

Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) Analysis on the *Western Balkans*

April 15, 2021

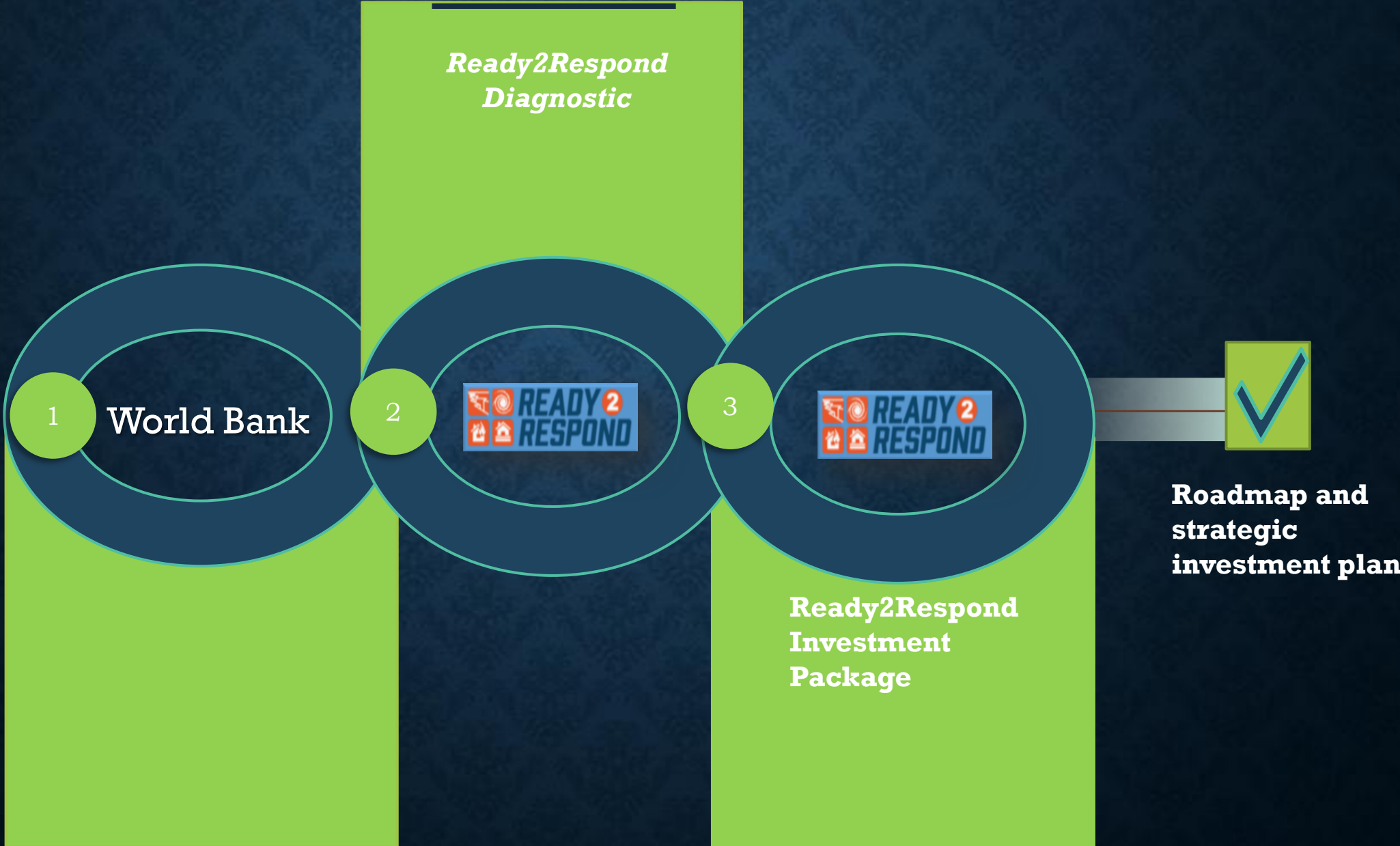


THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



Engagement Process

Investment Planning Exercise



Purpose of Ready2Respond Assessment



To support the Western Balkans Disaster Risk Management Program by providing an assessment of the current local, national and regional emergency preparedness and response capacities.

