

Component 1. **Political Commitment and Institutional Aspects**

1.1. Are there national policy, strategy and legislation addressing disaster risk reduction?

The national policy and strategy in the field of disaster risk reduction are maintained in accordance with the following laws:

- 1) The Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Basics of the National Security;
- 2) The Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Civil Protection.

1.2. Is there a national body for multi-sectoral co-ordination and collaboration in disaster risk reduction, which includes ministries in charge of water resource management, agriculture/ land use and planning, health, environment, education, development planning and finance?

The Government Emergency Commission (hereinafter the Emergency Commission) is a permanent Government Commission organising emergency prevention and directing emergency relief actions where an emergency encompasses the territory of one or more counties or where there is a need for assistance from public administration bodies for rallying without delay forces and material resources necessary for mitigation of the effects of an emergency.

Decisions of the Government Emergency Commission are obligatory for state and local authority institutions. The composition of the Emergency Commission and its regulations are approved by the Government.

1.3. Are there sectoral plans or initiatives that incorporate risk reduction into each respective development area (such as water resource management, poverty alleviation, climate change adaptation, education and development planning)?

Ministries and other state institutions have sectoral plans that incorporate risk reduction concept.

1.4. Is disaster risk reduction incorporated into your national plan for the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), National Adaptation Plans of Action, National Environmental Action Plans and WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development) Johannesburg Plan of Implementation?

Poverty and unemployment risk reduction is incorporated in:

The Programme of Increasing Employment for 2001-2004;
The Poverty Reduction Strategy;
The Programme for Implementing Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2002-2004;
Joint Inclusion Memorandum.

1.5. Does your country have building codes of practice and standards in place, which takes into account seismic risk?

The territory of Lithuania and adjacent areas feature a low seismic activity. Therefore, building codes of practice and standards are used when Lithuanian geographic location requires.

1.6. Do you have an annual budget for disaster risk reduction?

Disaster risk reduction is financed according to the investment projects of ministries and other governmental institution within the area of their competence.

1.7. Are the private sector, civil society, NGOs, academia and media participating in disaster risk reduction efforts?

Private sector, civil society, NGOs, academia and media are participating in disaster risk reduction efforts within the area of their competence and in accordance with the existing laws.

Component 2. **Risk Identification**

2.1. Has your country carried out hazard mapping/ assessment?

Lithuania considers that the risk related to chemical processes/ storage installations, transportation of dangerous goods, floods, storms and forest fires is of medium size. Contaminated lands, pipelines, transboundary pollution, landslides, and earthquakes are considered as the low risks. Chemical processes/ storage installations, transportation of dangerous goods risks were evaluated as medium because these activities are carried out and hazard is present within a good portion of the country due to infrastructure or geographical character of the country, but in case of an accident it will be local effects and consequences of accident.

There is standard in Lithuania for geographical data and layers for maps in scale 1: 50 000 and smaller. Maps are made in different scales according to district area and tasks. There are maps in scales 1: 400 000, 1: 200 000, 1: 100 000, 1: 50 000, 1: 10 000 (cities and towns) and other.

The users of risk assessment results are institutions as operators of dangerous facilities, municipalities, county administrations as well as state level institutions as Civil Protection Department, Ministry of Environment, Radiation Protection Centre, Hydrometeorological Service and others. The data are accessible in general, except those related with confidential information.

2.2. Has your country carried out vulnerability and capacity assessments?

The assessment of vulnerability has not been carried out in Lithuania. Usually we use only risk assessments and assessment of the impact to the environment. Information on capabilities assessment is confidential.

2.3. Does your country have any mechanisms for risk monitoring and risk mapping?

According to Lithuanian legislation all economic entities before they start operation have to make risk assessment and assessment of the impact to the environment. For the natural disasters municipalities and county administrations are responsible for risk assessments.

In relevant responsible institutions hazards are evaluated and mapped according to their field of activities and responsibilities.

2.4. Is there a systematic socio-economic and environmental impact and loss analysis in your country after each major disaster?

N/A

2.5. Are there early warning systems in place?

Lithuania has early warning systems for flooding, an accident in case of an accident at Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant, radiological pollution and others. The most common emergency in Lithuania

is flood. For example, population is notified where flood is coming and provided with recommendations what measures have to be taken.

