

DPPI SEE/IPA DRAM regional workshop on sustainability of program results- Workshop report

Executive summary

Sustainability is considered an on-going process to maintain the progress made in which resources, development and institutional change enhance the current and future potential of strengthened disaster risk management at national and regional levels.

Under this premise, DPPI SEE¹ and IPA DRAM² representatives gathered in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on 13th of March 2019 to discuss the relevance and feasibility of the work IPA DRAM has been carrying out in the region in the context of DPPI SEE. The workshop offered the possibility to present DPPI SEE and IPA DRAM in their organizational contexts, as well as to discuss and analyse the five proposed results and draw conclusions for DPPI SEE members to consider in advance of the next DPPI SEE Regional Meeting to take place in Albania in April 2019.

Participants recognised that both of these initiatives have commonalities in that both promote member ownership and strive to enhance disaster risk management capacity at national and regional levels by provide services relevant to its members. Furthermore, participants to the workshop agreed that these commonalities and the experience of IPA DRAM in providing services to its partner countries were relevant in the context of DPPI SEE's ambition and future plans.

Using a tailored model of the organizational comparative advantage methodology³, participants analysed the five results from IPA DRAM that had previously been identified for discussion, delivering the following analysis:

1. Facilitation of hazard-specific regional working groups (WG) established in IPA DRAM (i.e. WG on seismic risks, floods and wild fires): this area of work has been developed under the implementation of IPA DRAM and as a recommendation produced by partner countries for the creation of a regional network of seismic experts and the development of a road map to address gaps in terms of seismic risk assessment and management. The expected benefits of continuing the work started by IPA DRAM and its potential extension to other regionally significant risks such as flooding or forest fires as identified by participants were:
 - a. the existence of regional networks that produce expert analysis regarding specific risks and regional needs to strengthen risk assessment and management as a complement and support to national expertise;
 - b. the existence of technical groups with the capacity to provide common approaches and procedures for management of transboundary risks as well as technical guidelines;
 - c. promoting knowledge sharing and identification and dissemination of best practices within the region.

Workshop participants to this working group agreed that this working area is highly relevant and in line with DPPI SEE mandate. They recognize the availability of expert resources in the region, within DPPI

¹ Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South-Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE) is a platform that fosters regional cooperation and coordination in disaster preparedness and prevention across borders in South-Eastern Europe. DPPI SEE is a member owned initiative with a practical orientation and the ambition to design, produce and deliver relevant services for its members and for the enhancement of disaster risk management regional cooperation.

² Programme for Disaster Risk Assessment and Mapping (IPA DRAM) is a regional initiative funded by the European Union with the purpose of improving effective, coherent and EU oriented national systems for disaster loss data collection, risk assessment and mapping, and alignment and integration into the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. The programme will contribute to this by increasing beneficiaries' capabilities to ensure proper disaster risk management at national, regional and EU levels. From its inception, IPA DRAM has focused on establishing a strong partnership between consortia members and the programme's national partners to promote ownership, leadership and the necessary conditions to enable capacity development and sustainability of the results.

³ A detailed description of this methodology is part of the Workshop Report

SEE membership, as well as recognition of regional and international actors that DPPI SEE can play this role. The structure of DPPI SEE, with expertise at the member level and a Secretariat that could play the role of facilitator of the working groups, provides the necessary means to take over from IPA DRAM this line of work and give continuity to the ongoing work of the Seismic experts network. Participants recommended starting with the existing experts' network to thereafter, and on the base of the learnings from this group, establish additional groups for other risks such as flooding or forest fires. This strategy would also enable the preparatory work in terms of regional expertise mapping and resource mobilisation required for the success of this work.

2. Building on IPA DRAM successful capacity building methods and the support to a regional pool of experts: in order to ensure that project results are sustainable over time, IPA DRAM has had a holistic perspective on capacity development that includes the identification and systematic strengthening of capacities at not only the individual level, but also at the organisational and systemic levels. To further enforce the results, the intervention methods and activities have been a mix, ranging from workshop to technical advisory and peer-based knowledge exchange.

On a regional level, two capacity building strategies used in IPA DRAM have been identified by partner countries as successful strategies in developing national capacity. These were the Exchanges of experts; and participation in regional as well as EU and international forums. The expected benefits identified by participants were:

- a. Exchange of experts is valuable for countries in the region in order to facilitate ongoing developments in their disaster risk management systems based on the experiences of nearby countries that share similarities. In addition, it promotes networking and the development of partnerships that can prove beneficial in promoting regional cooperation in disaster management.
- b. Participation in EU and international forums: this promotes the regions' visibility and contribution to the ongoing debates and development of disaster risk management systems. It further provides opportunities for networking and identification of strategic partnerships with other disaster risk management actors as well as with organisations that promote and fund DRM development.

Two other elements, important for the quality, the learning and the sustainability of capacity building activities or program, that have been adopted by IPA DRAM, are the integration of cross-cutting issues (ie. gender equality, environment and civil society involvement) and having a monitoring and evaluation system as an integral parts of the project cycle.

