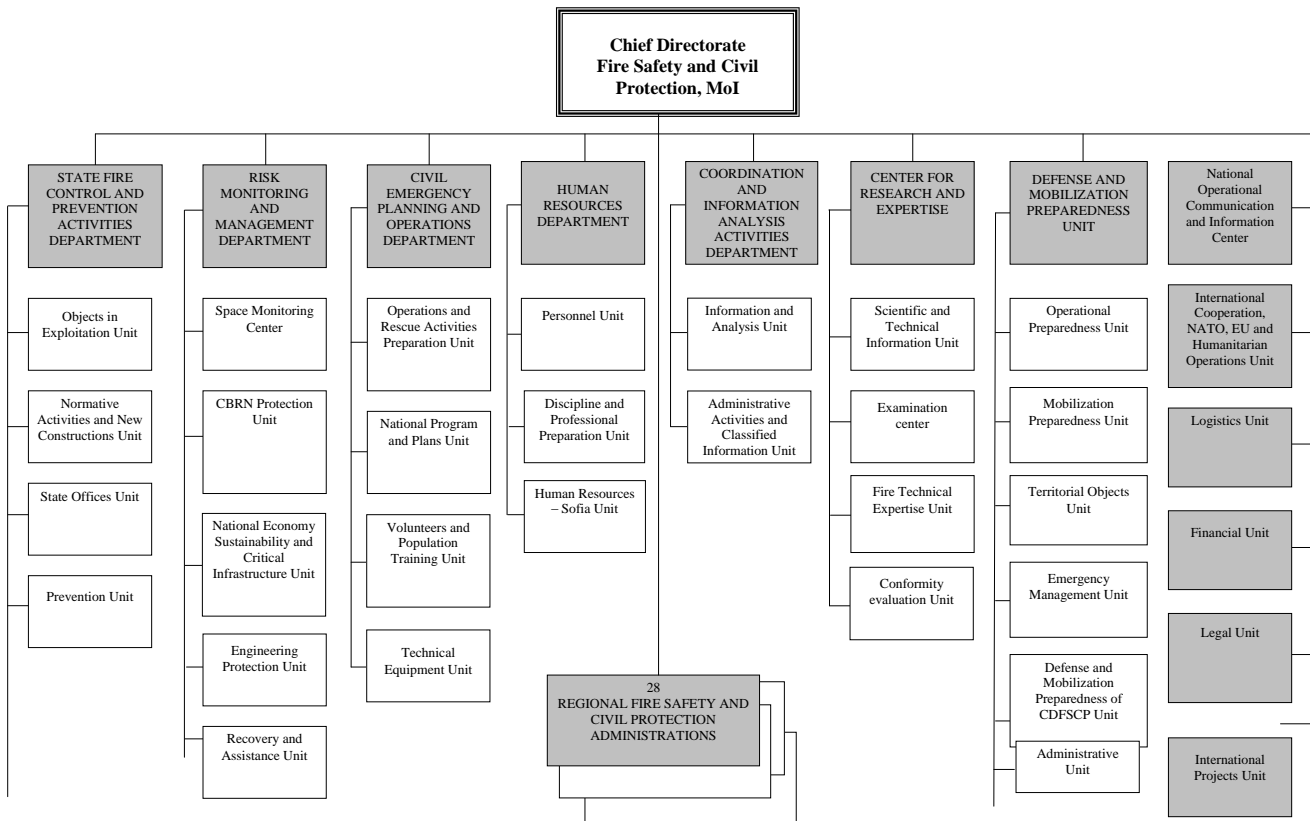
January 2011 – With the amendments to the Law on the Ministry of Interior (promulg. Official Gazette No 88 of 9 November 2010) the Chief Directorate Fire Safety and Rescue and the Chief Directorate Civil Protection were integrated in a new structure Chief Directorate Fire Safety and Civil Protection.

According to the art. 52 g of the Law on the Mol the tasks of the integrated CD FSCP are:

„(1) The Chief Directorate Fire Safety and Civil Protection is a national specialized structure of the Mol for ensuring fire safety, rescue and protection in case of disasters under the terms and provisions of this Law and the Disaster Protection Law” .

With the upcoming changes in the Disaster Protection Law a Consultative Council (consisting of all competent ministries and organizations in the disaster management and risk reduction area, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Universities, National Municipalities Organization) will be created. It will act in future as a National Platform for DRR in Republic of Bulgaria.

Structure



Aims

The general aim of the Chief Directorate Fire Safety and Civil Protection is to create an effective, efficient, technically adequate and materially integrated system for prevention, preparation, facing, management and recovery in case of disasters.

Legal regulations

The main laws governing protection of the population in Bulgaria in case of natural or man-made disasters are the Disaster Protection Law and the Law on Ministry of Interior. The purpose of the Disaster Protection Law is to ensure protection of life and health, environment and property in case of disasters. Based on DPL are developed and directed a number of practical documents such as - National Programme for Disaster Protection; annual plans for implementing the National program, National Plan for Disaster Protection, National Plan for conducting rescue and emergency recovery activities.

Along with those basic laws, there are a number of other special laws and regulations with which the relevant authorities are assigned functions in the provision of health and living conditions in the country, and functions in response to need. Such laws and regulations like - Law on National Emergency Call System with a single European number 112, Water Law, Environmental Law, Law on the safe use of nuclear energy, Act on the Bulgarian Red Cross, Health Law and others.

Integrated Rescue System

The units and services in charge of protection in case of disasters are components of an “Integrated rescue system”, preserving at the same time their institutional belonging and their set functions and subject of activity. The Integrated rescue system is the organization, coordination and the management of the activities of those units, services and structures responsible for reaction in the event of disasters and, when necessary - in simultaneous carrying out rescue as well as emergency recovery activities by two or more of its parts or units. Main components of the Integrated rescue system are the Chief Directorate Fire Safety and Civil protection, Ministry of Interior , 112 National System and the Emergency Medical Aid Centers. The main components of the Integrated rescue system ensure the constant readiness to receive messages on occurring disasters, their evaluation and immediate actions.

Space Monitoring Center

The Space Monitoring Center is intended to assist in the control over natural disasters and accidents on a national scale. The Center will assist in the processes of monitoring, evaluation and managing the risk of natural and man-made disasters and extraordinary situations. All received and processed data will enable the analysis and proper management decisions in the event of crisis, natural disasters, fires, landslides, floods, etc. The Space Monitoring Center will contribute to the successful integration of Bulgaria into the European information system.

Activities

According to the Act for Amendments and Supplements to the Law on the Ministry of Interior, Chief Directorate Fire Safety and Civil Protection is responsible for the organization and implementation of the following activities:

1. Prevention and control;
2. Emergency rescue and recovery activities, operational protection in case of floods and search and rescue operations;
3. CBRN protection in case of incidents and accidents with dangerous substances and materials and mitigation of ecological incidents
4. Participation in international projects and expert councils targeted at providing assistance to prevention and preparedness activities in case of disasters.
5. Performing disasters monitoring, warning and alert through the National Operational Communication and Information Center.
6. Protection of the population in case of “wartime” or “emergency situation” in compliance with the Geneva Conventions;
7. Assistance in the activities of the Interagency Commission for recovery and relief to the Council of Ministers;
8. Methodical and expert support for disaster protection to the territorial executive authorities;
9. Operational cooperation with the EU and NATO structures and other international organizations in the field of fire safety and protection of the population, humanitarian aid and civil-military emergency planning.

Prevention:

Main part of the prevention process is devoted to adequate emergency planning.

Chief Directorate Fire Safety and Civil Protection develops the National disaster protection plan, which includes plans such as:

- Floods;
- Earthquakes;
- Snow storm
- Petrol products spills;
- Fires;
- Industrial accidents;
- Nuclear accidents;
- Biological contamination;
- Terrorist acts.

Training:

Fire Safety and Civil Protection Training Center in Montana

Upgraded by international projects; Training center for CBRN protection to the NATO Education and Training Network.

Main activities:

- Training of rescuers and experts from the structures of Mol;
- Special training on radiological protection;
- Training on external programs (volunteers, units of the Integrated Rescue System, experts from Headquarters for coordination in case of disasters);
- Organizing and conducting of national and international exercises;
- Conducting scientific and methodological activities.

International Activities:

Chief Directorate Fire Safety and Civil Protection has active cooperation with international organizations, regional and bilateral co-operation.

Chief Directorate Fire Safety and Civil Protection works closely with:

- European Union – PROCIV Working party at the Council of EU, Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) of DG ENV, DG ECHO, DG JLS
- NATO – Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC)
- United Nations – DP, OCHA, ISDR and other
- Council of Europe – European and Mediterranean (EUR-OPA) Major Hazards Agreement
- Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
- U.S. Peace Corps
- CTIF

Regional Cooperation:

- Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative (DPPI) for South-Eastern Europe
- Civil-Military Emergency Planning Council for South-Eastern Europe (SEE CMEP Council)
- Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Bilateral Cooperation:
- Bilateral Agreements for cooperation with Romania, Russia, Italy.
- EU Exercise “Terrorist Act Consequences Management Training in South-Eastern Europe EU TACOM- SEE 2006”, conducted in Bulgaria in July 2006.
- Strengthening of the contacts with countries from South-Eastern Europe and the Black-sea region

International exercises:

Exercises SEESIM – 2002; 2004 2006; 2008;

Exercises organized by EU:

- EUDREX 2004 – Participation with a team of 15 rescuers and three cars that performed tasks of detection, search and rescue in the CBRN environment and two experts in the team for monitoring and assessment.
- EUTACOM 2006 – As host country. The Exercise was attended by 200 rescuers, over 40 specialized trucks and other equipment, teams with search dogs, medical teams, water rescue teams and diving teams; participated in teaching the national headquarters and three regional headquarters for action emergency. Participation of teams from Romania, Hungary, Greece, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- EU HUROMEX – 2008 – participation with 24 rescuers with two dogs to trace victims and seven rescue vehicles performing the tasks of search and rescue, flood protection, water rescue and diving operations, evacuation, rescue operations in the CBRN environment, height rescue doctrine in regard to participation and four experts in the coordination and evaluation team (OSOCC)
- EU DANUBIUS – 2009 – participation with 20 rescuers and six rescue vehicles, mainly performed search and rescue tasks in the CBRN environment and 2 experts in the assessment team.
- EU EVROS – 2010 – participation with 20 rescuers with 4 vehicles performing the tasks of rescue and water rescue in road accidents in the CBRN environment; 5 experts participated as co-organizers

Exercises organized by NATO EARDCC:

- Taming the Dragon 2002 - 20 rescuers performing the tasks of search and rescue in the wooded, mountainous locality and caves, and water rescue; 5 experts also participated in the assessment and coordination group.
- CMEPEX 2004 - as a exercise's host country Bulgaria participated with about 120 rescuers with over 30 specialized vehicles and other equipment, medical teams, water rescue teams and diving teams; the Regional Headquarters for emergency operations was involved too.
- Participants in the exercise were also teams from Turkey, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Italy and Croatia.
- IDASSA – 2007 – 22 rescuers and a rescuer dog, equipped with seven vehicles were performing the tasks of urban search and rescue after an earthquake. In the exercise 5 experts took part as members of groups for management, assessment and coordination (OSOCC).
- CODRII 2011



Croatia

National Protection and Rescue Directorate

Affiliated to Ministry of Interior

(Hrvatska platforma za smanjivanje rizika od katastrofa)

Date of Creation: November 2009

Website: <http://www.duzs.hr/>

Contact person: Damir Trut

E-mail: damir.trut@duzs.hr

Structure

The Platform Committee is a body established by the Government to coordinate all activities of the Croatian Platform.

Members of the Committee include:

- 1 National Protection and Rescue Directorate (leading national agency for Croatian Platform)
- 2 Ministry of Interior,
- 3 Ministry of Defense,
- 4 Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction,
- 5 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration,
- 6 Ministry of Economy, Labor and Entrepreneurship,
- 7 Ministry of Health and Social Welfare,
- 8 Ministry of Science, Education and Sport,
- 9 Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure,
- 10 Ministry of Culture,
- 11 Ministry of Finance,
- 12 Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management, Meteorological and Hydrological Service, Seismological Service of the Republic of Croatia,
- 13 Croatian Red Cross,
- 14 Croatian Mountain Rescue Service,
- 15 Croatian Firefighting Organization,
- 16 Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts,
- 17 Croatian Caritas.