There is very sophisticated early warning system for radiological risks in Lithuania:

Automatic gamma monitoring network PMS. The PMS system consists of nine local stations and a central monitoring server and is a surveillance tool for gamma monitoring in the environment. The system is designed to be in operation at all times. It is full automatic system, which measures various radiological data, weather and environmental conditions. If the radiation reaches threshold levels, this will be automatically reported to the main server at Joint Research Centre. In the normal conditions the PMS server transfers the data from each station every three hours. The data from each station are stored in the compressed format on the PMS server.

Automatic gamma monitoring network AAM-95. The AAM-95 System consists of four local stations and a central computer at Joint Research Centre. It is full automatic system, which is designed to be in operation at all times. If the radiation reaches threshold levels, this will be automatically reported to the main computer at Joint Research Centre. In the normal conditions the stations send the radiological data to the main computer every six hours.

In addition there are 392 measuring points manually operated at Fire brigades.

Warning and alerting system

Sirens. In case of threat the Civil Protection Department transmits signals, information and recommendations to population via automatic warning system "Signal" equipped with centrally operated sirens, wire radio and loudspeakers, broadcasts via national TV and radio.

In the mean time State Public Warning and Information System allows to switch on within the territory of Lithuania 706 centrally operated sirens (2 million or 54 % of population). The most of sirens are located in cities of Ignalina and Zarasai regions. In addition the warning system has 564 local operated sirens for warning about 14% of population. The local operated sirens are located mostly in rural areas. There are designated responsible persons to switch on sirens.

Notification of responsible authorities. The Civil Protection Department transmits the civil protection signals via equipment of automatic emergency warning system "Signalas" to the officers on duty, who are responsible for receiving the information. The equipment is located at the police commissariats, territorial defence headquarters and the county civil protection departments.

Public information. After receiving the signal "Attention!" the public of Lithuania will be informed via transmitters of 1-st and 2-nd national radio programmes, wire radio and most of commercial broadcasting companies (which work in FM).

Other means. In the territories not covered by sirens the special equipped vehicles would be used. The police, firemen or other forces are foreseen to perform the warning. The routes are included in the plans in advance.

Component 3. **Knowledge Management**

3.1. Does your country have disaster risk information management systems (governmental and/ or non-governmental)?

One of the information management systems being developed in Lithuania is the Register of hazardous objects consisting of the Main data basis managed by the Civil Protection Department and the Counties data basis managed by the Counties Civil Protection Departments. This data basis contains information on all the hazardous objects, which might have negative impact on the society in case of an emergency. Risk assessment is carried out according to a maximum hazard scale. Results of the risk assessment are used for the prevention and improvement of civil protection preparedness.

3.2. Are the academic and research communities in the country linked to national or local institutions dealing with disaster reduction?

Academic and research communities in Lithuania co-operate with national or local institutions in the field of disaster reduction on ad hoc basis.

3.3. Are there educational programmes related to disaster risk reduction in your public school system?

Educational programmes related to disaster risk reduction are in public school system for 11-18 year children, in vocational schools and colleges. Civil protection teachers attend training and seminars on civil protection.

3.4. Are there any training programmes available?

There are different training programmes available for particular kind of audience. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania approves the programmes and their duration.

3.5. What kind of traditional indigenous knowledge and wisdom is used in disaster-related practices or training programmes on disaster reduction in your country?

N/A

3.6. Do you have any national public awareness programmes or campaigns on disaster risk reduction?

Society is educated by publishing booklets and brochures related to disaster risk reduction. Days on civil protection are organised in public schools.

Component 4. **Risk Management Applications/Instruments**

4.1. Is there any good examples of linking environmental management and risk reduction practices in your country?

The main institution responsible for coastal erosion protection is the Ministry of Environment (policy level). Other institutions of the Ministry of Environment and the coastal zone municipalities are responsible for implementation measures.