Objectives of Ready2Respond Assessment



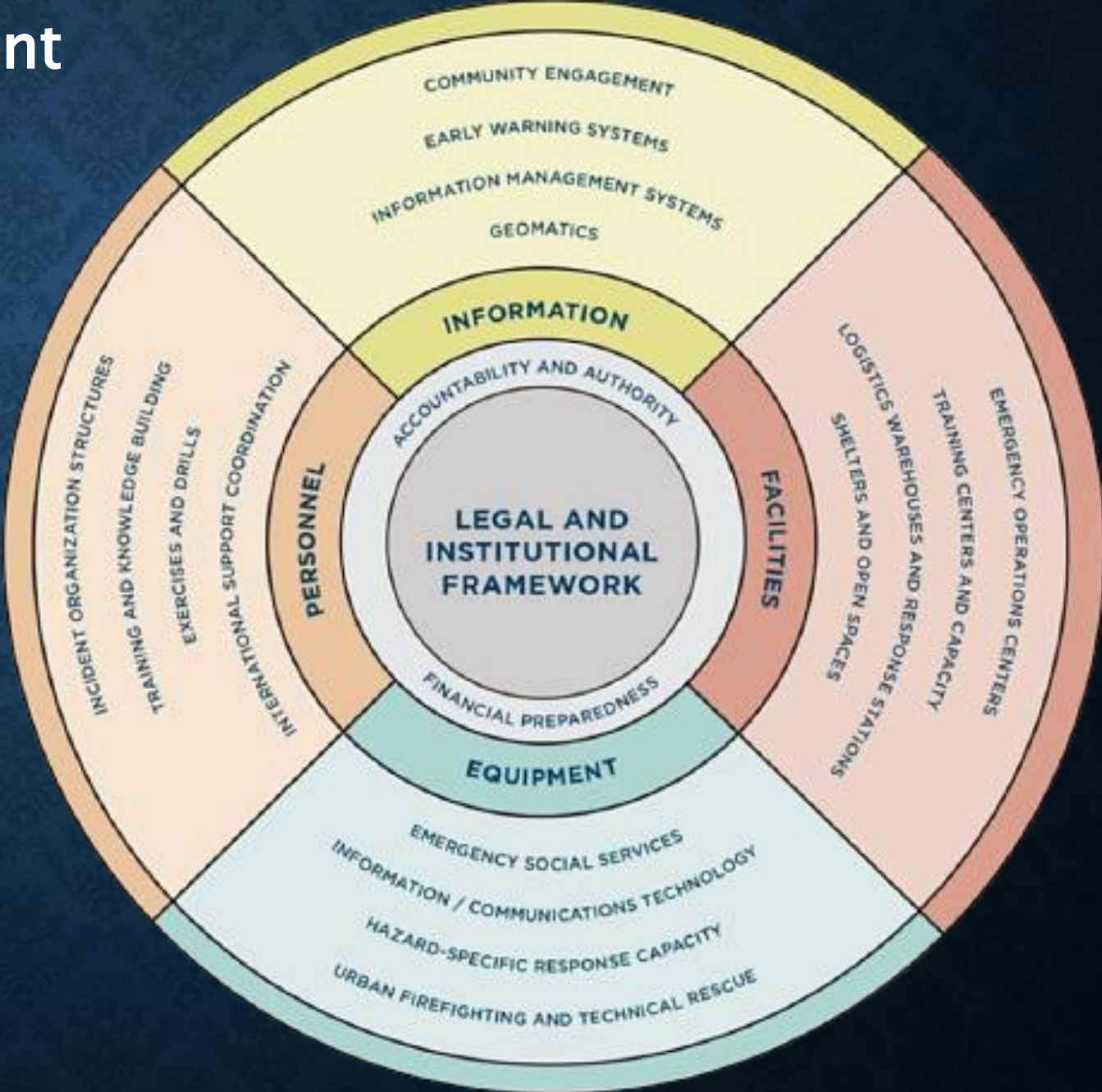
- 1) To generate **beneficiary-specific assessments** of the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) Capacity in the five Western Balkan beneficiaries and a regional assessment based on the findings.
- 2) To identify **priority EP&R investments** at current local, national and regional level **to prevent loss and damage and thus protect development gains**