Activities

At the proposal of the National Protection and Rescue Directorate, in March 2009 the Government of the Republic of Croatia has brought forth a decision on holding a conference on Croatian Platform for disaster risk reduction which is to take place every year under the chairmanship of the Croatian Government's representatives.

The Decision founded the Croatian Platform Committee under the chairmanship of the Croatian vice prime minister including members from all ministries and other state administration bodies and calling upon representatives of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, large economic entities, public companies non-governmental organizations that deal with protection and rescue, especially Croatian Red Cross, Croatian Mountain Rescue Service, Croatian Firefighting Organization, as well as representatives of religious communities registered in the Republic of Croatia. The National Protection and Rescue Directorate was tasked with the organization and activities between the conferences acting as a secretariat for Croatian Platform.

The Croatian Platform Committee was set up in May 2009 and it defined a program whose goal it is for the National Platform to ensure the participation of all factors of the development of the society. In the year 2010 the Croatian Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction has the same goal and has been working on linking of scientific institutions with all actors included in activities related to disaster risk reduction and disaster response. The Croatian Platform Committee has been holding meetings throughout the year in the same composition and discussions were held on how to make the Croatian Platform as sufficient as it can be to make its goals and to progress.

All participants were, again this year, invited to prepare and submit their papers on the topic of disaster risk reduction for the second conference of the Croatian Platform.

The first conference of the Croatian Platform was held on 09 November 2009 with over 180 participants from the state authorities, large economic entities, scientific community (Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and several colleges and institutions), as well as citizens' associations and religious communities. The second conference of the Croatian Platform is going to be held in October this year and we hope to have an even greater success, especially in encouraging the participants to engage in a discussion and therefore reach some greater conclusions on how to help the Croatian Platform be as sufficient as it can be and how to help Croatia reduce disaster risks.

The topics to be discussed on the second conference were defined by the National Protection and Rescue Directorate:

- Management in emergency situations - the theory and practice
- Science in reducing disaster risk - the theoretical foundations and developments in practice
- Climate change, extreme weather conditions and the necessary adjustments
- Raising awareness on the hazards and safety culture development (education, role of media, promotional activities)
- Early warning and capacity development for response to emergency situations and disasters
- International cooperation in disaster risk reduction

Already a great interest has been shown and so far the Organizing, Scientific Committee has chosen 37 papers to be presented on the second conference.



Czech Republic:

Czech National Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction (CNC-NDR)

(*Český národní výbor pro omezování následků katastrof*)

Date of Creation: 2002

Website: <http://www.chmi.cz/disasters.php>

Contact person: Jiri Hlavacek

E-mail: jiri.hlavacek@mzp.cz

History

Since 2000, the Czech National Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction (CNC-NDR) succeeded the former Czech National Committee for IDNDR (United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction), which was re-established in November 1997 following a gap due to the partition of the former Czechoslovakia.

Structure

Since 2002 the CNC-NDR is a registered NGO in Czech Republic. It has got about 30 members and the competencies and roles of the main “players” within the platform are defined. Out of these usually 15-20 members participate in the committee’s meetings, which take place 3-4 times a year. Currently the committee’s membership is drawn from specialists and managers from the following institutions:

- Office of Prime Minister
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Regional Development
- Headquarters Fire Rescue Service (Ministry of Interior)
- Czech Hydrometeorological Institute
- State Health Institute
- State Office for Nuclear Safety
- Red Cross
- Various research institutes and universities
- Czech Association of Insurance Companies
- Private companies
- Individual Members

Regional committees are supposed to improve activities with respect to disaster risk reduction at the regional level. The first of these regional committees was established in May 1999 in Ostrava for the Moravia and Silesia Regions.

Budget

From 1998 to 2002, the budget to implement national committee initiatives was supported by the ministry of environment. In 2004 CNC-NDR acquired the status of a non-governmental organization and therefore can generate additional funding from members and through participation in various projects both in the Czech Republic and also based on international funds (e.g. in cooperation with CEUDIP). Until 2005, the CNC-NDR had to operate without core funding. Necessary travel costs and the organization of meetings was covered by some member institutions. Since 2006, the Czech National Committee has been moderately supported by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic.

Aims

The National Committee focuses on both, disasters caused by the impact of natural hazards as well as disasters related to human activity (e.g. disasters caused by energetic “black outs”).

The committee’s initiatives aim at:

- strengthening early warning systems and improving coordination between governmental, non-governmental and private sector stake holders;
- improving crisis management; and
- strengthening legislation on issues related to disaster risk reduction.

International cooperation within the European Network of National Platforms

Strengthening of involvement of national meteorological and hydrological services in DRR platforms in their countries

Activities

The committee’s initiatives include the following activities:

- Risk assessments
- Training and education on early warning and emergency;
- International cooperation within the context of the ISDR;
- International cooperation within the Central European Disaster Prevention Forum (CEUDIP) and with other platforms especially from EU countries;
- Participation in international conferences on disaster risk reduction like the WCDR II in Kobe or the EWC II and III in Bonn;
- Involvement in WMO Disaster Prevention Programme; and
- Formalization of exchange of warnings with different German “Länder” (Bavaria and Saxony).

Early Warning for Flash Floods organization of the International Workshop in November 2010 in Prague

Beneath those activities, the Czech National Committee has been actively involved in the development of the following new laws, which define aspects and issues related to crises including disasters caused by natural hazards in a systematic way:

- Crisis Management Law;
- Integrated Rescue System Law;
- Related laws (Fire and Rescue Service, Water and Clean Air Acts)



Finland

Ministry of the Interior

National platform for mitigating the damage of natural disasters

(Kansallinen toimintaohjelma luonnononnettomuuksien vahinkojen rajoittamiseksi)

Date of Creation: May 2010

Website: http://www.intermin.fi/intermin/home.nsf/pages/index_eng

Contact person: Mr. Taito Vainio

E-mail: taito.vainio@intermin.fi

History

Finnish national platform was started in the 7th of May 2010.

Structure

The executive group consists of high level officials and members from organizations as follows:

1. Ministry of the Interior
2. Ministry for Foreign Affairs
3. Prime Minister's Office
4. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
5. Ministry of the Environment
6. Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
7. Ministry of Transport and Communications
8. National Emergency Supply Agency
9. Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities
10. Finnish Meteorological Institute
11. Finnish Environment Institute
12. Institute of Seismology
13. Finnish Red Cross

In the preparation group there are experts from the same organizations as above except Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities and Ministry of the Environment.

Budget

The Finnish national platform has no separate funding and the costs are covered by the participating organizations.

Aims

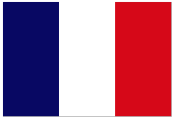
- Finnish national platform is aiming at improving the preparedness of the society and reduce the damage caused by possible natural disasters
- Another goal of Finnish national platform is also to pull together different actors and utilize the work that already has been done and coordinate better the work that is going to be done as far as natural disasters are concerned
- Finnish national platform also aims at developing cooperation with EU and neighbouring countries and support developing countries to build more risk resilient societies.

Activities

The preparation group is preparing a plan for activities of the national platform for the steering group. The steering group will make the decision about the plan in September.

Activities that have been agreed on:

- 7th of May 2010: Kick off meeting of the national platform
- 18th of June 2010: Preparation group meeting
- 16th of August 2010: Preparation group meeting
- 2nd of September 2010: Steering group meeting



France

France National Platform

Plateforme nationale pour la prévention des risques naturels majeurs (National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction)

Date of creation: 2001

Websites: <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Le-Conseil-d-Orientation-pour-la-15666.html>, <http://www.afpcn.org>

Contacts: Jacques Faye

Email: jacques.faye@developpement-durable.gouv.fr



History

The French National Platform succeeded the French Government Committee for IDNDR (1990-2000), and has been active since its inception in fostering cooperation for DRR activities in France and Europe.

Structure

The French Platform is a partnership between public authorities, agencies, and civil society DRR stakeholders at national and local levels. It is led by the Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Development (MEEDDM), in charge of DRR policies, with the support of AFPCN, acting as the executive (technical) secretariat of the platform. It works under the aegis of the COPRNM, the advisory body to the Minister on DRR matters, gathering the main stakeholders in this domain.

The functions of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction are performed under the direct supervision of the director general of DRR in MEEDDM, Mr Laurent Michel, assisted by the HFA focal point, Mr François Gérard, and by high level staff of the Ministry. Activities are carried out in association with AFPCN.

Established in 2001, AFPCN, has set up a Scientific Council. It works closely with the European Commission. In 2007, it started, on behalf of the French

national platform, a European Network of National Platforms (ENNP), a co-operative structure with Germany, Czech Republic and Poland (cf <http://www.ennp.eu>), working now within the framework of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) established in 2009.

Budget

The MEEDDM supports the running costs of the platform; the budget for specific activities is financed by small subsidies from other Ministries (Interior etc) and by contributions from AFPCN members, including through pro bono work.

Aims

The National Platform helps shaping public policies on DRR. It develops advices and recommendations involving public authorities, research community and civil society on major issues related to disaster risks and is currently concentrating its activities in the following areas:

- National strategy for flood risk management;
- Prevention of seismic risks;
- Strategic approach to international activities of DRR;
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of local risk prevention planning;
- DRR and global change adaptation;
- Linking prevention and emergency response stakeholders;
- Vigilance and early warning systems;
- Networks' vulnerability and resilience;
- Education and public awareness.

Activities

The COPRNM holds 3 plenary sessions per year since Sept 2009. Working groups are active all through the year.

Activities carried out by AFPCN (since 2001: workshops, working groups, seminars, exhibitions, etc.) are listed in <http://www.afpcn.org/Calendrier.htm> and <http://www.ennp.eu/Calendar.htm>.



Germany



German Committee for Disaster risk reduction

(*Deutsches Komitee Katastrophenvorsorge, DKKV*)

Date of creation: 2000

Website: www.dkkv.org

Contact person: Mr. Karl-Otto Zentel

E-mail: zentel@dkkv.org / info@dkkv.org

History

Following the launch of the IDNDR in 1990 the Federal Foreign office took the initiative to motivate different civil society actors to come together to establish a National IDNDR Committee.

At the end of the decade, the United Nations appealed to member states to establish organizations for disaster risk reduction or to support any existing national and international committees and organizations. Germany, which held the European Union Presidency at the time, drafted the EU position on the institutional framework for the continuation of international efforts for disaster risk reduction, and thus conveyed its member countries' plea for the United Nations to continue to steer international processes and to uphold a separate secretariat for disaster risk reduction in form of what was to become the ISDR secretariat. This was later established through the ECOSOC-Resolution 1999/63 and the General Assembly Resolution 54/219.

As logical consequences to its international efforts, Germany subsequently created in 2000 the German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV) as a successor arrangement for the German IDNDR Committee. In Germany, there was a clear consensus among all stakeholders that activities with regard to disaster reduction should be continued. The Federal Foreign Office as main donor to the work of the German National Platform ensured their continuing support. Thus, the Committee was able to continue its activities without any interruption. The structure remained the same. The name was changed from "German National IDNDR Committee" to "German Committee for Disaster Reduction"

Structure

The DKKV is a registered non-profit association under private law. The structure of DKKV provides a number of possibilities for information exchange, decision making processes and joint member initiatives: DKKV is directed by an *Executive Board*, currently chaired by Dr. Irmgard Schwaetzer, former Federal Minister for Regional Planning, Building and Urban Development. Composed of ten representatives of DKKV member organizations it meets 4-5 time per year.

- Its members discuss and take strategic decisions with regard to work plan implementation and on future strategic orientations of DKKV.
- The Executive Board is supported by a *Scientific Advisory Board* and an *Operating Advisory Board*. The Scientific Advisory Board and the Operative Advisory Board meet twice a year each. Members

exchange information on ongoing and upcoming initiatives. Out of members of these two boards temporary working groups are established to provide expertise and joint comments on defined areas of interest of DKKV.

- A *Secretariat* with 4.5 staff members coordinates the different activities of the Committee and ensures the flow of information among network members and with other national and international partners.
- The *Member Assembly* is the main body of the association and meets at least once a year. The assembly elects the Board of the Committee and is the decision making body for longer term strategic decision making and legally binding agreements.

It currently has 35 voluntary committee members and about 20 long-term guest members from the area of policy, administration, science, the media, private sector and aid organizations.

