

Sustainability

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.

The IPA DRAM Programme's two main strategies in order to ensure sustainability of the programme results are 1) the *Partnership approach* which aims at involving Partners throughout the programme planning and implementation to ensure alignment of activities to national on-going processes and priorities, and 2) the *Capacity development strategy*, where the partnership approach still is at centre, but also the mix of activities for the transfer of knowledge.

Further, the Programme has from the very start, applied the principle of *transparency and openness*, which in practical terms has meant that other international partners have been invited to take part in the activities and that produced outputs have been shared to avoid duplication and overlap and to find synergies.

Besides the most tangible cooperation with UNISDR and IMPULSE project, the Programme has intensified the discussions with DPPI SEE during this reporting period. During the most recent IPA DRAM steering committee meeting in Ljubljana (November 2018), it was agreed together with the DPPI SEE Secretariat who was present at the meeting, to organise a joint workshop in early 2019 to further develop the discussions on a joint sustainability plan.

In preparation, IPA DRAM has identified five main areas in which the programme results can be sustained and at the same time contribute to the strengthening of DPPI SEE, which all aim at increasing the understanding of risk in the region:

1. Hosting and maintenance of a **regional ERRA**;
2. Updating and upgrading the South Eastern Europe **Knowledge Management System** (SEE KMS);
3. Hosting and maintenance of a **regional DesInventar/ Sendai** for collection of disaster loss data and Sendai reporting;
4. Facilitation of **hazard-specific regional working groups** (WG) established in IPA DRAM (i.e. WG on seismic risks, floods and wild fires);
5. Building on IPA DRAM successful **capacity building methods** (e.g. exchange of experts, cross-border learning and support, participation in EU/ international forums) and the support of a regional pool of experts.

Hosting and maintenance of a regional ERRA

The Electronic Regional Risk Atlas (ERRA) aims to provide an inter-linkage between different sources of risk maps, disaster loss data and risk assessments and is based on principles indicated in the EU Risk Assessment and Mapping Guidelines for Disaster Management and on INSPIRE Directive. The national as well as regional ERRA will be fully developed and rolled out by June 2019. This will be followed by trainings on national level to inform about the operational use and maintenance of the platform, as well as regionally to ensure effective use on regional level.

The regional ERRA needs to be hosted and maintained in a regional body to reach its full potential and effective use. IPA DRAM suggests that DPPI SEE is in the best and most strategic position, as the platform will link to national resources for data sharing in the region, the regional SEE KMS as well as include the Overview of Risk developed by IPA DRAM.

If agreed with DPPI SEE, IPA DRAM will engage selected member states and draw on their expertise to ensure a smooth hand-over process.

Updating and upgrading the South Eastern Europe Knowledge Management System (SEE KMS)

The aim is to have a useful online platform in order to gather good practices, research projects and operational results relevant to risk assessment. The online portal will enable civil protection agencies and other organisations to share, learn from and build on the results

made available.

Instead of building something new or duplicate existing system, IPA DRAM will, in agreement with DPPI SEE, further upgrade and update the existing see.KMS (South East Europe - Knowledge management system), currently hosted by DPPI SEE.

The online portal will contain an archive of disaster risk assessment information and will allow users to retrieve data by using a user-friendly interface. It will assist with coordination among different stakeholders involved in disaster risk assessment in the region and minimise duplication of initiatives and studies and will be connected to the ERRA. IPA DRAM and DPPI SEE member states came to this agreement in November 2017.

Hosting and maintenance of a regional DesInventar/ Sendai for collection of disaster loss data and Sendai reporting

The regional approach for disaster loss data collection system has been proposed under the IPA DRAM Programme to promote the sharing of loss data in compliance with EU guidelines, to inform national and regional risk- and capability assessment (harmonized with EU and Sendai guidelines) as well as to facilitate the Sendai reporting. The Regional DesInventar-Sendai would be a regional database, with jointly agreed disaster loss data indicators in line with Sendai requirements and targeted to the region. For that to be effectively used and sustainable over time, IPA DRAM suggests that DPPI SEE as an established regional mechanism would be in the best position to host such a database. IPA DRAM would, if agreed, support DPPI SEE through capacity building to enable the operation of the database and on the broader issue of disaster risk assessment, Sendai Framework, Disaster Loss Databases and Sendai Framework Monitoring.

Facilitation of hazard-specific regional working groups (WG) established in IPA DRAM

In the baseline assessment, the three most serious hazards for the region were identified – *floods, earthquake and wildfires*. These were also the focus of the IPA DRAM Overview of risks (shared in June 2018).

IPA DRAM Programme has organised three regional workshops (WS) so far, the first one was “levelling-up” in all three components (risk assessment, mapping and DLD), second was hazard-specific (earthquake) related and the third focused on DLD relevance, also in view of evidence-based support to RA, taking wildfires as a hazard common to all Partners. In discussions with Partners, it was evident that the exchange of expertise, lessons learnt and views on harmonised approaches on regional levels are added values and should be continued.

Recommendations from the second WS (held in June 2018) were to *create a regional network of seismic experts and the development of a regional roadmap*. IPA DRAM, with strong support from Partners and other EU experts, produced a “Regional Gaps in Seismic Risk Assessment” report with the findings of the survey done and which lists the gaps identified, as well as propose some concrete actions for the working group of seismic experts.

There is thus a solid basis for a continuation (beyond the IPA DRAM) of the work of three hazard-specific WGs on seismic risks, floods and wildfires at the regional scale. This work can be easily extended to DPPI SEE members, sharing the same hazards and to continue the work started (based on identified needs, to systematic strengthen national and regional capacities and to maintain the involvement of civil society (e.g. academia, researches) in the work of civil protection. If the Partners, perhaps under the facilitation of DPPI SEE, agree on modalities for this type of regional cooperation, and make progress in the field of joint preparedness and prevention, there is also potential for future joint EU project funding.

Building on IPA DRAM successful capacity building methods and the support to a regional pool of experts

The Programme has used different types and a mix of capacity development methods to strengthen the disaster risk management in the region. All activities are well documented through pre-activity concept notes and post-activity evaluations and reports. Everything is available for DPPI SEE and partners to use.

The Programme has identified two activities, which have been particularly appreciated among partners – 1) Exchange of experts: This builds on the initiative of partners to assess their own gaps and need of capacity – and the willingness of the counterpart to host and to share knowledge and experience. This concept is not unique for IPA DRAM, but the Programme has encouraged and facilitated this

opportunity with positive results based on the Programme's indirect confidence building measures. This modality is also available at the EC, which could be further explored among the partners in the region and potentially facilitated through the DPPI SEE. 2) Participation in EU/ international events and forums: IPA DRAM has facilitated Partner participation with the aim at exposing them to the ongoing work in disaster risk management on EU- and international level and to promote the importance of networking and building partnership. In doing so, particularly within the field of Sendai framework monitoring – enforced by technical workshops on national level, IPA DRAM is supporting the strengthening of technical expertise among Partners which could, if there is an interest, contribute to a regional pool of experts.

The next step to establish a Programme Sustainability plan and a Regional road map (as envisioned in the Project proposal), is to meet with the DPPI SEE members and Secretariat to agree on a joint way forward with concrete steps.