Methodology of the Assignment

Participating beneficiaries

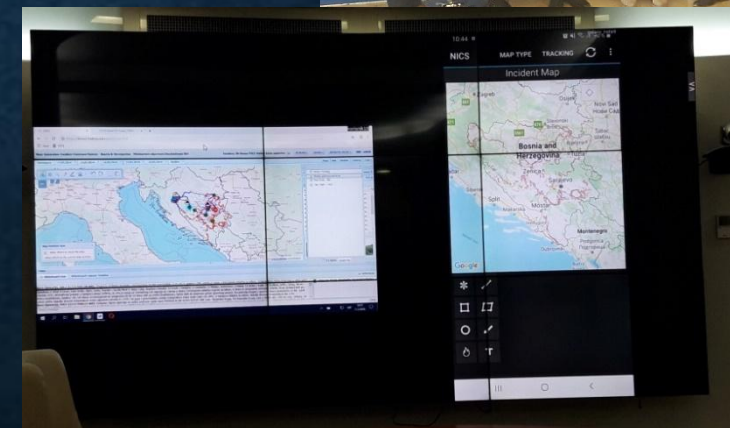
R2R DIAGNOSTIC

- 5 components
- 18 criteria
- 72 indicators
- 360 attributes



Mission Execution

1. The PPI team conducted **140+ interviews** with relevant stakeholders in the field of EP&R.
2. The mission was welcomed by all interviewees and they all had a very positive and motivated attitude.
3. The interviews were very open and the team was able to collect valuable information through the missions.
4. The team was supported by World Bank experts in each beneficiary
5. All interviewees manifested a strong drive to improve the civil protection systems.



