



South Eastern Europe

Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme

At a glance



THE WORLD BANK



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction



This publication was developed through funding by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). The GFDRR is a partnership of 32 countries and 6 international organizations committed to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards and adapt to climate change. The partnership's mission is to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in country development strategies by supporting a country-led and managed implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. For more information please visit www.gfdr.org

Regional dimension – countries covered and partners involved

South Eastern Europe (SEE) is exposed to a variety of natural hazards, including storms, droughts, floods, earthquakes and landslides. The economic cost of disasters and the absence of hazard risk insurance leaves millions of people in the region exposed to the effects of disasters, and often they are left with no or minimum compensation for property losses.

The following countries are part of this initiative: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, and Serbia.

With the support of the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction Track I¹, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the World Bank, in collaboration with a number of

partners, have started an initiative aimed at helping the countries of SEE reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and adapt to climate change. The partners in this initiative include the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union and the European Commission (EU/EC), the Swedish Civil Contingency Agency (MSB), the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE) and the Regional Cooperation Council for South Eastern Europe (RCC SEE).

The South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme (SEEDRMAP) provides financing to investment priorities in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at the regional level (through Track I) and at the national

1 In consultation with different stakeholders, the World Bank Board has approved a new partnership, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), to support its client governments to integrate risk reduction strategies in development processes at the country and local levels, especially in countries where risks are high. The Facility is structured in three Tracks: Track I supports the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction's (ISDR's) global and regional processes to enable leveraging country resources for ex-ante investment in prevention, mitigation and preparedness activities, particularly in low-income countries; Track II operates at country level to mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction in development strategies; Track III is a Standby Recovery Financing Facility (SRFF) for accelerated post-disaster recovery.



one (through Track II and World Bank Financing Instruments). The regional approach of SEEDRMAP allows for needs and gaps to be filled by activities implemented at the national level, while saving on resources. For instance, the review *Strengthening the Hydrometeorological Services in South Eastern Europe* underlines that important economies could be made by using a regional approach in purchasing expensive equipment such as a regional radar system. This would allow for the collection of data in one country to be shared by others in the region. Regional cooperation

would have a significant impact on the size of the investment required. If the national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHSs) of the seven countries of SEE were to be strengthened individually, the cumulative investment needs are estimated at about €90.3 million over five years. However, if regional cooperation and data sharing could be carried out, and the hardware was designed to allow for cooperation with the rest of Europe, the total investment needs for these seven countries could be reduced to approximately €63.2 million.

SEEDRMAP objectives

SEEDRMAP has been initiated by the World Bank and UNISDR in collaboration with regional and international partners. The programme is in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: *Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters* (HFA) and aims to reduce the vulnerability of SEE countries to disasters. This initiative will form the foundation for regional and country-specific investment priorities (projects) in the area of early warning, disaster risk reduction and financing. SEEDRMAP incorporates three focus areas: (i) hydro-meteorological

forecasting, data sharing and early warning; (ii) coordination of disaster mitigation, preparedness, and response; and (iii) financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery, and disaster risk transfer (disaster insurance). The initiative will build on the existing cooperation in the region and will complement and consolidate the activities promoted by the EC, the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement of the Council of Europe, the United Nations, DPPI SEE, RCC SEE and others to promote more effective disaster mitigation, preparedness and response.

Relevant reviews and publications

The bases for the development of the programme have been a number of reviews undertaken for each of the identified focus areas (they include the *Risk Assessment for South Eastern Europe*, *Desk Study Review*; *Strengthening the Hydrometeorological Services in South Eastern Europe*; *Mitigating the Adverse Financial Effects of Natural Hazards on the Economies of South Eastern Europe: a Study of Disaster Risk Financing Options*; and *The Structure, Role and Mandate of Civil Protection in Disaster Risk Reduction for South Eastern Europe*). The participatory approach to these reviews was reflected through a number of workshops, meetings and events to exchange information and know-how at the national and regional level on gap areas to be addressed by SEEDRMAP².