Budget

Core funding for DKKV and its activities is provided through a membership fee. As key contributor to ISDR processes, the biggest share of project funding is provided by the Federal Foreign Office. DKKV also receives various types of financing tied to specific projects and limited in duration and scope. The DKKV is also entitled to accept tax-deductible donations, as it has been certified as a non-profit organization.

Aims

The DKKV is designated by the German Government the National Platform for disaster reduction. It also serves as the German Hyogo Framework for

Action (HFA) focal point institution. As such it serves as focal point and information hub for organizations and initiatives involved in disaster reduction and promotes the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. It is also a center of expertise in all matters relating to national and international disaster reduction issues. The Committee's headquarter is in Bonn, located amidst the German and several international development Institutions.

Activities

Contribution to UN/ISDR processes and initiatives

The Committee continues to provide substantive input to UN/ISDR processes and initiatives. It proactively facilitates the participation of German DRR stakeholders and organizations in international DRR initiatives and meetings, including thematic platforms. It also served as a partner for the UN/ISDR secretariat by developing a Concept Note: "Learning to live with risk – Disaster Risk Reduction to encourage Education for Sustainable Development" as an input to the Midterm Conference of UNESCO on "Education for Sustainable Development", by identifying "Upcoming Challenges in Early Warning" in a study to draft a future oriented work-programme of UNISDR Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW) and by promoting capacity development tools for DRR. DKKV is a staunch supporter to further promote the concept of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction at global and regional level, one activity being the initiation of the Recommendations of National platforms to the Chair of the Global Platform 2009.

Linking DRR and climate change

DKKV is an official partner to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Nairobi Work Programme. As chair of a European network of National Platforms, DKKV gathered and

submitted European National Platforms' and HFA Focal point joint comments on a number of European Commission initiatives, like the *Green paper on Adaptation to Climate Change*. At the Global Platform DKKV presented its study "Addressing the Challenge – the integration of disaster risk reduction into the adaptation to climate change" and organized a side event. DKKV participated as National Platform at COP 15, gathering members and partners for a side event and the organization of a booth.

In addition to the update of the National Report on the implementation of the HFA and active contribution to the process DKKV will contribute to the Midterm Review and Global Assessment Report with a study on "Qualitative improvements of Climate Change Adaptation through Disaster Risk Reduction tools" (Working Title).

At national level, DKKV participates in the development of the German National Adaptation Plan. DKKV also organized several workshops and other meetings to discuss climate change and disaster risk reduction. One initiative of last year was a one year partnership with the German Global Compact Network on private sector and adaptation to climate change.

Founding member of a European network of National Platforms for DRR DKKV has been stressing the importance of networking. International networks provide the basis for concerted action, at various national levels, across national boundaries. In this respect, and following a number of initiatives over the last years, in April 2007 the Swiss, French and German National Platform signed an agreement of cooperation, establishing a European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points. Since its start the three partners in the network already managed to provide a number of coordinated inputs to disaster reduction relevant developments at the level of the European Commission e.g.

- Joint comments on the "Greenpaper on adaptation to Climate Change"
- Coordinated follow-up on the negotiation process on the Greenpaper
- Submission of two proposals to DG Research Calls "Natural hazards" and "Coordinating action"

Last year the National Platforms of Czech Republic and Poland joined the network.

Improvement of disaster management

Conceptual enhancement of disaster management has been identified by DKKV members as core for the integration of DRR. This includes analyzing relevant topics, both national and international, and developing concepts in topic areas. The areas of "Natural disasters and conflicts", "Natural disasters and poverty", "Natural disasters and global change" were identified as areas to start with. Already a number of workshops took place and publications were presented providing conceptual background on relevance to the topic and ways to mainstream DRR into these topics. Recently a study on the "Humanitarian Impacts of Climate Change" started, which will contribute to the MTR of HFA and the GAR.



Hungary

National Directorate General for Disaster Management (NDGDM)

Ministry of the Interior

Date of creation: 2001

Website: <http://www.katved.hu>

Contact Person: COL Attila Nyikos, dr., Head of Department for International Relations and Legal Affairs

Email: hucivpro@katved.gov.hu, attila.nyikos@katved.gov.hu

History

The Hungarian National Platform for Disaster Reduction within the ISDR-System was established in 2001. Since then it has been working within the unified national disaster management, which had been created as a consequence of a reorganization of the Hungarian disaster management system in 1999. The Hungarian platform is now working under the National Directorate General for Disaster Management (NDGDM).

Structure

As mentioned above the Hungarian national platform for disaster risk reduction is an initiative of the National Directorate General for Disaster Management (NDGDM). It is not an individual body, so it does not have its own budget either. Thus, the position of the President of the platform is taken by the Director General of NDGDM. Furthermore the Secretary of the platform as well as other positions are filled by heads of NDGDM as well. The members of the platform are drawn from different parts of society:

1. Governmental organizations: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of National Development, Ministry of National Resources, Ministry for National Economy, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Public Administration
2. Non-governmental organizations: Hungarian Red Cross, Association of Hungarian Local Governments, Hungarian Baptist Aid
3. Science institutions: Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Eötvös Lóránd University
4. Media: Hungarian News Agency (MTI)
5. Private sector organizations: Budapest Chemical Works Ltd., Association of Hungarian Insurance Companies, Mol Ltd

Aims & Activities

Currently almost thirty members participate in the general platform, which takes place yearly. Aim of the platform is to convene a joint meeting once a year where the competent persons from the governmental, non-governmental, science and private sphere can discuss their contribution and efforts taken in the field of DRR, to discuss the progress taken in the HFA and to come up with new ideas to reduce disaster risks.

UNISDR Europe Office

Document last updated: 6 October 2011

NDGDM updates the platform members' about the actual international DRR themes and upcoming ISDR events. On the other hand NDGDM circulates information about the international DRR trends and news electronically to the platform members. Additionally certain members of the Platform regularly meet in other occasions. For example, the Governmental Coordination Body (KKSZ) of the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for the preparation of decisions related to disaster management issues of the Government. Hungarian ministries are members of the KKSZ, as well as of the National Platform as listed above. Another example is provided by the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination (HUMSEKO) working group of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in which the same competent ministries and civil, charitable organizations take part to coordinate humanitarian relief and assistance activities.



Italy

Italian Civil Protection Department

Date of creation: February 2008

Website: <http://www.protezionecivile.it/>

Contact person: Luigi D'Angelo –Civil Protection Officer

E-mail: luigi.dangelo@protezionecivile.it

History

The Italian National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction has been formally created by a Decree of the Prime Minister issued on February 18th, 2008, aiming at ensuring the full implementation of the Hyogo Declaration and of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Italy.

Structure

The Platform is a coordination forum that builds on existing DRR capabilities. It is coordinated by the Italian National Civil Protection Department (DPC). At present, the Platform includes the following organizations:

Public bodies:

1. Prime Minister's Office, Department of civil protection;
2. Ministry of foreign affairs;
3. Ministry of interior;
4. Ministry of defense;
5. Ministry of economy and finance;
6. Ministry of economic development;
7. Ministry of environment and land and sea safeguard;
8. Ministry of infrastructures and transportation;
9. Ministry of work, health and social policies;
10. Ministry of education, university and research;
11. Prime Minister's Office, Department of regional affairs and local government;
12. Unified State and Regions Conference (CSR);
13. National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI);

DRR stakeholders:

1. The National scientific and academic community;
2. The community of NGOs and volunteers' organizations active in the field of DRR and disaster risk management;

3. The community of insurance companies active in Italy represented by ANIA
4. Other organizations invited to join the works of the Platform on a subject- matter basis.

Budget

All initiatives undertaken by the Platform are co-financed by the participating parties.

Aims

The vision of the Platform is a risk-aware and resilient society able to prevent disasters and to mitigate their impact.

The aim of the Platform is to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction into decision making processes at all levels in policy, administration and in the private sector. The overall goal is to promote all activities that may enable the society to reduce human, social and economic losses caused by natural disasters.

Activities

The main mandate of the Platform has been set by Law, and includes:

- to promote all activities required for implementing the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- to represent internationally the Italian DRR system and to act as a National focal point for the UN-ISDR and other national and international DRR stakeholders;
- to help collaboration and coordination on DRR by promoting the employment of the most suitable
- operational tools for improving community resilience;
- to support the spreading and strengthening the culture of risk awareness and prevention;
- to promote the integration of DRR considerations into bi- and multi-lateral cooperation agreements;
- to foster the adoption of new DRR initiatives in cooperation with foreign National platforms and stakeholders.

In order to perform the tasks established by its mandate, the Platform aims to:

- be a forum for knowledge sharing, political cooperation on DRR and the definition of sector-specific policies;
- help putting theory into practice by liaising between policymakers, scientists and DRR professionals;
- promote public-private partnerships and joint projects carried out in Italy and abroad;
- link national and international activities and initiatives.



The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Date of creation: April 2009

Website: <http://www.vlada.gov.mk>

Contact person: Dr. Pande Lazarevski

National Coordinator for the Implementation of the NP DRR

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History

The foundations of the National Platform for DRR can be traced in the national conceptual and strategic documents, most especially the *National Conception for Security and Defense* and the *National Security Strategy of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, as well as the *Law on Crisis Management*; this law established the Crisis Management System, which aims to provide continuous consultations and high-level decision making, maximal coordination, timely response, efficient and appropriate utilization of available capabilities and resources in the event of a crisis, as well as timely, quality-based and real assessment of the risks and threats to the security of the country.

Being one of the 168 countries represented at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan in 2005, accepting the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* (hereafter: HFA), the country developed a National Platform, based on the strategic goals and the priorities for action outlined in the HFA.

In December 2007, the process of establishing the National Platform began with the initial networking of stakeholders dealing with prevention and management of accidents and disasters. This networking established cooperation among all stakeholders in the country dealing with crisis management. Until March 2009, a number of cooperation memorandums were signed with all ministries, governmental agencies, municipalities, public enterprises and services, NGOs, academic institutions, universities, research centers and laboratories, as well as with the business community and religious communities. As a result, the National Laboratory Network and the National Network of Experts were launched as part of the National Platform.

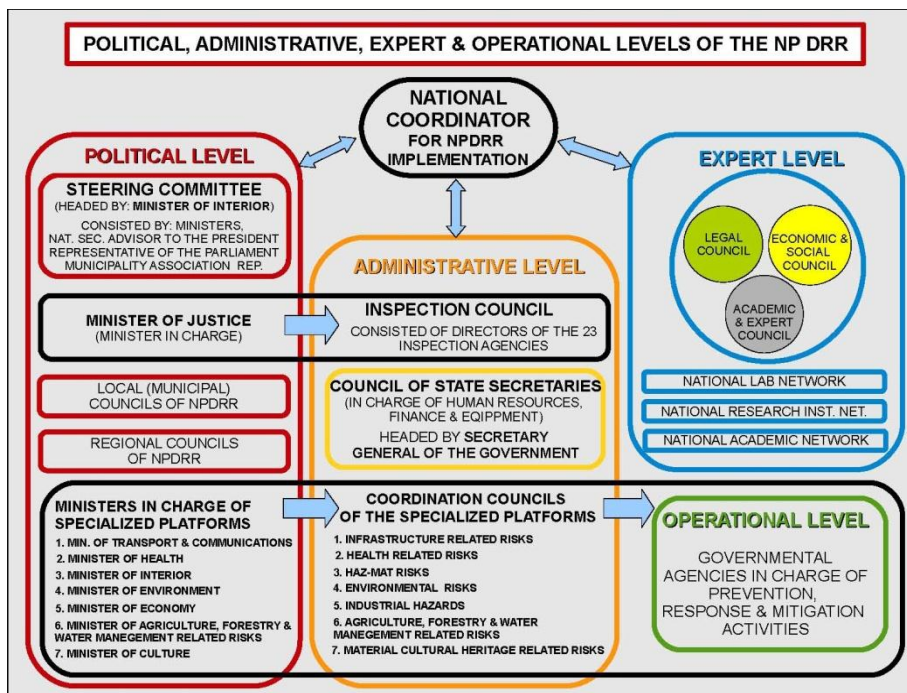
The Government, on its session held on 21 April 2009, officially declared the **National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**. Therefore, a political impetus has been given, guarantying the Platform's national ownership and leadership of the disaster risk reduction process.