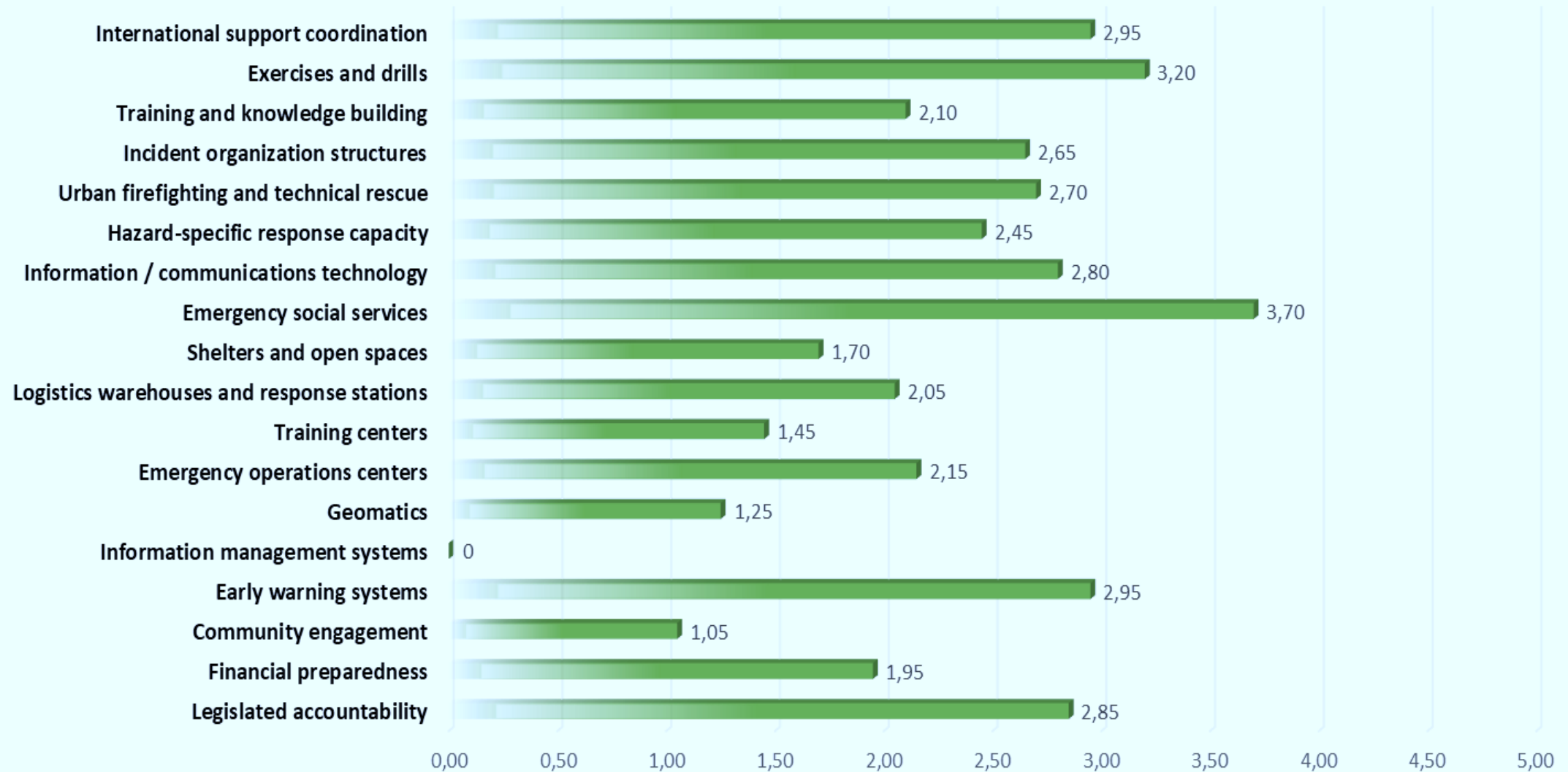
General findings



1. The desk research and interviews has yielded clear indications that in all categories there are aspects of the EP&R system that require further development. For some elements of DRM, regional cooperation can be seen as the most effective method to achieve this.
2. Main common challenges:
 - Limited governance, structural lack of funding to support programmatic systemic capacity building (human and material) and to support maintenance programs
 - The region demonstrates a significant dependency on external assistance programs
 - The existing capacities have challenges absorbing new tasks associated with a maturing preparedness and response system

R2R Main Findings – Regional Commonalities

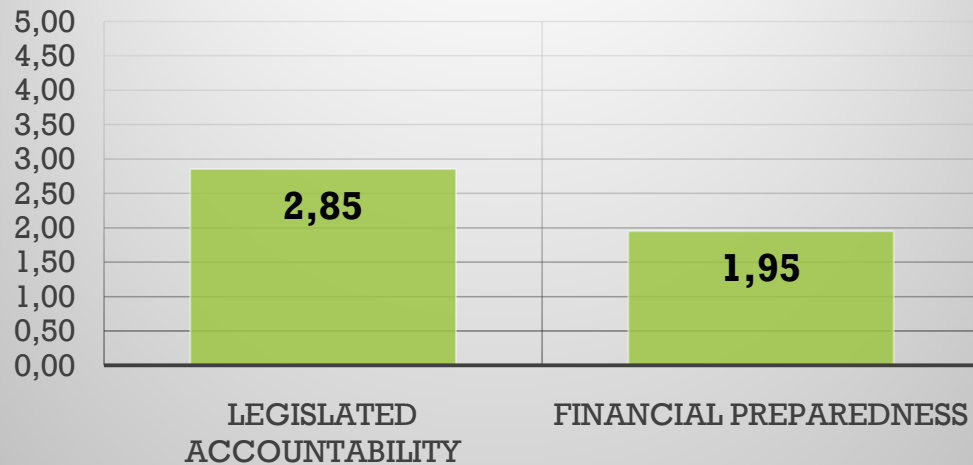
R2R REGIONAL DIAGNOSTIC



COMPONENT 1: Legal and Institutional Framework



Legal and Institutional Accountability



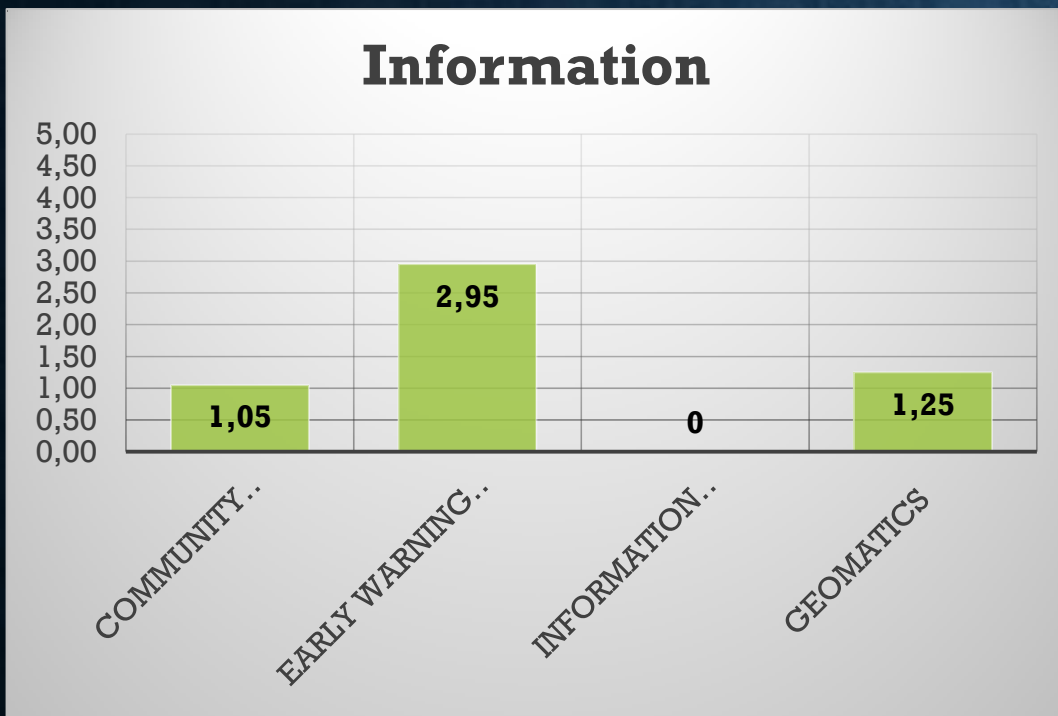
1. Risk does not translate into action - Coordination between strategies and local plans is missing. Same issue in terms of disaster laws/plans and their correlation to risk analysis and assessments.
2. Limited support to vulnerable groups, minorities and people with disabilities and difficulties in creating policies for addressing their needs.
3. The local administrations' capacities are limited due to financial restrictions. Low budgets to administrations are allocated and therefore they are not entitled to political ownership.

