

## **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION TRAINING COURSE**

16-20 September 2013,  
Tuhelj – Republic Croatia

### **- REPORT FOR DMTP WG -**

Disaster Risk Reduction Training Course was the Croatian and Slovenian contribution to the Disaster Management Training Programme for 2013 of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE) and it was co-organized by Croatian National Protection and Rescue Directorate and Slovenian Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief.

DRR Course was attended by 22 participants from 10 nations from the region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey) and with facilitation from Croatia, Slovenia, and Sweden (8 facilitators). All together 30 participants took part on the course. List of participants is attached to this report.

The 4 days focused on a holistic approach to reducing risks, responding to and recovering from disasters specific to the region of South-Eastern Europe. The course provided in depth orientation on disaster risk reduction concepts and guidance, including the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), as well as understanding the key aspects and activities of response and recovery. The course built upon participants' existing knowledge base so they could relate disaster risk reduction issues in practical terms to their day-to-day work responsibilities. The course also allowed participants to apply practice to a case study or a simulation exercise culminating in a group project at the end of the course. Detailed timetable is attached to this report.

Objectives of the Course were:

1. Establish a common understanding of the tenets on which lie the foundations of disaster risk reduction (DRR).
2. Develop a better understanding of preparedness, response and recovery as integral to disaster risk reduction.
3. Illustrate the role of different stakeholders in DRR, the integrated nature between the sectors in DRR and the importance of coordination between stakeholders.
4. Introduce and discuss the already put in place mechanisms for reducing disaster losses and risk management, focused on the region of South-Eastern Europe.
5. Present and discuss the concepts and guidance of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) as well as the implementation and follow-up to the strategic goals and priorities for action 2005-2015.
6. Introduce and examine the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR) system and its relevance to participants practice areas in DRR.
7. Build a network among the participants by sharing the experience, existing know-how and team building.
8. Develop DRR related project proposal with multinational/regional implementation – outcome of the course

Course participants were divided into four groups. Each group prepared DRR related project proposal that was presented last day of the Course. Project topics were:

1. DRR for Kids - Be Prepared”
2. Regional Platform for Flood Prevention along Sava River
3. PPAR (Play – Plan – Act – React) DRR Knowledge Driven Schools & Communities”
4. “Glossary of Terms and Acronyms Related to Disaster Risk Reduction – GOTAR DRR”

Course evaluation was done daily by participants. Also last day of the Course participants completed final course evaluation form.

After the course, facilitators held lessons learned meeting to discuss what went well on the Course and what could be improved for the future courses. Conclusions/recommendations from this meeting were:

- Course duration should be prolonged for one additional day to provide more time for group work (practical implementations) and projects development
- In participants introduction session to include areas relevant to participants technical skills, background and knowledge
- On the welcome slide to include flags of countries of all course participants
- HFA should be more integrated into project proposals
- Each block should include more practical examples
- Recovery block – keep only the first lecture in the Timetable (Introduction to recovery), delete Recovery Planning
- Facilitators to meet one day prior to course start for final preparation of sessions and exercises
- Participants to be invited prior to the course to prepare their personal experiences related to DRR (projects, activities, etc.) – not obligatory
- Participants to change original groups for some exercises during the course
- Presentations skills session to be included
- In the registration form to include more info about nominated participant (ref. to nominees for past DRR Courses)
- Jeopardy quiz to be part of the extra-curriculum program (not as part of block 4 – SEE Context)
- More team-building methodology included with reflections
- Participants to give video testimonies on how the course affected them on the next course
- For DMPT program for 2014 suggest to other two/three DPPI member countries to host/organize same DRR course (first part of 2014). Slovenia and Croatia also to consider organizing this course (second part of 2014)
- The course “Block Approach” to be suggested as a standard in designing program for all other DMTP activities.

**Drafted by:**

Igor Milic

**Attachments:**

1. List of participants
2. Course timetable
3. Final evaluation