Intensive efforts to attain international promotion and affirmation of the National Platform followed. Becoming the 11th European country and 56th country in the world with an established National Platform, on June 17th 2009, the National Platform was presented in Geneva at the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The first session of the extended Steering Committee as a governing body of the National Platform was held on July 1st 2009, marking the start of the Platform's institutionalization and its governing structure's establishment process. Intensive activities and the summing up of experiences resulted in the first review, which although being planned for January 2010, was completed two months ahead on November 19th 2009. Also, the reform of the National Platform meant the establishment of the three Advisory Councils: the Legal, the Economic-Social, and the Academic-Expert Council, as a framework uniting the highest

decision-makers in the respective areas with top representatives of the academic and business communities and the NGO sector. During January-March 2010, the seven specialized platforms that constitute the National Platform were set up. On 25 April 2010, the Government established the position of a National Coordinator for Implementation of the National Platform for DRR, to coordinate and oversee the process of implementation.

Also, it should be mentioned that on November 12th 2009, the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction was established, and Sweden and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were elected as Chair and Co-Chair for 2010 respectively.



Structure

The National Platform is organized on the following interconnected and interdependent levels:

- Political
- Administrative
- Expert
- Operative

From a territorial point of view, the National Platform is organized on **national** and **local** levels. However, when threats surpass municipal boundaries, the establishment of **regional** structures covering several municipalities is anticipated. This corresponds with the regional organization of other relevant governmental structures, such as the police.

Interconnecting all levels is the National Coordinator for Implementation of the NP DRR.

2.1 Political level

2.1.1 Steering Committee

On the Political, decision-making level the Government is actively engaged through the **Steering Committee** which is the managing body of the National Platform headed by a government-appointed minister. Other ministers, a representative of the Security and Defense Commission of the Assembly of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the National Security Adviser to the President of the Republic, the President of the Association of Local Self-Governing Units, as well as directors of the Crisis Management Center and the Rescue and Protection Directorate participate in the Committee's work. The Steering Committee determines the direction of the National Platform's development; it verifies the accomplishments and suggests certain operational solutions with system consequences. The Steering Committee's authority extends to two bodies: the **Council of State Secretaries** and the **Inspection Council**.

2.1.2. Local and Regional Councils of the National Platform

On the local, municipal level, **Local Councils of the National Platform** are being formed to assess local risks and threats, coordinate resources and activities, organize rural and urban communities, and to cooperate with neighboring municipalities. The Council headed by the Mayor, consists of members of the Local Council for Prevention, the president and members of the Municipal Council, the presidents of urban and rural municipal communities, as well as local representatives of the Crisis Management Center and the Rescue and Protection Directorate. It should be mentioned that the municipality, when necessary, establishes local rescue and protection HQs, and the municipality and its mayor have specific duties arising from the Law on Local Self-Government and the Law on Rescue and Protection.

Particularly important is the fact that the entire concept heeds the rural and urban communities, whose position within the National Platform is clearly defined. Namely, apart from the fact that the presidents of the rural and urban communities are members of the Local Councils of the National Platform, they are also entitled to: first, maintain regular communication with the Mayor and the Crisis Management Center (as an independent governmental agency providing administrative-expert and technical support to the National Platform); second, monitor risk conditions in the rural and urban communities that could be harmful to the life, health and property of citizens and infrastructure; third, inform and prepare citizens for prevention and their participation in response to accidents and disasters; and, finally, to organize citizens and to coordinate rural and urban community activities in the event of accidents or disasters. Understandably, implementation of the above-mentioned requires the personnel equipping, preparation and financing of the necessary activities.

When the situation exceeds municipal boundaries, close cooperation with other affected municipalities and government structures (that have their local units and offices) is crucial. For this purpose, the so-called **Regional Councils of the National Platform** are set up, covering several geographically close municipalities. The tasks of the are to organize risk and threat assessment when local (municipal) resources for response are depleted, to coordinate municipal resources and activities in the regional context, and to provide coordination with competent government bodies on the national level.

The Regional Councils of the National Platform are headed, for a period of six months, by one of the mayors of the municipalities included in the region (in alphabetic order of the municipalities). Other mayors, heads of local ministry units, as well as regional representatives of the Crisis Management Center and the Rescue and Protection Directorate take part in the work of the Regional Councils. Concerning the

country capital Skopje, along with the regional council, the National Platform has another city council that is limited only to the municipalities which are part of Skopje.

A regional HQ is established within the Regional Council of the National Platform, which depending on the risk and threat type convenes on a regular basis and in case of need.

The local and regional councils brief the municipal councils as well as the Steering Committee of the National Platform of their work.

2.2. Administrative level

2.2.1 Council of State Secretaries

The Administrative level consists of the **Council of State Secretaries**, headed by the Secretary General of the Government and is composed of state secretaries of ministries and directors of the independent governmental agencies. If necessary, the directors of bodies within ministries can also be invited to participate in the work of the Council. The task of the Council of State Secretaries is to bridge over the problems and to mark out administrative-expert decisions affecting the accident and disasters risk levels addressed by the National Platform. In that regard, nine working groups have been established composed of high ranking representatives of ministries and independent governmental agencies, whose work is coordinated by the state secretaries of competent ministries or other governmental agencies, according to their competencies and experiences in specific domains.

The effective functioning of the working groups is enhanced by a unified organizational structure involving members and deputies appointed from each institution comprising the working groups, which are headed by a coordinator or a deputy coordinator.

The working groups are as follows:

- Normative-legal harmonization;
- Finances, insurance and procurement;
- Human resources planning,
- Development and maintenance;
- Info-networking and resources registry;
- Standardization;
- Terminological unification;
- Public relations and public awareness;
- International funds access unit;
- International cooperation.

The Council of State Secretaries submits its conclusions to the Steering Committee to which it is directly accountable.

2.2.2. Inspection Council

The **Inspection Council** was set up to further effective inspectoral supervision within the framework of the National Platform. A working group for normative-legal unification in inspectoral supervision was established, with the authority to determine inspectoral services' interoperability procedures and to review problems in the domains of personnel hiring and qualifications as well as the inspectoral services' material-technical equipping, along with a coordinated financial framework determining support for inspectoral supervision in crisis management and rescue and protection.

The Director of the State Administrative Inspectorate is appointed the head of the working group, while its members come from the Crisis Management Center, the Radiation Safety Directorate, the State Inspectorate of Agriculture, the State Inspectorate of Environment, the Rescue and Protection Directorate and the State Construction and Urbanism Inspectorate.

The Inspection Council submits its findings to the Steering Committee, to which it is directly accountable.

2.2.3. Specialized platforms

Depending on the risk type, **seven specialized platforms** have been established and headed by competent ministries. Each of the platforms has its **coordinative council** presided by the minister in charge of the competent ministry, and each of the platforms has a number of **national commissions for prevention and risk and threat management**.

The following platforms have been established:

- Risks in the domain of infrastructure, coordinated by the Minister of Transport and Communications
- Health-related risks, coordinated by the Minister of Health
- Haz-Mat risks, coordinated by the Minister of Internal Affairs
- Environmental risks, coordinated by the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning
- Industrial accidents, coordinated by the Minister of Economy
- Risks in the domain of agriculture, forestry and water management, coordinated by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
- Risks in the domain of cultural heritage, coordinated by the Minister of Culture

To achieve efficient functioning of the National Platform and to satisfy normative-legal standards, the Crisis Management Center signed cooperation memorandums and agreements with all ministries, independent government agencies, municipalities, NGOs, academic and expert institutions and religious communities. These measures furthered coordination and cooperation in dealing with specific accidents, disasters, risks and threats. The signed documents clearly determine the place and role of the stakeholders in each of the platforms, as well as the goals that should be reached by the National Platform.

2.3.4 Thematic working groups

The thematic working groups represent a special part of the National Platform for DRR. They relate to issues and problems that are interdisciplinary in character and whose different aspects fall into the scope of interest of various government and non-government structures on both local and national levels, and, as such, are linked to two or more specialized platforms. These include:

- Protection of children in case of accidents & disasters
- Protection of elderly in case of accidents and disasters
- Protection of people with physical disabilities
- Working place safety in case of accidents and disasters
- Preschool institutions safety in case of accidents and disasters
- Safety of institutions for people with physical and mental disabilities
- Climate change, repercussions and adaptation
- Forestation
- State authority function in emergency and crisis situation
- Diplomatic and consular missions safety in case of accidents and disasters
- Cyber threats prevention
- Prevention and disaster management in primary and secondary school curricula
- Schools safety in case of accidents and disasters
- Hospitals safety
- Safety in penitentiary institutions in case of accidents and disasters
- Space threats – electromagnetic and other effects upon the Earth
- Resilience of local communities
- Early Warning
- Media and public awareness

- Coordination with insurance companies
- Coordination with NGO sector
- Coordination with the economic chambers and business community
- Coordination with the Trade unions and with the academic community

2.3. Expert level

The scientific-technical and expert backbone of the National Platform is composed of the academic institutions, including the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Academy of Sciences and Arts, the public and private universities and research centers and observatories.

The impressive National Laboratory Network which brought under one umbrella 174 laboratories nationwide only add to the picture.

2.3.1. Advisory Councils of the National Platform

The **Legal Council** consists of: the Minister of Justice, the President of the State Judiciary Council, the presidents of the courts, the State Prosecutor, the Ombudsman, the Chamber of Lawyers, the Association of Judges, the deans of the law faculties and the Association of Lawyers.

The **Economic and Social Council** consists of: the Minister of Economy, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Labor and Social Policy, the President of the Chamber of Economics of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, insurance companies, the Association of Actuaries, the Association of Employers, trade unions, the deans of the economic faculties, academic programs in social policy and the Red Cross of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The **Academic and Expert Council** consists of: the Minister of Education and Science, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Academy of Sciences and Arts, the National Association of Universities, the Expert Advisory Board to the National Platform for DRR, the National Laboratory Network, the National Network of Research Institutes and the National Network for Undergraduate and Graduate Education.

2.3.2 Research and Academic Networks

The National Laboratory Network is the scientific institutions are a crucial part of the National Platform. For this purpose, CMC coordinated the establishment of the National Laboratory Network (hereafter: NLN) that includes over 174 laboratories at state institutions, universities, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Academy of Sciences and Arts, public and private companies. The aim of the functional integration of the laboratory resources countrywide is to provide capacity development, reliable data and expertise, supportive to prevention, mitigation as well as to provide a variety of forensics (medical, technical-technological, building and construction forensics, environmental forensics as well as telecommunication and IT system safety.)

2.4. Operative level

Within the Crisis Management Center, the **State Operation Center** functions on a central (national) level 24 hours a day, 7 days in the week through the Single Communication and Information 195 Center (soon to be replaced by the Emergency Call Service 112).

The Early Warning and Alert System is also part of the State Operation Center, and, as such, is to be thoroughly reconstructed and modernized in the implementation process of the E-112 system.

When necessary, headquarters (HQ) in the Crisis Management Center and the Rescue and Protection Directorate are formed, which, according to the National Platform concept, are to be united in a single, unified command structure. The National Platform, apart from interlinking the various government and non-government stakeholders on the national level, also has its structures on local and regional levels.

The **Incident Command System (ICS)** is the American solution for incident management on the operative level. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ICS model is still in its initial phase. ICS is a management system designed to provide effective and efficient incident management by integrating services, equipment, staff, procedures and communication within a unified command structure that is designed to provide effective and efficient incident (accident) management. It is based on a flexible organization that enables participating actors to work within a common framework. ICS participants may belong to different agencies that do not cooperate under normal circumstances.

Budget

The competent ministries and governmental agencies will execute their activities along with the budget lines allocated to them for disaster risk prevention, response and recovery activities.

Aims

The general approach to handling accident and disaster risks, regardless of whether the events are natural or man-made, is to prepare a single doctrinary position that will be used as a blueprint to mark out specific strategies, policies and legislation. During a session held on November 19, 2009, the enlarged Steering Committee of the National Platform accepted the following

The overall objective of the National Platform is set in the basic doctrinary position for accident and disaster risk reduction:

Prevention and Early Warning are the basis for preventing in total or the disastrous consequences of natural hazards or man-made accidents, while the preparedness of each stakeholder and their capability for coordinated and rapid response are preconditions for reducing the consequences and rapid mitigation of such accidents.

Achieving this means crisis management through effective and efficient utilization of available resources and capacities, as an instrument for reduction of risk factors, identifying, assessing and monitoring risks, building a culture of safety, and strengthening disaster preparedness at all levels. Being a multi-stakeholder national mechanism, the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction serves as advocate of DRR on national and local level.