COMPONENT 1 – RECOMMENDATIONS



1. **Regional investment in the protection of vital infrastructure** is required to withstand key risks, taking into account the increased vulnerability resulting from climate change.
2. Due to shared risks, high vulnerability, and the relatively small size of the jurisdictions, fragmentation increases risks and makes coordination a challenge. Risk reduction should be a direct result of professional, cutting edge **adaptation to climate change, that is based on regional needs and capacities.**
3. Adopt an approach to **transition from relative strong and unsustainable aid dependency** to local responsibility to build structural financial and human capacities. Strengthen the coordination of the effort of different donors.

COMPONENT 2: Information



1. The EP&R systems are lacking systematic information regarding their inhabitants, as well as their needs and capacities, due to out-of-date censuses.
2. The information and communication systems need to be improved and coordination between relevant counterparts achieved.
3. An integrated disaster management information system which can provide adequate and usable data is currently lacking.
4. Weak volunteering systems due to lack of incentives.
5. Radar and satellite monitoring systems are lacking.
6. None of the beneficiaries is connected to CECIS.

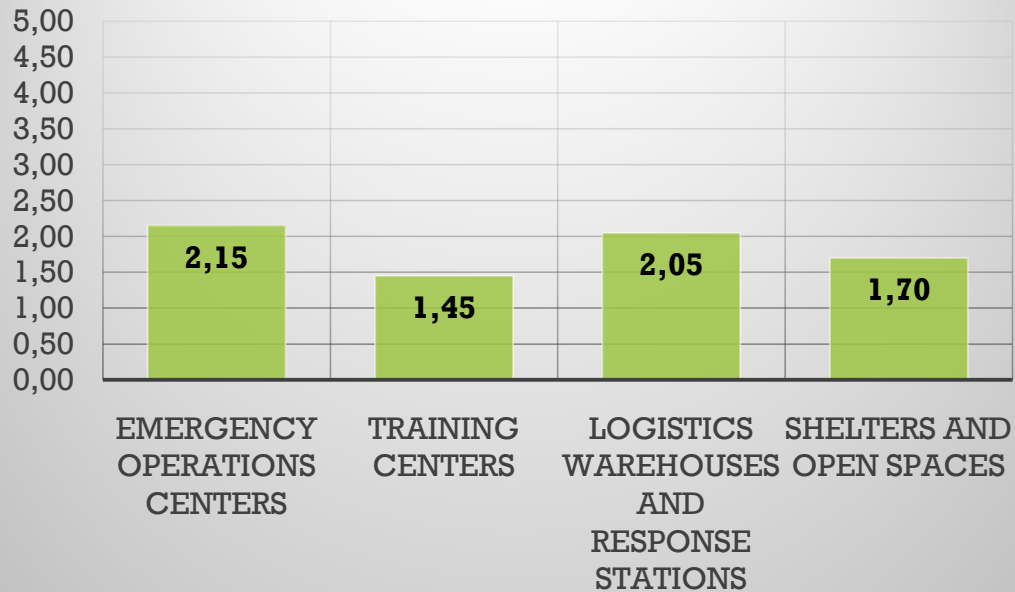
COMPONENT 2 – RECOMMENDATIONS



1. In order to increase capacity to jointly respond to incidents in the region, a **regional Technical Assistance and Support Team (TAST) Force** targeted at analysing the current situations on site and collaborating for office, telecommunication, subsistence and transport support is recommended.
2. Increase the **preparedness of the people** to support resilience.
3. **Facilitate data access and sharing** among the countries, but also regions, in order to ensure efficient and quick response capacity.
4. Regionally standardized, common structures to support **community engagement and volunteering** are advised.