The SEEDRMAP preparatory reviews have permitted the engagement and resources of national, regional and international actors in addressing

disaster risk reduction issues in SEE. In the EU/EC, through DG Enlargement, the Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative was launched to cover SEE countries with a budget of €6 million over three years. The implementation started in 2009 with the possibility of extension for the next two years based on the outcome of the first year of implementation. WMO and the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, as ISDR system actors, have been identified as implementing agencies in this initiative. Italy, Sweden and Denmark have agreed to join the SEEDRMAP objectives through the strengthening and/or development of national platforms, the provision of technical expertise, and regional capacity development and training. These activities are undertaken within the existing regional organizations, mainly DPPI SEE and RCC SEE.

2 Turkey - although not part of the SEEDRMAP countries - kindly contributed to the programme's studies and reviews sharing relevant information and data on their national risks and prevention measures. This allowed the programme's publications to be regionally comprehensive.



South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Initiative: Risk Assessment for South Eastern Europe, Desk Study Review



This report analyses disaster risks for South Eastern Europe at both the country and sub-regional levels, emphasizing trans-boundary disaster risks and their effects. Risk assessments for all the member countries have been prepared, and country-level and regional issues and potential areas of cooperation are addressed.

Mitigating the Adverse Financial Effects of Natural Hazards on the Economies of South Eastern Europe: a Study of Disaster Risk Financing Options



This publication contains a study and policy recommendations on financing for disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery, and disaster risk transfer (disaster insurance), according to SEEDRMAP focus area iii – financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery, and disaster risk transfer (disaster insurance). The existing risk financing mechanisms do not have the capacity to address the consequences of large disaster events.

Recommendations emerging from this study are intended to guide government policymakers in developing and applying national and regional disaster risk financing strategies.

Reviews can be seen at: <http://www.unisdr.org/europe/publications/index.php>

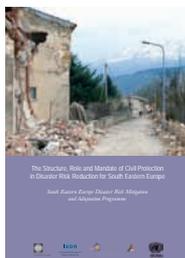
South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme *At a glance*

Strengthening the Hydrometeorological Services in South Eastern Europe: South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme



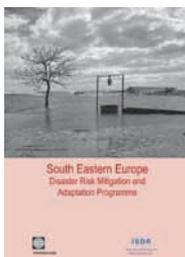
This publication assesses existing infrastructure, capacity and data-sharing procedures among the hydro-meteorological services of South Eastern Europe, identifying the needs both with respect to staff capacity and training and with respect to equipment and facilities.

The Structure, Role and Mandate of Civil Protection in Disaster Risk Reduction for South Eastern Europe



This publication reviews the coordination of disaster mitigation, preparedness and response among the civil protection actors of South Eastern Europe, identifying needs both with respect to staff capacity and training and in terms of disaster risk reduction facilities, with a focus on preparedness and response.

South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme



This report outlines a disaster risk reduction and adaptation framework for South Eastern Europe, following an analysis of the region's vulnerability to climate change, and recommendations on disaster risk financing, emergency preparedness and management, hydro-meteorology, and disaster risk reduction and adaptation.



Where do we stand?

South Eastern Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (SEEC CRIF)

The SEEDRMAP objective is to reduce the vulnerability of SEE countries to disasters, including the loss of life, property and economic productivity caused by weather extremes and other natural hazards. Since financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery, and disaster risk transfer (disaster insurance) represent one of the focus areas of SEEDRMAP, the World Bank, UNISDR and RCC SEE are facilitating the creation of the South Eastern Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (SEEC CRIF).

The commercial insurance market in South Eastern Europe does not offer affordable and dependable insurance coverage to protect individuals and small businesses against material losses arising from catastrophes caused by natural hazards. Consequently, the establishment of the SEEC CRIF will make a visible difference to the lives of citizens and small businesses. This unique facility could play an important role in reducing the level of economic and fiscal exposure to disasters caused by natural hazards in SEE. The facility

has been expanded to cover countries in the Caucasus which have similar risks and expressed an interest in participating.

The proposed facility is being established as a regional catastrophe risk pool owned by countries.