The aim is to ensure an integrated, efficient and effective approach to DRR through prevention, early warning, management and mitigation of disaster threats and post-disaster consequences, while securing functional unity of the state authority, the local self-government, the NGO sector and the academic and business communities.

Activities

The National Platform for DRR has a number of important activities in all phases of disaster risk reduction and crisis management in general. These include the developing of:

- General strategies regarding each specific risk
- Functional strategies for prevention, reaction and rehabilitation on how the general strategy will be implemented in terms of prevention, reaction and rehabilitation.
- Prevention, reaction and rehabilitation policies
- Policy implementation strategies,
- Policy implementing programmes and projects
- Legislative on prevention, reaction and rehabilitation.

In terms of methodologies, assessments, scenarios, plans and standard operational procedures, the NP DRR is entitled to develop the following:

- Risk assessment and risk consequence assessment methodologies
- Risk mapping methodologies
- Risk monitoring methodologies
- Risk and threat assessment
- Scenarios on possible transition of risks into accidents and disasters
- Preparedness, prevention and operations plans
- Rapid assessment methodology
- Operations plan
- Preparedness and prevention procedures
- Standard Operational Procedures;

Further activities of the National Platform include:

- Coordinating the multi-stakeholder collaboration for DRR;
- Bilateral and multilateral coordination
- Fostering the development of culture of safety through public awareness raising;
- Facilitating the integration of DRR into national policies, plans and programs;
- Coordinating joint efforts among stakeholders to reduce vulnerability of people;
- Information gathering, forecasting and analysis of risks and dangers;
- Providing decision makers with reliable and up-to-date data;
- Providing advice and proposing measures and activities for management of emergencies;
- Implementation of the E-112 Emergency Calls System;
- Alarming the population in the event of a emergencies;
- Conducting training for crisis management;



Monaco

Monaco's National Committee for the Prevention and the Reduction of the Risks of Natural Disasters.

(Comité National monégasque pour la prévention et la réduction des risques de catastrophes naturelles)

Date of creation: July 2009

National Platform Focal Point: Commandant Tony Varo

Website: <http://www.gouv.mc/devwww/wwwnew.nsf/HomeGb>

Email address: tvaro@gouv.mc

History

The platform has been officially registered to the Secretariat of the ISDR on the 3rd July 2009

Vision/ Mission

- To provide a coordination's mechanism among different partners in setting up a consultative process in order to disaster reduction
- To promote an integrated disaster risk reduction approach within development and construction programs

Structure/Composition

The National platform is composed of representatives of the following institutions:

- one representative of the Department of Interior (Ministry of Internal affairs) ;
- one representative of the Department of Facilities, Urban Planning and Environment (Ministry) ;
- one representative of the Department of Foreign Affairs (Ministry) ;
- one representative of HFA's contact (UNISDR) ;
- one representative of the subcommittee specialized in the field of natural and technological hazards;
- one representative of the Scientific Center of Monaco.

The functioning of the status of the NP on DRR

The national platform is built around the focal point HFA (Hyogo Framework for Action). It includes members of the subcommittee that specializes in the field of natural and technological hazards created within the Technical Committee of Health, Safety and Environmental Protection (Sovereign Order No. 2214 of June 9, 2009 establishing and organization of the Technical Committee for Health, Safety and Environmental Protection), representatives of the Ministry Facilities, Urban Planning and Environment, Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A member of the Scientific Center of

Monaco also represents civil society, which is in charge to monitor these operations through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

Operational Practices

Operational practices will be defined during the first operational year of the national committee.

Activities and Achievements

Activities yet to be clarified during the first year in the areas defined by the Hyogo framework for action:

- To identify and evaluate of natural risk ;
- To foster training and educational actions in regards to risks management;
- To foster international cooperation within UNISDR's context;
- To foster cooperation between Europeans national platform network in the field of natural disaster risks reduction.

Challenges and Constraints

To set up a resilience to natural disasters.



Norway

National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

(‘*Samvirkeområdet natur*’)

Date of creation: 1 September 2011

Website: www.dsb.no

Contact Person: Dag Olav Høgvold

Email: Dag.hogvold@dsb.no

History

Norway established its national platform for disaster risk reduction (Samvirkeområdet natur) 1 September 2011. It is set up as an authority network of governmental agencies and other stakeholders focusing on natural hazards (geological and hydro-meteorological).

The national risk assessment, carried out in 2010-2011, concluded that extreme weather and landslides are among the hazards most likely to affect Norway, and that they can have severe consequences. The country has also recently experienced serious events of floods, storm surges and forest fires. The Arctic climate in the north gives an extra dimension to present hazards, which may increase with climate change.

Structure

The following bodies are represented in the national platform:

- The County Governor of Møre og Romsdal
- The County Governor of Oppland
- The County Governor of Troms
- The Climate and Pollution Agency (KLIF)
- Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB)
- Directorate for Cultural Heritage
- Geological Survey of Norway (NGU)
- National Office of Building Technology and Administration
- Norwegian Agricultural Authority
- The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)
- The Norwegian Coastal Administration
- Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management
- Norwegian Mapping Authority
- Norwegian National Rail Administration
- The Norwegian Meteorological Institute
- Norwegian Public Roads Administration
- Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE)

Budget

The Platform has currently no specific budget, and activities are financed by DSB as well as by other members of the Platform.

Aims

The national platform will provide a forum for better coordination and information exchange between different sectors and different governmental levels. Disaster risk reduction in Norway is organized in accordance with the principles of responsibility, similarity, and subsidiarity. According to these principles, disaster risk reduction is integrated into all levels of planning and in all sectors. The municipal level has a key role in implementing disaster risk reduction policies, as they have the main responsibility for emergency preparedness as well as prevention through land use planning.

A steering group of director generals (or equivalent) will meet once a year to define main priorities for the national platform. A network group of government authorities will meet twice a year. The network group will be responsible for the day-to-day activities of the platform and for information exchange with the participating agencies.

The national platform will be coordinated by the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB), which also has the secretariat for the Norwegian Climate Adaptation Programme. The platform will be organized in close affiliation with the climate adaptation programme.

Activities

A mandate for the national platform will be decided at the first Steering Group meeting on 15 October 2011. It is likely to be based on the priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and to include climate change adaptation. The platform is then expected to further define activities relevant for strengthening cooperation within the priorities of the mandate.



Poland

Institute of Meteorology and Water Management

Date of creation: 2009

Website: <http://www.imgw.pl/>

Contact Person: Tomasz Walczykiewicz

Email: Tomasz.Walczykiewicz@imgw.pl; tomek@ists.pl

History

Polish IDNDR (***International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR)***) Committee was created in 1991 by the decision of the Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry and was established in the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management in Warsaw. The Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (*polish acronym: IMGW*) is a research-development unit created on the basis of the decree no. 338/72 issued by the Council of Ministers on 30 December 1972 on merging the State Hydrological and Meteorological Institute with the Institute of Water Management.

Polish National Platform for DRR as a continuation of former Committee apart from continuity of activity was formal established in 2009 by official notification from Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the ISDR Secretariat in Geneva.

Structure

Within the structure of the Polish National Platform for DRR the following bodies are represented:

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Ministry of Environment
3. Governmental Security Centre
4. Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration
5. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
6. Institute of Meteorology and Water Management
7. Military University of Technology
8. Polish Geological Institute
9. Polish Committee of Geo-technique
10. Institute of Geophysics Polish Academy of Science
11. The Main School of Fire Service
12. Inspection of Environmental Protection
13. Polish Red Cross
14. National Insurance Service

Budget

Polish National Platform for DRR is a non-governmental organization. Currently the Platform has not specific budget, activities are financed by IMGW budget as well as by other member of the Platform.

Aims

Polish National Platform for DRR actively participates in common initiatives concerning:

- creation of research programs connected with protection systems;
- sharing experience in the field of flood protection;
- training on contemporary problems of extreme environmental threats;
- early warning systems;
- education and information systems on unusual threats.

The detailed areas of activity include:

Strategic priorities which are as follows:

- forecasting dangerous events,
- carrying out and implementation of research works in the scope of natural threats (prevention, preparedness, response, recovery),
- preparation of land-use plans including high risk areas;
- public education;
- information and communication systems,
- risk assessment and methods of hazard effects reduction,

And:

DRR system improvement including

- organizational, operational and legal,
- economic and financial,
- social and sociological protection of population ,
- coordination and cooperation of governments, organizations and people's activities in extreme situations.

Activities

The representatives of Polish Committee participate in meetings with lectures and reports.

Special reports were prepared for:

- the Second International Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2005,
- the Second International Conference on Early Warning Bonn 2004
- the Third International Conference Bonn 2006.

Special attention was focused on Central European Disaster Prevention Forum Platform meetings including organization of two meeting in Poland (Warsaw and Cracow).

The Committee initialized:

- research programs regarding risk of natural disasters,
- publications regarding risk analysis,
- monographs about great flood event in 1997,
- schools and conferences on natural and technological disasters.

Examples of other activities are listed below.

Education at schools

Preparation of the educational materials for teachers for use during lessons at school –with general objective – how to prepare for flood)-basic information and tests for children, title: How to cope with flood –didactic materials for teachers; IMGW 2003

Education for media

The handbook “Collaboration with media”- IMGW 2003 – publication for journalists entitled “Natural hazards”-general idea of this publication–how to use “user friendly” definitions in information provided to the public and general overview of IMGW activities as NMHS

Schools organized by IMGW each year

- on disaster risk management with wide participation of the crisis management centers, research units, fire departments,
- on water management issues with wide participation for water administration bodies and research units.

Center for Hydrological and Meteorological Education in IMGW

Center was created in 2006. Main task is to provide workshops and lectures for administration and other entities in hydrology, meteorology, water management issues, data base and GIS Solutions (for example flood hazard and flood risk maps), crisis management and public participation.

Participation is free of charge, financing is provided by National Fund for Environment and Water Management.

Office for Local Government Collaboration in IMGW

Office was created within IMGW structure in 2004.

The main tasks of the Office are:

- Improvement of collaboration between the Polish NMHS (IMGW) and local authorities on the flooding issues
- Organizing series of meetings between IMGW and local governments with the aim to exchanging experiences
- Collaborating with other IMGW organizational units in preparing Informational materials as well as in line of Institute services and products attractive to local governments
- Local warning systems creation and improvement.



Portugal

National Authority for Civil Protection

Date of creation: 2011

Website: <http://www.prociv.pt>

Contact Person: Vicencio HENRIQUE

Email: henrique.vicencio@prociv.pt

History

Portugal has subscribed to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in 2005 and has, since then, taken concrete steps to integrate and streamline disaster risk reduction in its national development strategies. Furthermore, recognizing the importance of disaster risk reduction for the promotion of sustainable economic growth and progress, Portugal has sought to include Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) concerns in its development and humanitarian aid policies, in particular in the bilateral cooperation maintained in this regard with African Portuguese speaking countries.

The need for increased coordination among the relevant stakeholders has led Portugal to institutionalize the informal settings that were used to promote DRR. The establishment of the Portuguese National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, in May 2010, constitutes a firm step towards better coordination of prevention, preparedness, and response activities.

Structure

The Platform, created under the auspices of the National Authority for Civil Protection, is composed by the following authorities:

- Ministries of: Defence; Justice; Environment and Land Planning; Economy; Agriculture; Rural Development and Fisheries; Public Works, Transportation and Communications; Working and Social Security; Health; Science, Technology and Higher Education
- President of the National Authority for Civil Protection
- National Association of Portuguese Municipalities
- National Association of Portuguese Parishes
- General Staff of Armed Forces
- National Guard
- Humanitarian Associations of Voluntary Fire-Fighters
- Association of Professional Fire-Fighters
- Public Security Police
- Judiciary Police
- National Council for Civil Emergency Planning
- Security Coordination Office
- Maritime and Aeronautical Authorities
- National Institute for Medical Emergency
- Madeira and the Azores Regional Governments

Budget

The competent ministries and agencies will execute their activities using their budget.

Aims

The vision of the Platform is the coordination of the politics and institutions to reduce risk and promote safety of the populations, heritage and environment, and the integration of DRR in programs of prevention, preparedness and response. This means that DRR will be integrated in the decision policies at all levels, administration and in the private sector, and activities to reduce impacts caused by natural disasters will be encouraged.