COMPONENT 3: Facilities

Facilities



1. Due to decentralized emergency operations centres, the large command centers are overruling or challenging the on-site commanders.
2. Monitoring, evaluation and learning processes are problematic due to lack of updated data bases and statistics so the learning process is difficult to follow.
3. In most of the systems, the economic consideration given so far to the quality of the infrastructure accounts for a very small percentage of their gross domestic product (GDP).

COMPONENT 3 – RECOMMENDATIONS

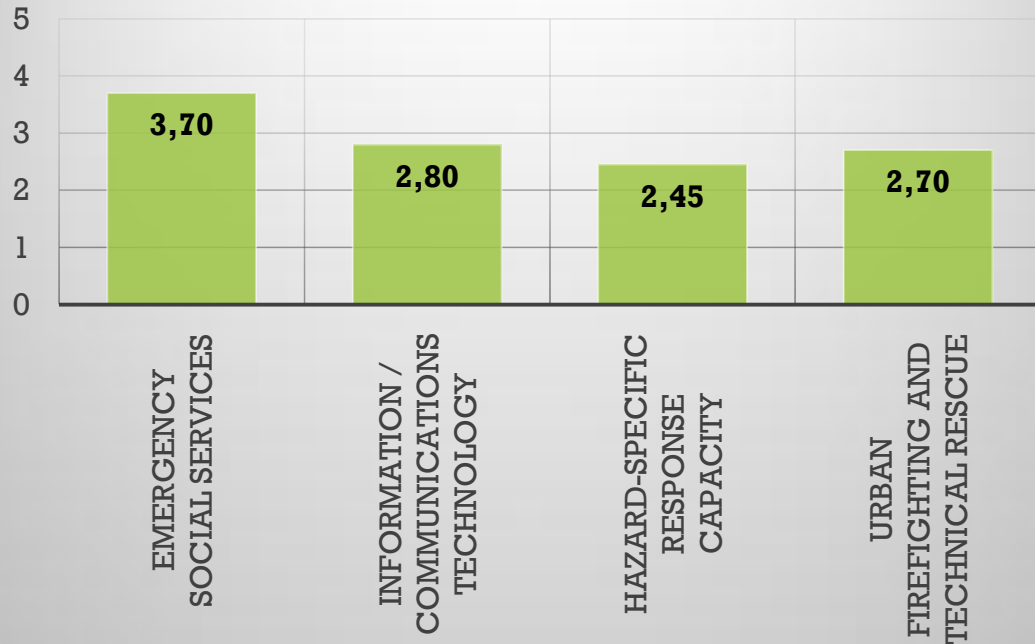


1. Implementation of the **EUROCODE/Building** code as the region is often affected by earthquakes. Additional considerations: reinforcing existing buildings; Improve the evacuation routes and areas and emergency sheltering / temporary housing capacities.
2. Strengthen **inspection of critical infrastructure** like dams, power plants.
3. **Update contingency plans** for natural and environmental disasters, include the dimension of **urban complexity and cascading effects**.
4. Strengthen the network of **monitoring stations** providing information to a regionally standardized **early warning system**
5. Create an efficient distribution of **specialized and shared training facilities** in the region.
6. For improving and facilitating fast regional response, a (Light) Base Camp for a to be established