Workshop participants to this working group agreed that this working area is highly relevant and in line with DPPI SEE mandate. Participants acknowledged also the relevance of these initiatives in supporting member states efforts to develop their national systems based on other members recent experiences and the importance of being represented at international forums. Expertise is available within the region, although needs to be mapped. To contribute to this, IPA DRAM can inform DPPI SEE on what experts in the regions have been trained. Participants further recommended the inclusion of a regional trainings component to be included within this results area.

The participants acknowledged the existing Disaster Management Training Program (DMTP) to facilitate the integration of additional approaches and methods and with the potential to expand. It was also acknowledged the need for a greater systematisation and a more strategic approach in DMPT to strengthen the results on regional level as well as the importance of having a monitoring and evaluation system to measure effectiveness and ensure learning. IPA DRAM could transfer valuable learnings and good practices on this.

In accordance with participants' discussions, DPPI SEE would be the right match. By building in its own experience and strengthening it with the experience of IPA DRAM, DPPI SEE should be able to strategically transform its training programme. This would count with the recognition of other actors.

The ambition set for this work would depend of the size of existent resources within DPPI SEE and its ability to mobilise additional resources from external funders. The DPPI SEE Secretariat or chairmanship could play the coordination role for this line of work.

3. Hosting maintenance and management of the Electronic Regional Risk Atlas (ERRA), regional Desinventar/Sendai and the South Eastern Europe Knowledge Management System (SEE KMS). These three results, which had been proposed individually, were jointly analysed given their similarities. Participants identified the following benefits:
 - a. ERRA and Regional Desinventar: will improve comparability and consistency of data towards a pan-regional overview of risks for an improved understanding of risks and the continuous monitoring of disaster impacts.
 - b. ERRA and Regional Desinventar: will assist partner countries in identifying and mobilising resources for the establishment of regional projects to manage transnational risks.
 - c. SEE KMS: a reference knowledge centre for regional and international actors on disaster risk management. This will also support identifying opportunities for capacity building and regional expert networks development on the basis of the available regional knowledge.

Workshop participants to this working group agreed that this working area is highly relevant and in line with DPPI SEE mandate. ERRA and regional Desinventar platforms are under development and the SEE KMS is being refreshed but all of them will be available towards the end of 2019. Given the cloud based architecture of these platforms no additional infrastructure is required and only management and maintenance will be required. The fact that these platforms are dependant on member states providing data and that member states are currently developing this data suggest that the implementation of these platforms and realisation of the benefits identified will be gradual and requires a mid-term perspective. This is seen as positive as it will also provide opportunities of learning during the implementation period in order to deliver a services that match regional and national disaster risk management systems needs.

On the basis of these discussions it can be argued that the five results discussed are highly relevant in the context of DPPI SEE and its members. All results are interrelated and there is an expectation of these providing greater added value, for DPPI SEE and its members, if all five results areas are taken over by DPPI SEE. There is a favourable enabling environment for DPPI SEE pursuing this lines of work. There is enough technical capacity and expertise in the region to ensure successful implementation of these results areas but some mapping exercises will be needed to facilitate organisation and implementation. The need for financial resources is dependent on the ambition and organisation of the work. DPPI SEE currently has financial capacity to get started and there might be opportunities for mobilising additional resources outside the DPPI SEE partnership through strategic partnerships. The adoption of this results areas by DPPI SEE would require an overview of DPPI SEE's organisation to ensure that roles and responsibilities are assigned in a manner that ensures relevance and feasibility. Finally, given the interrelation of these results areas and the need of a transitory period to implement preparatory work and adjust DPPI SEE structures, a sequential approach for the deployment of these results areas under the umbrella of DPPI SEE is recommended. This sequential approach would ensure that there is an enabling environment for the successful management and implementation of these results areas resulting in the foreseen benefits mentioned above. In order to clarify and plan this sequential approach it is recommended that DPPI SEE establishes and organisational strategic plan covering these results areas as well as all other areas of work of the organisation, as well as a corresponding monitoring and evaluation system (or quality assurance system which includes M&E????). On the basis of this plan, DPPI SEE should elaborate the overall workplan and time schedule for its implementation. Finally, based on the plan and its timeframe DPPI SEE should elaborate a partnership and resource mobilisation strategy that enable the successful implementation of the plan.

In response to the participants request to agree on a short set of recommendations arising from the workshop discussions and conclusions, the following recommendations were put forward:

1. A proposal supporting the adoption of these results areas by DPPI SEE should be put forward to member states in the next DPPI SEE Regional Meeting.
2. A proposal of a process to organise DPPI SEE work in the adoption of these results, including the development of an strategic plan, monitoring and evaluation system, time schedule and partnerships

and resource mobilisation strategy, should be put forward to member states in the next DPPI SEE Regional Meeting.

3. Provided the DPPI Regional Meeting approves these proposals, the work should start as soon as possible to enable cooperation with IPA DRAM until the programme closure in November 2019.

Figure 1: Synopsis of the five results areas interdependence and organisation within DPPI SEE