Activities

Planned activities for 2011 and 2012 have the goal to achieve the HFA and take into account the Mid-Term Review process.

Portugal remains engaged in the reinforcement of the links between DRR and climate change adaptation, as we believe global warming is one of the reasons for the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events in the past decades.



Russian Federation

National Platform Focal Point: Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM)

Date of creation: 2003

Website: <http://mchs.gov.ru/en/>

Contact: Mr. Yuri V. Brazhnikov

Email: dmd@mchs.gov.ru; kakusha@mchs.gov.ru

History

EMERCOM was set up by decree of the President of the Russian Federation on January 10, 1994. In fact, the Ministry came into existence on December 27, 1990 when the Russian Rescue Corps was established. Its task was to ensure prompt and effective actions when emergencies arise. In 1995, two federal laws were enforced “On Protection of Population and Territories from Natural and Man-Made Emergencies” and “On Emergency and Rescue Services and Status of Rescuers”. They laid down the foundation of the government policy and administrative and legal norms in the realm of population protection, on the one hand, and rescuers, on the other hand.

In accordance with UN General Assemblies Resolutions and recommendations on the expediency to continue the policy of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction the Russian Federation has developed several measures on realization of International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.

These measures have resulted in the creation of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Russian Federation, which is consisted now from several governmental and public formations.

Structure

The core of the Platform is the Ministry of Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM of Russia). EMERCOM was set up by decree of the President of the Russian Federation on January 10, 1994. In fact, the Ministry came into existence on December 27, 1990 when the Russian Rescue Corps was established. Its task was to ensure prompt and effective actions when emergencies arise. In 1995, two federal laws were enforced “On Protection of Population and Territories from Natural and Man-Made Emergencies” and “On Emergency and Rescue Services and Status of Rescuers”. They laid down the foundation of the government policy and administrative and legal norms in the realm of population protection, on the one hand, and rescuers, on the other hand.

Another important element of the Platform is the Governmental Commission for Prevention and Elimination of Emergencies and for Ensuring of Fire Safety. The Commission was created in 2003 in accordance with the Decree of the Russian Government. It is the coordinating body for provision of joint actions of the executive power bodies, state and other organizations during realization of common state policy in the field of prevention and elimination of emergencies of natural and technological characters. The Commission is working in interaction with the federal executive power bodies, local management

bodies, involved organizations and public associations, and with respective international and intergovernmental organizations.

Chairman of the Commission is Minister of Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM of Russia).

Present representatives of the following executive power bodies are members of the Commission:

Ministries of:

- Internal Affairs;
- Transport;
- Agriculture;
- Economic Development and Trade;
- Education and Science;
- Regional Development;
- Information Technologies and Communication;
- Industry and Energy.

Federal Agencies:

- on Nuclear Energy;
- of Communication;
- of Forestry;
- of Navy and Inland Water Transport;
- on Education
- on Science and Innovations;
- on State Reserves;
- on Health and Social Development;
- on Special Construction;
- on the Use of the Interior of the Earth;
- on Railway Transport;
- on Technical Regulations and Metrology;
- on Water Resources;
- on Air Transport;
- on Building and Housing and Communal Services.

Federal Services:

- on Intellectual Property, Patents and Trade Marks;
- on Ecological, Technical and Nuclear Inspectorate;
- on Labor and Employment;
- on Hydrometeorology and Monitoring of Environment;
- on Inspectorate in the Field of Protection of Consumers Rights;
- on Inspectorate in the Field of Transport.

Meetings of the Commission are conducted on necessity but it is obligatory to have one meeting in three months.

In order to cooperate with international intergovernmental and Russian public organizations and religious faiths and also for the attraction of communities to the realization of the state policy in the

field of disaster prevention, protection of population in case of emergencies of natural or technical characters the Public Council was established in 2006. The Public Council consists of people who are well-known in the country and who represent the interests of various strata of society – in total – 31 persons. Among the members of the Public Council it is possible to mention: President of the Journalists Union Mr. Gusev P. – Chairman of the Public Council; Honoured Artist of Russia Mr. Lestshenko L.; Chairman of Russian Red Cross Mrs. Lukutsova R.; Chairman of Russia Independent Ecological Inspectorate Mr. Anikeev V.; Chairman of Russian Alpinists Federation Mr. Volkov A.; General Director of the Insuring Company “INGOSTRAKH” Mr. Grigoriev A.; Chairman of All- Russia Society Mr. Gruzd S.; Art Director of Moscow Theater of Miniatures Mr. Zvanetsky m.; Rector of Moscow University Mr. Sadovnichii V.; Archpriest of Moscow Patriarchy Dmitry.

The Council has four commissions:

- Commission on the public expertise of projects of federal laws;
- Commission on realization of measures of legal and social protection of active and retired personnel of Emercom of Russia;
- Commission on cooperation with other public and religious organization;
- Commission on law and order.

Activities

Topics of Commission meetings in 2007-2008 were: “Readiness of Housing and Communal Services for Autumn – Winter Period”; “Provision of Fire Safety in Schools and Buildings with People of Restricted Mobility (hospitals, old people’s home etc.)”; “Protection of Forests from Fire”; “Organization of Joint Exercises on the Response to Emergencies”.



Spain

National Commission for Civil Protection

(Comisión Nacional de Protección Civil)

Date of creation: September 2002

Website: <http://www.proteccioncivil.org/>

Contact person: Mrs. Victoria Sanchez Sanchez

E-mail: secdg@procivil.mir.es

History

In October 1990 the National Commission for Civil Protection was attributed the function of the Spanish Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) (Royal Decree 1301/1990). In September 2002, two years after the phasing-out of the IDNDR, the Commission was nominated as the Spanish Committee for the ISDR (Royal Decree 967/2002).

Structure

The National Commission for Civil Protection is an inter-ministerial institution dependent on the Ministry of Interior. It consists of the following members:

- Chair: Minister of Interior
- Vice Chair: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior
- Secretary: Director-General of Civil Protection

Other members are representatives of the following authorities and political subdivisions:

- Economy (1)
- Science and Technology (1)
- Public Works (1)
- Education (1)
- Culture and Sports (1)
- Labour and Social Affairs (1)
- Agriculture, Fisheries and Alimentation (1)
- Public Administration (1)
- Health and Consumers (1)
- Treasury (1)
- Office of Prime Minister (1)
- General Secretary of the Prime Minister (1)
- Ministry of Environment (2)
- Ministry of Defense (2)
- Ministry of Interior (4)
- Council for Nuclear Security (1)

- Autonomous Communities (each 1)
- Cities of Ceuta and Melilla (each 1)
- Ministry of External Relations (1) (only if the commission functions as the Spanish ISDR-committee)

As indicated by the list of members most departments of the central government are involved. Due to the participation of representatives from the different political subdivisions, different levels of administration can be reached (central, regional, local).

The Directorate General for Civil Protection serves as the technical secretariat of the commission and as such guarantees for the adequate implementation of adopted agreements, the preparation and distribution of documents, and the necessary coordination between the different technical commissions and working groups. The Directorate disposes of a National Civil Protection School (ENPC), which serves as the national academy for civil protection in Spain. The ENPC offers practical and theoretical training courses and workshops.

Aims

Be informed about criteria, directives and initiatives of the public administrations related to disaster risk prevention and mitigation.

Promote initiatives from the different public administrations and the private sector to implement actions, which contribute to the improvement of disaster risk prevention and mitigation.

Promote the development of a preventive social culture related to disaster risk.

Be informed about and disseminate information on the programmes, reports, directives and recommendations issued by the institutions of the UN or ISDR.

Promote the participation and coordination of different public administrations, private entities and specialized personnel in international cooperation projects related to disaster prevention and mitigation

Activities

Realization of studies with respect to risk analysis as well as pilot projects with preventive character, which support disaster and emergency prevention planning.

- Preparation of construction norms and guidelines for behavior aiming at prevision, prevention, civil protection and emergency planning with respect to different hazards (heat/cold waves, thunder storms, droughts, inundations, storms, earth/seaquakes, volcanic eruptions).
- Risk mapping
- Development of studies and programmes with respect to information of the population, promotion of self-protection capabilities, support of civil participation in civil protection activities and development of school education programmes regarding disaster prevention.
- Implementation of theoretical and practical training courses and workshops related to disaster risk prevention, risk analysis and emergency management (via ENPC).
- Development of a simulation programme for earthquake impacts on a municipal basis (SES 2002) in cooperation with the National Geographic Institute.
- Implementation of an education programme for forest fire prevention focusing on young people at school age (component of the worldwide disaster prevention campaign of ISDR "Disaster Reduction begins at school 2006-2007") including online material for professional training of teachers.



Sweden

Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)

Website: www.msb.se/nationalplatform

Date of creation: September 2007

Contact Person: Mette Lindahl Olsson, Head of Natural Hazards and Critical Infrastructure Section

E-mail: mette.lindahl-olsson@msb.se

Secretariat:

National coordinator: Åke Svensson,

Natural Hazards and Critical Infrastructure Section, MSB, Phone +46102405287,

E-mail: ake.svensson@msb.se

International coordinator: Janet Edwards, Natural Hazards and Critical Infrastructure Section,

E-mail: janet.edwards@msb.se

History

The Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was established in September 2007 as a result of a government commission to the Swedish Rescue Services Agency. Today, the new authority Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB (established in 2009) is the HFA Focal Point and responsible, on commission from the government, for collaboration with other competent authorities and organizations for running a national platform for natural disasters.

The platform's purpose is to work towards preventing and mitigating the consequences of natural disasters in line with Sweden's undertaking in relation to the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Structure

- A steering committee of directors general from the authorities and organizations
- represented in the platform which is responsible for the overall direction of the work.
- An authority network with representatives from the contributing authorities and organizations. The authority network carries out the day-to-day platform work.
- A secretariat at the MSB, which is responsible for the coordination, communication and administration of platform work. The MSB is also the point of contact for the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).
- Working groups that can be formed to work on limited specific tasks. Reference groups can be formed when there is a specific need.

The following authorities are represented on the platform:

Swedish Transport Administration; Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning; Swedish Energy Agency; Lantmäteriet (the mapping, cadastral and land registration authority); Swedish National Food Administration; the County Administrative Boards; MSB; Swedish Environmental Protection Agency; Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; Swedish Forest Agency; Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute; Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare; Swedish Geotechnical Institute; Svenska Kraftnät (the national grid); Geological Survey of Sweden; Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions;; Swedish National Heritage Board.

Budget

MSB has in 2011 approximately 900 000 SEK for the national platform covering costs for studies, reports, brochures, national meetings and seminars, and travel and per diem for international meetings attended by the HFA focal point and other staff of the secretariat. The other authorities in the platform contribute with their time when they participate in meetings and working groups and with extra financing for studies of particular interest to them.

Aims

The overall purpose of the work within the framework of the national platform is to prevent and mitigate the consequences of natural disasters by improving coordination at local, regional and national levels.

The objectives for Sweden's national platform are:

- To create a safer Sweden by reducing the risks for and increasing societal capacities for dealing with natural disasters.
- To provide an arena for cooperation between organizations and existing networks so as to increase the collective capabilities of societal stakeholders.
- To support stakeholders with data for their work on natural disasters at local, regional and national levels.

Activities

The work of the platform is conducted in three target areas and can pertain to national or international activities:

- Cooperation and coordination between authorities and organizations
- Effective data supply
- Research & development and the supply of knowledge

Work is carried out in activities and initiatives, to which the participating authorities have contributed resources, or in activities initiated by the authorities responsible, or through the participation of other stakeholders. Activities can take the form of, for example, seminars, studies or projects.



Switzerland

National Platform for Natural Hazards

(*Nationale Plattform Naturgefahren, PLANAT*)

Date of creation: 1997

Website: <http://www.planat.ch>

Contact persons:

Ms. Wanda Wicki

E-mail: wanda.wicki@bafu.admin.ch

Mr. Beat von Däniken

E-mail: beat.vondaeniken@deza.admin.ch



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Nationale Plattform Naturgefahren PLANAT
Plate-forme nationale «Dangers naturels»
Piattaforma nazionale «Pericoli naturali»
National Platform for Natural Hazards

History

Natural hazards are a part of Swiss habitat. In 1997, the Swiss Federal Council founded the national platform PLANAT, with the aim to improve prevention.

Structure

The national platform for natural hazards PLANAT is a governmental structure. It consists of twenty specialists coming from all regions of Switzerland.