COMPONENT 4: Equipment



Equipment



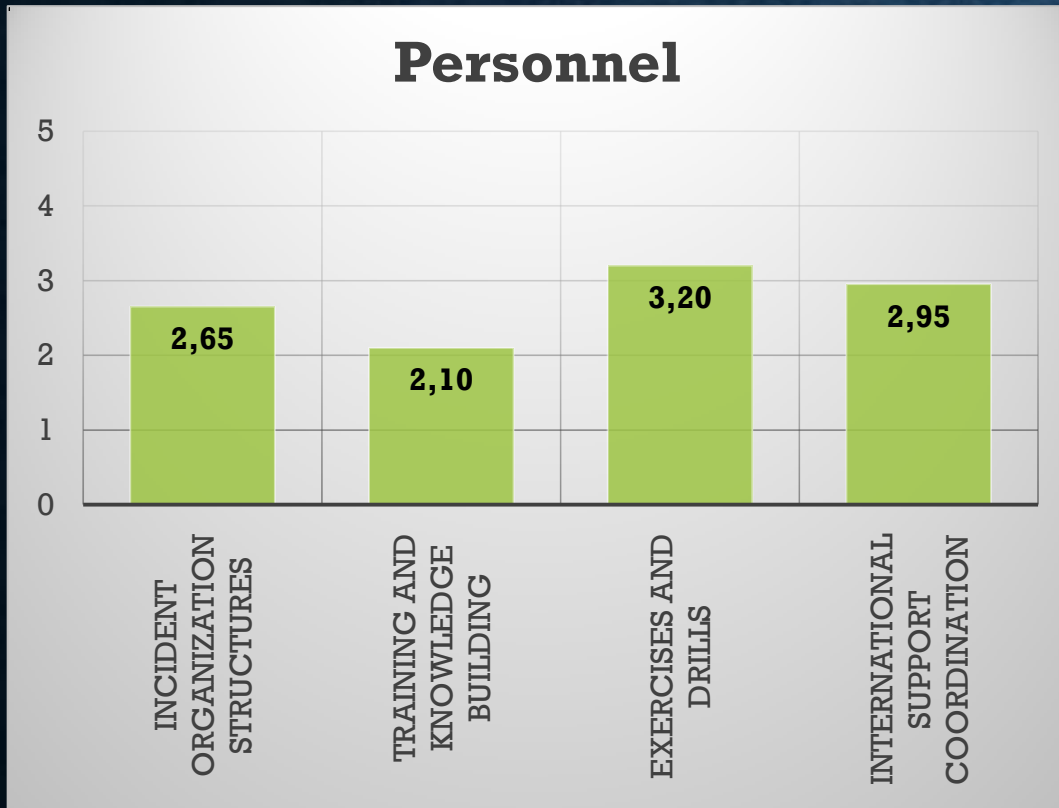
1. In terms of equipment and standards for procuring and maintaining it, all of them are in need of external support.
2. Current equipment is outdated and does not support new technologies.
3. The rescue units are the ones in most need of up-to-date equipment

COMPONENT 4 – RECOMMENDATIONS



1. **Strengthen procurement approaches** and consider centralization in order to reduce costs. Maintenance and replacement costs should be budgeted to support the system over time, anticipating changes to risk profiles.
2. The newly purchased equipment should **meet standards** and be standardized.
3. **Equipment supplies** for first responders and rescue units must be brought to at least minimal operational levels with a priority on safety equipment.

COMPONENT 5: Personnel



1. Fire Rescue Services trainings not adapted to current challenges, but performed the same way and based on the same structures as for 20-30 years ago even though the current challenges are different.
2. The training schemes of civil servants are not yet fully operational.
3. Little resources are allocated for training of response leaders and trainers.

COMPONENT 5 – RECOMMENDATIONS



1. A **specific training concept** should be developed to support systemic capacity building and organizational development. Implementation should prioritize regional needs for capacity development to effectively respond across borders.
2. The capacity and knowledge-building should include, workshops, (management) trainings, exercises and simulations.
3. It is advised to adopt a **top-down approach**, focusing on training of management and team leaders that will take on the (management) responsibility to build capacity amongst the emergency first responders.
4. Capacity building should support a **broad and practical approach to strengthen the EP&R system**, that includes organizational development, strengthening governance, data exchange and communication and **overhauling standard operating procedures and response and contingency planning**.

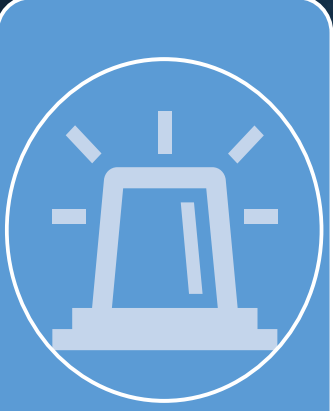
ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Added value of regional approach:

- Regional information sharing will facilitate disaster risk management and policies on local, national and regional level
- All of them may benefit from cooperation in responding to a larger scale incident or disaster
- Sharing the costs for maintaining fully equipped and specialized multi-disciplinary emergency response units and relief materials among them may ease the economic burden.
- Disaster risk insurance is not optimal but can become a great solution if a common scheme is implemented at regional level, considering that they are facing similar challenges.
- Building capacities to the level to join the UCPM is an absolute priority and requires significant commitment (funding for the DRM system) and determination (prioritisation).
- Disasters are transboundary as should the efforts for early warning and monitoring systems and capacity building.