Order of the Ministry of Environment No. 248 of May 2003 lays down responsibilities and actions to be taken in case of an emergency by the institutions that are under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment. Training with flooding scenarios is carried out preparing for floods. The Hydrometeorological Service is responsible for flood warning. Municipality is responsible for preparing of evacuation measures, for supporting of flood products, etc.

In the flood risk zones some business and economic activities are prohibited, new house building is limited and regulated, trees are planted around roads and holdings.

4.2. Are financial instruments utilised in your country as a measure to reduce the impact of disasters?

Insurance system as a measure to reduce the impact of disasters has not been established in Lithuania so far. Damage and losses caused by disasters are covered through the State Reserve.

4.3. Please identify specific examples of technical measures or programmes on disaster risk reduction that have been carried out in your country.

N/A

Component 5. **Preparedness and Contingency Planning**

5.1. Do you have disaster contingency plans in place? Are they prepared for both national and community levels?

There are drawn up disaster contingency plans of all levels (ministry, state institution, county, municipality, economic entity) in Lithuania.

*Description of the disaster contingency plan of **the Ministry of Agriculture** (hereinafter the Ministry) is provided below as an example.*

According to the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Civil Protection, the Ministry is responsible for the organisation of civil protection according to the type of activity and competence assigned to it. The Ministry organises civil protection training for decision makers and specialists, carries out assessment and forecast of emergency situations, plans and implements preventive measures, draws up plan on preparedness for emergency situations, co-ordinates the planning of civil protection measures of entities assigned to its sphere of regulation, as well as the preparedness of said entities to work under emergency conditions, provides information necessary for implementing civil protection tasks to public institutions.

The plan on preparedness for emergency situations is the document, which shall be followed by the Minister and Emergencies Management Centre during the time of war and peace. The plan consists of the Textual Part and the Directory of the Resources of the Ministry.

There are three parts in the Textual Part:

- First part, called General Provisions, contains goals and aims of the plan, a short description of the Ministry and its institutions, subordinated and controlled enterprises, risk analysis, assessment of possible emergency situations and their consequences.
- Second part contains information on the organisation of civil protection activities, communications, workers protection, civil protection training and public relations.
- Third part is an annex of the plan establishing the concept of the activities for Food and Agriculture Civil Protection Service, outlining the role of the Ministry in the assessment of damage caused by emergency situations, and laying down rules and procedures in assistance providing to disaster victims.

The Directory of the Resources of the Ministry consists of structural charts, lists and other information concerning preparedness for emergency situations.

In the event of a disaster the Ministry gets information in due course from the Civil Protection Department. Having received this information, the Minister or in his absence the State Secretary of the Ministry makes a decision on actions which the administration shall take in order to guarantee the functioning of the Ministry.

The plan is updated twice per year.

Disaster contingency plans of state level are the following:

- Plan of the Republic of Lithuania on population protection in case of a radiological accident at Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant,
- State search and rescue plan in case of an aircraft or watercraft accident in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania,

- National sea accidents pollution liquidation plan,
- State rescue and flood consequences liquidation in Klaipeda county plan.

5.2. Has your government established emergency funds for disaster response and are there national or community storage facilities for emergency relief items – mainly food, medicine, tents/shelters?

The emergency funds for disaster response have not been established yet. Damage and losses caused by disasters are covered through the money of the State Reserve. The State Reserve consists of material resources as well. They are stored in municipalities and are used for disaster consequences mitigation. The use of material resources is regulated according to an order of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

5.3. Who is responsible for the coordination of disaster response preparedness and is the coordination body equipped with enough human and financial resources for the job?

The Civil Protection Department is a constituent part of the Civil Protection and Rescue System, directing the activities of the Civil Protection and Rescue System, organising the prevention of emergencies, co-ordinating the activities of public institutions and economic entities in the area of civil protection and planning the national preparedness for the implementation of civil protection tasks in case of emergency. The Department is equipped with human and financial resources that allow responding to a disaster in the most efficient way.

Component 6. **Call for good practices in disaster risk management**

N/A

Component 7. **Priorities you want addresses at World Conference on Disaster Reduction**

The priority topic is: Protection of civilian population against the effects of terrorist attacks, including CBRN (recommendations and proposals in order to improve preparedness and coordination at national and international levels).