1. Federal Central Government
2. Cantons
3. research community
4. professional associations
5. private sector
6. insurance companies

The Federal Council appoints them for periods of four years. The next elections will be held at the end of 2011.

The president is nominated by the members and elected by the Swiss Federal Council. The members elect a committee constituted by 6 persons, which prepares the plenary sessions of the commission. It is supported and backed by a secretariat with 2 half time employees, based in Bern.

Temporary working groups are established on project basis. The size of the groups varies between 2 and 5 members. As per today three working groups are active on the topics “Information and Communication” and “International”.

Aims

The commission wants to avoid a duplication of efforts in the area of protection against natural hazards and make better use of existing synergies. PLANAT's opinion is that protection against natural hazards may not be limited any longer to the protection of individual values within some limited scopes of responsibility against certain kinds of hazards. Therefore a paradigm change from the protection against hazards to a new risk culture is needed.

Activities

Motivated by a motion, which was filed in the federal parliament by the former Councilor of States Hans Danioth in 1999, the Swiss Federal Council (Swiss government) commissioned PLANAT to develop a comprehensive and interlinked strategy to improve the protection against natural hazards. It also intends to ensure comparable security standards throughout Switzerland based on extensive risk management. The aim is to protect people and their livelihood as well as important material assets.

Up to now, PLANAT has completed the *first step* of developing a comprehensive and interlinked strategy for improved protection against natural hazards, and the *second step* of analyzing the current situation and proposing an action plan with measures. The *third step* (action plan 2005-2008) as well as the *fourth step* (action plan 2009-2011) will include implementing these measures.

Third step: Implementation of the action plan 2005-2008

The third step constitutes the present activities of PLANAT until 2008 and will include the implementation of the concrete measures of the action plan. The strategy according to this action plan fits to the main strategic goals of the Hyogo Framework for action 2005 – 2015.

The focal points of the action plan for the 2005 - 2008 stage are as follows:

Further development of the "risk policy for natural hazards"

There are currently a series of different methods and tools for dealing with risks from natural hazard. The term "risk policy" means a universally valid model for dealing with security problems. It was developed in the technical field and should now find reinforced entrance in the field of natural hazards as "risk policy for natural hazards".

Integrated risk management recognizes risks of natural hazards based on this risk policy, allowing risk evaluation and reduction using the optimized combination of technical, economic, social and ecological protection measures. Specific guidelines as well as training and further training will help consolidate integrated risk management. The "risk policy for natural hazards" will be further developed by specific studies.

Risk dialogue and responsibilities:

A wide realized dialogue should strengthen a risk culture of risk awareness supported by all players. Also responsibilities, structure and schedule of organizations on risk aware management of natural hazards should be optimized. Not regulated responsibilities for certain fields of natural hazards (p. ex. extreme temperatures, storm) should be clarified.

The development of a risk communication concept is one of the current projects under this focal point.

Performance measurement

In future, risks of natural hazards and invested resources for measures of protection should be systematically recorded and evaluated on an on-going basis in order to check the cost-effectiveness ratio.

A global report of these activities, divided into 15 projects, was established and given to the Federal Council at the middle of 2008.

In response to the report from PLANAT, the Federal Council decided at its meeting on 6 March 2009 to continue the work based on an action plan for 2009-2011 and to remedy existing loopholes in the principles and instruments.

The required funding, amounting to around CHF 800'000 per annum, will be made available by the federal departments involved (DETEC, DDPS, DHA ,DEA, DFA) within the limits of the resources available to them.

Fourth step: Implementation of the action plan 2009-2011

The key elements in the action plan for the phase from 2009-2011 are as follows:

- Integrated risk management (including fixing standard protection goals, providing practical guidelines, devising a range of basic and advanced training courses, conducting a preliminary study on a pilot project).
- Adjustments and additions to principles and instruments (in particular additions and adjustments to instruments for risk analysis and evaluation, filling in gaps in knowledge, identification of ways to coordinate spatial and protection planning).
- Responsibilities and risk dialogue (in particular a review of responsibilities at federal level from the standpoint of integrated risk management, introduction of a change management process and of a broad-based risk dialogue).
- Performance measurement at a strategic level (in particular regular and systematic recording of the risks of natural hazards, special analysis of major incidents,
- regular and systematic recording of the resources used for protection against natural hazards, development at a strategic level of a performance measurement concept with a set of indicators).
- International capacity building in SDC partner countries, integration into the international system.



Turkey

Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD)

National Platform for Natural Hazards

Date of creation: March 2011

Website: <http://www.afad.gov.tr>

Contact persons: I. Ejder KAYA

E-mail: iejder.kaya@afad.gov.tr

History

Studies in order to create a national platform in Turkey has been started in 2008, with a committee consisted of main actors involved in disaster management structure of Turkey. In 2009, after a restructuring period and with the establishment of Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD), new authority held the activities.

Structure

National Platform is a coordination and advisory group of several actors from disaster community. Platform is formed by the decision of Cabinet and chaired and managed by AFAD. Members of the platform, as of March 2011, is as follows;

Governmental Organizations;

1. Prime Ministry
2. General Staff
3. Ministry of Interior
4. Ministry of Education
5. Ministry of Environment and City Planning
6. Ministry of Health
7. Ministry of Transportation
8. Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
9. Ministry of Energy and Natural Sources
10. Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs
11. Ministry of Culture and Tourism
12. The Council of Higher Education
13. Prime Ministry, Undersecretary of Treasury (DASK)
14. Prime Ministry, State Planning Organization

15. General Command of Mapping
16. Boğaziçi University, Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute
17. Turkish National Research Council (TUBITAK)

Non-Governmental Organizations and Professional Organizations

1. Search and Rescue Association (AKUT)
2. Neighborhood Disaster Support Group (MAG)
3. Environment Foundation of Turkey
4. GEA Search and Rescue Group
5. Psychiatric Association of Turkey
6. Chamber of Geological Engineers
7. Chamber of Geophysical Engineers
8. Chamber of Civil Engineers

Universities;

1. Middle East Technical University
2. Istanbul Technical University
3. Karadeniz Technical University
4. Kocaeli University
5. Dicle University

Local Authorities;

1. Governorate of Istanbul
2. Governorate of Erzincan
3. Governorate of Kahramanmaraş
4. Governorate of Denizli
5. Governorate of Hatay
6. Governorate of Bingöl
7. Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality
8. Erzurum Metropolitan Municipality
9. Bursa Metropolitan Municipality
10. Municipality of Trabzon
11. Municipality of Giresun
12. Municipality of Manisa
13. Municipality of Afyonkarahisar
14. Turkish Union of Municipalities
15. Union of Governors

Private Sector;

1. Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmens' Association (TUSIAD)
2. The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB)
3. Turkish Contractors Association (TMB)

Media;

1. Prime Ministry, General Directorate of Press and Information
2. Turkish Association of Journalists
3. Turkish Radio and Television Cooperation (TRT)
4. Anadolu Agency

National Association;

1. Turkish Red Crescent

Budget

Budget for the meeting expenses and other events of the Platform will be covered from the budget of AFAD, expenditures for the proposed research, project and survey within the scope of the Platform will be funded by AFAD or related institutions.

Aims

The aims of the Platform are to; provide public awareness against disasters, ensure coordination and cooperation in order to maintain disaster related issues sustainable, assessment of needs, monitoring and evaluation of implementations in order to contribute to integration of disaster risk reduction policies into sustainable development plans and policies at all levels.

Activities

1. Contribute to the needs assessment studies for disaster risk reduction activities, policies, make proposals for national action plans on DRR,
2. Contribute to the programming, monitoring and evaluation of DRR studies at national level,
3. Ensure more effective and multi stakeholder studies and activities among the various partner organizations working in the field of DRR and make available more effective and rationalist use of sources,
4. To direct the in line organizations on the following topics;
 - a. Integration of development plans and policies into DRR targets,
 - b. Identification, implementation, monitoring and definition of priorities of hazard and risk studies by supplying consultancy,
5. Develop strategies and policies in order to achieve DRR and support the existing ones,
6. Maintain the implementation and monitoring of Hyogo Framework of Action Strategy Plan in the country,

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7. Support the activities in order to increase the awareness of public to disaster risk reduction,
8. Documentation of all lessons learnt in the field of DRR and share and exchange of information with national and international stakeholders,
9. Facilitate and support establishment of mirrored/similar mechanisms at the county and local self-government levels regarding disaster risk reduction.



United Kingdom

United Kingdom HFA Focal Point

The Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS)

Date of creation: July 2001

Website: www.ukresilience.info

Contact: Steven Barnes

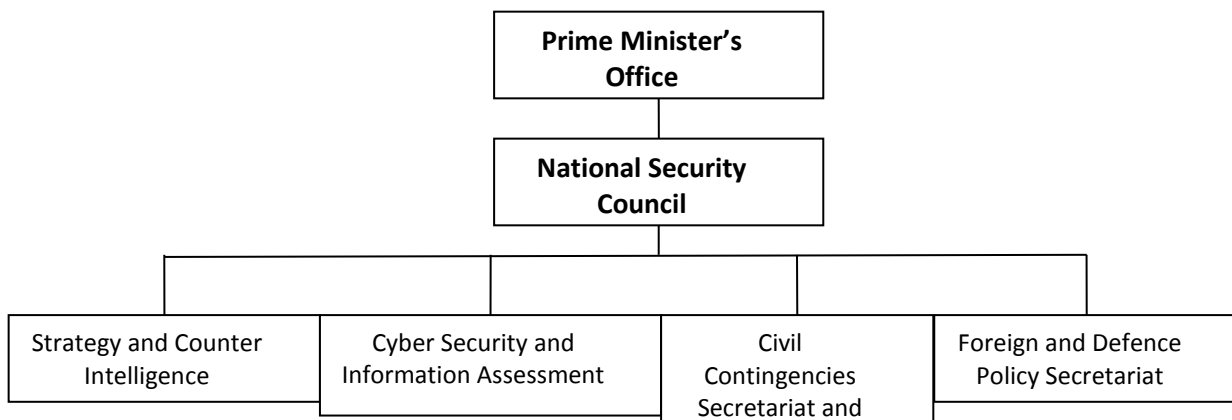
Email: Steven.Barnes@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

History

The Civil Contingencies Secretariat was established in July 2001 after serious flooding, the Fuel Crisis in 2000, and the Foot-and-Mouth Disease outbreak in 2001, exposed deficiencies in the UK's civil protection arrangements. Since then, CCS has worked to improve the UK's preparedness for, and response to, emergencies.

Structure

The Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) sits within the Cabinet Office at the heart of central government. It works in partnership with government departments, the devolved administrations (Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland) and key stakeholders to enhance the UK's ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.



Mission

CCS has a number of specific objectives:

1. Spotting trouble, assessing its nature and providing warning

Not all emergencies are predictable. But, for those that are, the earlier an emerging crisis is detected, and the more accurately its likely size and shape are assessed, the better the response will be put into place. This objective covers the measures needed to ensure that, working with Departments and a wide range of other organizations, CCS can spot, assess and warn of trouble and thus facilitate the provision of the most effective response, drawing on lessons from past experience.

2. Being ready to respond

This objective covers the preparedness of all of those who might have a role to play in the response to a major disruptive challenge. As well as ensuring that CCS itself is ready, it is also about tracking the preparedness of organizations at national and local levels, in the public sector and outside, using the Civil Contingencies Act to develop and embed performance audit and management regimes across all responders, rooted in formal preparedness assessments. CCS also aims to ensure mechanisms are in place so that the UK is as well placed as it can be to respond to threats which horizon-scanning shows may be at higher risk of occurring.

3. Building greater resilience for the future

This objective covers action at all levels, from local to international, to build stronger resilience capabilities. It thus covers the processes led by the CCS to drive the delivery of resilience capabilities. It also covers international work to develop closer relations in the resilience field through which we can build mutual resilience. This includes bilateral work, and action in the EU and in NATO to seek to build greater resilience capability in partner countries, as well as the EU's own ability to manage a crisis.

4. Providing leadership and guidance to the resilience community

CCS aims to tell those involved in delivering and building resilience across the UK what the secretariat is trying to do, where it is trying to get to, how it will get there and how it will know that it has succeeded - in short, to build consistency and coherence across the UK. Some key means are already in place, especially via the Capabilities Programme and its outputs and the Civil Contingencies Act. CCS will be focusing on the development of a 'National Resilience Strategy' and reviewing the national exercise programme.