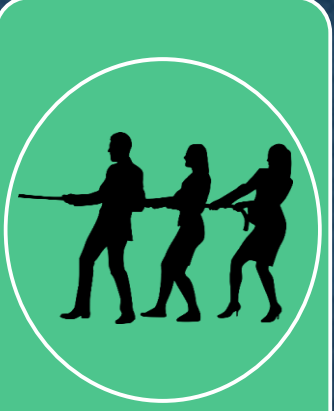
Investment plan – Future regional cooperation



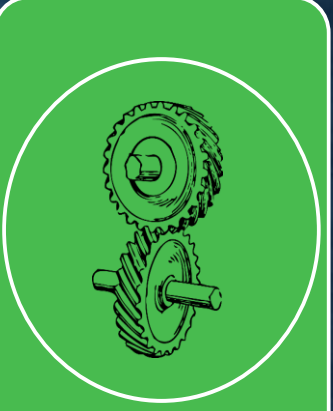
Regionally standardised early warning systems (EWS) focusing on lessons learnt from previous regional projects and aimed at improving the networks for weather radar systems and forest fire monitoring.



Leadership training jointly at regional level in order to coach the regional leaders in capacity-building, problem-solving and civil protection development.



Regional TAST formation which relies on highly trained.



Cross-border operational procedures addressing vulnerabilities in order to enhance the states' knowledge regarding the probability of future disasters and their possible impact.



Increase regional preparedness and capacity for evacuations aimed at improving response time and sheltering operations.

ENHANCED REGIONAL EP & R CAPACITY

INVESTMENT PLAN PROJECTS (I)

Project 1: Regionally standardized EWS

Objective:

The project invests in a regional, standardized and functional alerting system aimed at increasing awareness and early warning for the population of imminent threats



Project 2: Regional systematic and interagency leadership training program for EP&R responders

Objective:

The project focuses on training the regional leaders in capacity-building and problem-solving, while focusing on developing the civil protection mechanisms.



short-term



medium-term



long-term

INVESTMENT PLAN PROJECTS (II)

Project 3: Regional TAST

Objective:

The project focuses on creating the Western Balkans' TAST, similar to USAR teams, aimed at adding value to the quick response to disasters in the region through enhanced availability and rapid deployment capability.



Project 4: Transboundary operational procedures addressing vulnerabilities

Objective:

The project assists in developing procedures that address vulnerabilities through operability.



short-term



medium-term



long-term

INVESTMENT PLAN PROJECTS (III)



Project 5: Regional program for increasing evacuation preparedness and capacity

Objective:

The project focuses on preparing the evacuation teams in the region through ToTs, support for planning the overall displacement cycle, training of evacuation personnel, as well as preparing evacuation routes and emergency sheltering.



short-term



medium-term



long-term

WHAT DOES THIS ENTAIL FOR THE REGION?

- Facilitated data access and sharing
- Efficient and quick regional response capacity
- Comprehensive, exhaustive and detailed training structures, based on lessons learned and similar international mechanisms
- Increased capacity of the region to react to hazards
- Regional insurance schemes
- Standardised procedures, mechanisms, systems and response capacities

WHAT DOES THIS ENTAIL FOR DPPI SEE?

- By the means of the assessments' results and the projects proposed, DPPI SEE's ability to reach its overall goal - *foster regional co-operation across the region in disaster preparedness and prevention – needs to be enhanced*
- DPPI SEE in a unique position to support the region's ability to strengthen national and local emergency sector by coordinating the exchange of expertise and experience; coordinate project and understand specific needs in the region.
- The recommendations under Components 1 and 2 align with DPPI SEE's aim at *building institutional capacity for disaster management organisations to be able to enhance their disaster prevention and preparedness*
- DPPI SEE can serve as a facilitator between the beneficiaries in order to help enhance their collaboration and strengthen their relations
- DPPI SEE can also support the beneficiaries through its integrative nature, allowing for bilateral and multilateral cooperation, as well as smooth and rapid exchange of information

Thank you for your attention!