The facility will greatly contribute to the development of a catastrophe insurance market in South Eastern Europe and the Caucasus and reduce government post-disaster budgetary outlays on reconstruction. Regional risk diversification and extensive donor assistance will promote a growing private market for catastrophe insurance, which will in turn provide homeowners and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with the opportunity to purchase affordable insurance coverage. The initiative has received financial support from the GFDRR and the Government of Switzerland, with the latter contributing US\$4.5 million in the form of a dedicated trust fund to support the technical preparatory work in support of the facility's operations in SEE countries.

National projects developed to implement SEEDRMAP:

Track I supported the creation of the SEEDRMAP regional programme and facilitated the development of national projects to reduce vulnerability. In this regard, the World Bank has developed the Albania Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project (AL-DRMAP), in collaboration with the Albania government, and signed an agreement with Moldova for the implementation of the Moldova Disaster and Climate Risk

Management Project (MD-DCRMP). Furthermore, exchanges are ongoing with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In the case of Albania, the project covers the following components, implemented through World Bank loans: Disaster Risk Management and Preparedness (€2.9 million), Hydromet (€1.2 million), Building Codes (€0.22 million), and Catastrophe Insurance (€1.6 million).

Albania Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project (AL-DRMAP)

The objective of the AL-DRMAP is to strengthen institutional capacities: (i) to reduce Albania's vulnerability to natural and technological hazards; and (ii) to limit human, economic and financial losses due to disasters. There are five components to the project:

- *Disaster risk management and preparedness.* This component supports capacity building for the emergency response mechanism through provision of necessary equipment, and to strengthen disaster risk mitigation planning.
- *Strengthening hydro-meteorological services.* This component promotes disaster risk reduction through provision of accurate hydro-meteorological forecasts and services tailored to the needs of disaster risk managers in weather-sensitive sectors.
- *Developing building resilience.* This component supports reduction of risks from seismic activities through the development of improved building codes and mechanisms for the introduction of improved standards.



- *Catastrophe insurance.* This component provides access to private catastrophe risk insurance for households and SMEs.
- *Project management.* This component will finance some project management costs, such as procurement and financial management consultants, monitoring and evaluation activities, as well as incremental operating costs of managing the project, and project reporting and audits.

Moldova Disaster and Climate Risk Management Project (MD-DCRMP)

The Moldovan economy is highly vulnerable to climate extremes. The MD-DCRMP focuses on strengthening the Moldovan State Hydro-meteorological Service's ability to forecast severe weather and on improving Moldova's capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters caused by natural hazards. This will

be achieved through project activities to (i) improve hydro-meteorological forecasting and early-warning systems; (ii) improve disaster preparedness and emergency response; and (iii) initiate activities for adaptation to climate change.

Building on success: Expanding to Central Asia and the Caucasus

With the success of the SEE experience, the World Bank and UNISDR is replicating the same approach in Central Asia, a region with high risks and vulnerabilities.

In collaboration with international partners, GFDRR, and in close partnership with the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), the World Bank and UNISDR have initiated the Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Management Initiative (CAC DRMI) aimed at reducing the vulnerability to disasters of the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus. CAC DRMI incorporates the following three focus areas, with the possibility to include new activities: (i) coordination of disaster mitigation, preparedness,

and response; (ii) financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery, and disaster risk transfer instruments such as catastrophe insurance and weather derivatives; and (iii) hydro-meteorological forecasting, data sharing and early warning. This initiative would form the foundation for regional and country-specific investment priorities (projects) in the areas of early warning, disaster risk reduction and financing. While the initiative would at first focus on non-structural measures, it could in a subsequent phase support structural investments aimed at protecting assets, lives and livelihoods of communities in disaster-prone areas.



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Partners

Council of Europe (CoE) EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement

www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/default_EN.asp?

Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE)

www.dppi.info

European Commission DG Enlargement

ec.europa.eu/enlargement

European Commission DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

ec.europa.eu/echo

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

ochaonline.un.org

Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

www.rcc.int

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

www.unicef.org

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

www.undp.org

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

www.wmo.int



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