5. Effective management

This objective covers the way in which CCS manages itself, and its effective management of Cabinet Office processes. Some of it is routine but nonetheless important. CCS aims to sustain reputation as effective managers of people and money, and as efficient operators of Cabinet Office processes.

Activities

The ten most significant achievements over the past four years are:

1. Establishing a UK-wide horizon scanning capacity

Emergencies in the early years of this century showed that the UK was missing the warning signs, failing to prevent emergencies and being caught unaware when they occurred. CCS now works with a range of organizations to deliver a Forward Look, which helps to identify and prevent potential emergencies.

2. Establishing a national risk assessment process

The UK now has a national risk assessment process, which identifies risks over a five year period and forms the basis for decisions about emergency preparedness. This risk assessment process involves a wide range of organizations, and is the first time that the UK has a systematic and all-inclusive approach to risk analysis.

3. Delivering improved performance and outputs across the civil protection area through the Capabilities Programme

Although government departments and other organizations have always had emergency plans, CCS established and now leads a Capabilities Programme which provides central direction and co-ordination to emergency preparedness. The Programme has delivered a step change improvement in departmental preparedness and joined-up working.

4. Establishing the UK's first national exercise programme

For the first time, the UK now has an exercise programme which co-ordinates the range of exercises which have always taken place within government. The CCS-led programme adds value by minimizing duplication, improving the quality of exercises, prioritizing key risks and ensuring the sharing of lessons.

5. Supporting the new Resilience Emergency Divisions

CCS was closely involved in the work during 2010/11 to design and establish 3 new RED(s) in England. Managed by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the RED(s) improve co-ordination and communication, and acts as a bridge between central government and the local level.

6. Delivering a Civil Contingencies Act

By the turn of the century, the legislative framework for civil protection was widely regarded as out of date and unfit for purpose. CCS developed a Civil Contingencies Bill and took it through Parliament, working closely with a wide range of stakeholders inside and outside government. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and its associated non-legislative measures provide robust, modern framework for civil protection right across the UK.

7. Securing the right resources for civil protection

CCS has played a crucial role in securing the right level of resourcing for civil protection work. The level of funding for national security and emergency preparedness will double between 2001 and

2008. CCS was particularly closely involved in building a new financial deal for local authority civil protection work, overseeing a 120 per cent increase in funding.

8. Transforming the Emergency Planning College

An integral part of CCS from the outset, the Emergency Planning College has undergone a period of transformation. Between October 2003 and July 2004 the College underwent a renewal project which included two new accommodation blocks plus a new training block. And the courses have been extensively remodeled to improve the value added.

9. Playing a key role in helping to co-ordinate the Government's response to emergencies

CCS has played an important part in the response to emergencies which have arisen since its establishment. These have included the London bombings, the Asian Tsunami, industrial action and major public protests. Perhaps the most notable was the Fire Strike of 2002, during which CCS played a pivotal co-ordination role in support of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), providing crisis management advice, assessments and consequence management.

10. Enhancing the UK's international civil protection networks

International partnerships have taken on a new prominence since CCS assumed responsibility for the UK's interests in international civil protection networks. CCS has delivered increasingly active participation in EU, NATO and other international forums and supported an enhanced international profile for UK civil protection work.

Current concerns

- Pandemic flu
- Avian flu
- Severe Weather, Flooding, Drought
- Human Health
- Terrorism
- Transport Accidents
- Animal and Plant Diseases
- Public Protest
- International Events
- Industrial Technical Failure
- Structural Failure
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN)
- Industrial Accidents and Environmental Pollution

Status of the National Platforms

Table 1: Status of the National Platforms

Country	Governmental Body	NGO
Armenia	x	
Bulgaria	x	
Croatia	x	
Czech Republic		x
Finland	x	
France	x	
Germany		x
Hungary	x	
Italy	x	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	x	
Monaco	x	
Norway	x	
Poland		x
Portugal	x	
Russian Federation	x	
Spain	x	
Sweden	x	
Switzerland	x	
Turkey	x	
United Kingdom	x	

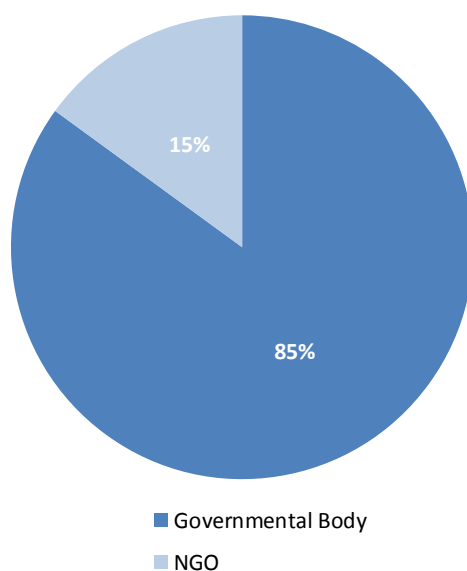
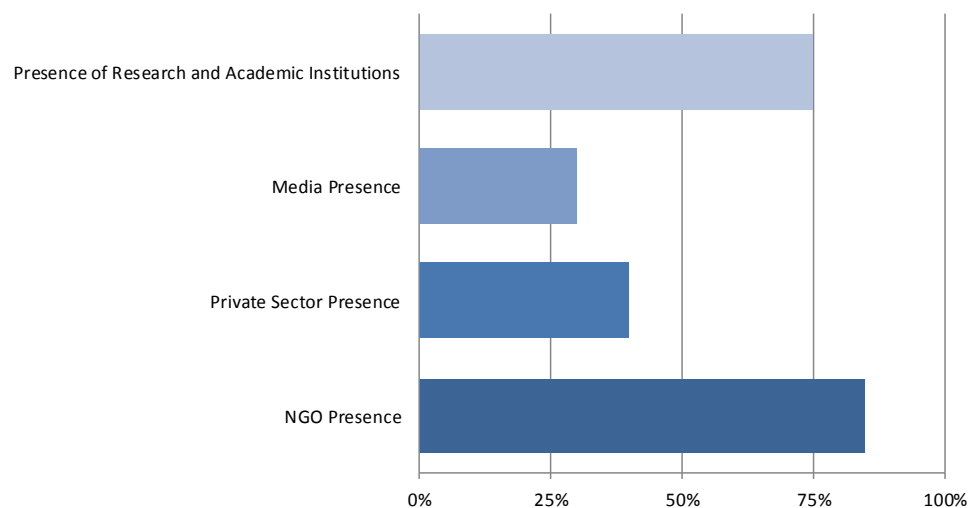


Table 2: Composition of the National Platforms

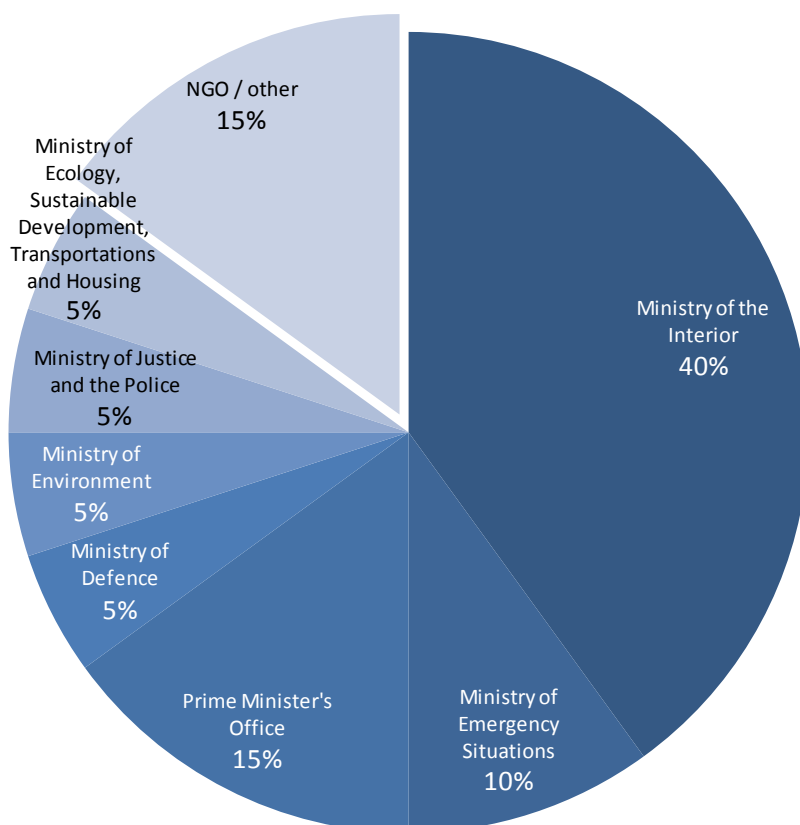
Country	NGO Presence	Private Sector Presence	Media Presence	Presence of Research and Academic Institutions
Armenia	x			x
Bulgaria				x
Croatia	x			x
Czech Republic	x	x		x
Finland	x			
France	x			
Germany	x	x	x	x
Hungary	x	x	x	x
Italy	x	x		x
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	x			
Monaco	x			x
Norway				
Poland	x			x
Portugal	x			
Russian Federation	x	x	x	x
Spain	x		x	x
Sweden				x
Switzerland	x	x		x
Turkey	x	x	x	x
United Kingdom	x	x	x	x



Out of 20 National Platforms, 13 include both civil society and Academic and Research Institutions. Six have media presence and eight include the private sector.

Table 3: Coordination of the National Platforms

Country	Coordinator
Armenia	Ministry of Emergency Situations
Bulgaria	Ministry of Interior, Chief Directorate Fire Safety and Civil Protection
Croatia	Ministry of Interior, National Protection and Rescue Directorate
Czech Republic	Czech National Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction (NGO)
Finland	Ministry of Interior
France	Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transportations and Housing
Germany	DKKV (NGO)
Hungary	Ministry of Interior
Italy	Prime Minister's Office
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Ministry of Interior
Monaco	Ministry of Interior
Norway	Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning, Ministry of Justice and the Police
Poland	Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (Research-development unit)
Portugal	National Authority for Civil Protection, Ministry of the Interior
Russian Federation	EMERCOM* , Ministry of Emergency Situations
Spain	Ministry of Interior
Sweden	Ministry of Defence
Switzerland	Ministry of Environment
Turkey	Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD), Prime Minister's
United Kingdom	Cabinet Office, Prime Minister's Office

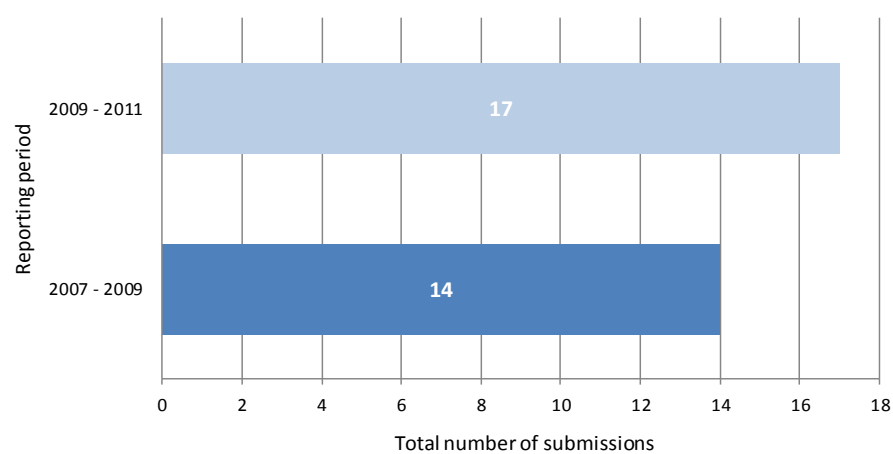


* Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and the Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters.

From the above table it appears that almost half of the existing National Platforms are coordinated by the Ministry of Interior.

Table 4: Submission of HFA National Reports by National Platforms

Country	Submission of HFA National Reports by National Platforms	
	2007 - 2009	2009 - 2011
Armenia	x	x
Bulgaria	x	x
Croatia	x	x
Czech Republic	x	x
Finland		x
France	x	x
Germany	x	x
Hungary	x	
Italy	x	x
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	x	x
Monaco		x
Norway	x	x
Poland		x
Portugal		x
Russian Federation		
Spain		x
Sweden	x	x
Switzerland	x	x
Turkey	x	x
United Kingdom	x	





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