



PRESS RELEASE

Tirana, October 9, 2017

Levelling UP on Emergency Planning

A two-day national workshop on assessing the existing emergency plans at prefectural level

The Programme for Improving National Early Warning System and flood prevention in Albania (PRO NEWS) hosted in Tirana, on October 5-6, 2017, the national workshop “Levelling UP on Emergency Planning”.

Representatives of the 12 Albanian prefectures, the General Directorate for Civil Emergencies and other national and international stakeholders gathered together to exchange views and increase awareness on relevant good practices in Emergency Planning and to finalize the assessment of existing emergency plans at prefectural level through a participatory approach.

The welcome speech of the workshop was held by Ms. Silvana Jakaj, PRO NEWS Liaison Officer as contact point for the Programme beneficiaries and PRO NEWS Management Team. She emphasized the importance of all actors, especially Prefectures and municipalities, in case of emergencies.

The General Director of GDCE, Mr. Shemsi Prençi, stressed the professionalism and continuous training of the staff of civil protection and emergencies and highlighted the importance of working responsibly using good European practices for a more qualitative improvement of emergency plans.

The representatives of the Prefecture of Shkodra, Berat and Lezha showed how they manage emergencies and how their plans are structured. Following this, the PRO NEWS Consortium Partners presented the Italian Civil Protection system and its legal and operative framework for emergency planning; the methodology used to assess UNDP guidelines on Emergency planning (2003) and the assessment tool used to evaluate prefectural plans and its preliminary results.



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The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

“The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.





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The criteria used for the ongoing assessment are based on references to the national legal framework and the relevant good practices, as well as the normative framework and guidelines at EU level which provide a comprehensive analysis and a solid benchmark.

The second day of the workshop was organized in Working Group Sessions for reviewing and finalizing the assessment of all emergency plans at prefectural level. Representatives of prefectures, along with consortium experts, reviewed the assessment of their plans in a very positive and collaborative environment.

The workshop contributes to the overall goal of improving Albania's legal and institutional framework on Early Warning, Flood Management, Civil Protection and Emergency Planning, as the Component B of the PRO NEWS Programme.

PRO NEWS Programme is financed by the EU Delegation in Albania and runs until the end of 2018. It aims to increase Albania's resilience to floods by strengthening its National Early Warning System, improving disaster prevention in line with EU practices, and assisting the country to access the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

For further information follow the programme on: www.pronewsprogramme.eu; Facebook: [ProNewsAlbania](https://www.facebook.com/ProNewsAlbania); Twitter: [@PronewsAlbania](https://twitter.com/PronewsAlbania)

