

Editorial

Dear Reader,

We are very pleased to open the first edition of the PRO NEWS Newsletter which will inform you on a regular basis about the main activities and events being performed within the Programme throughout its duration.

As you most probably are aware of the Programme, started in January 2017, is ongoing and is currently implemented by the Consortium and all the Albanian stakeholders coordinated by the Ministry of Interior and the General Directorate for Civil Emergencies, who are working in synergy to set up a plan of activities tailored as much as possible on the beneficiaries' needs.

PRO NEWS has entered its implementation phase with an increasing number of activities related to emergency planning, risk mapping and flood risk prevention.

We all know that floods represent a considerable threat for all countries in the world. Albania was heavily hit by a major flood in 2015 causing severe damages in the whole country. To this end



Programme for Improving National Early Warning System and flood prevention in Albania

PRO NEWS is designed to reach the ultimate goal of mitigating, yet containing the risk of floods and all its consequences in terms of human, economic and financial losses. To ensure that, we believe integrated measures covering different aspects of prevention, response and preparedness should be handled all together and this is the reason why PRO NEWS includes five inter-related components.

Enjoy your reading!

In this issue:

Working on the Programme implementation...



Second Steering Committee of PRO NEWS Programme



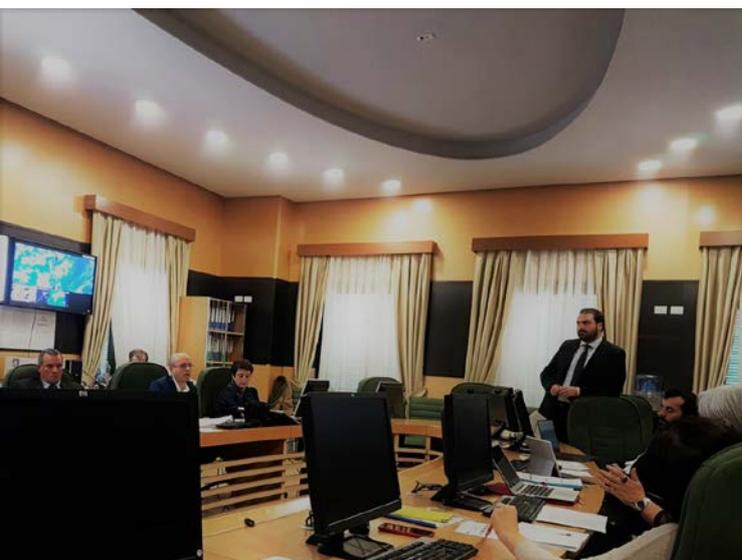
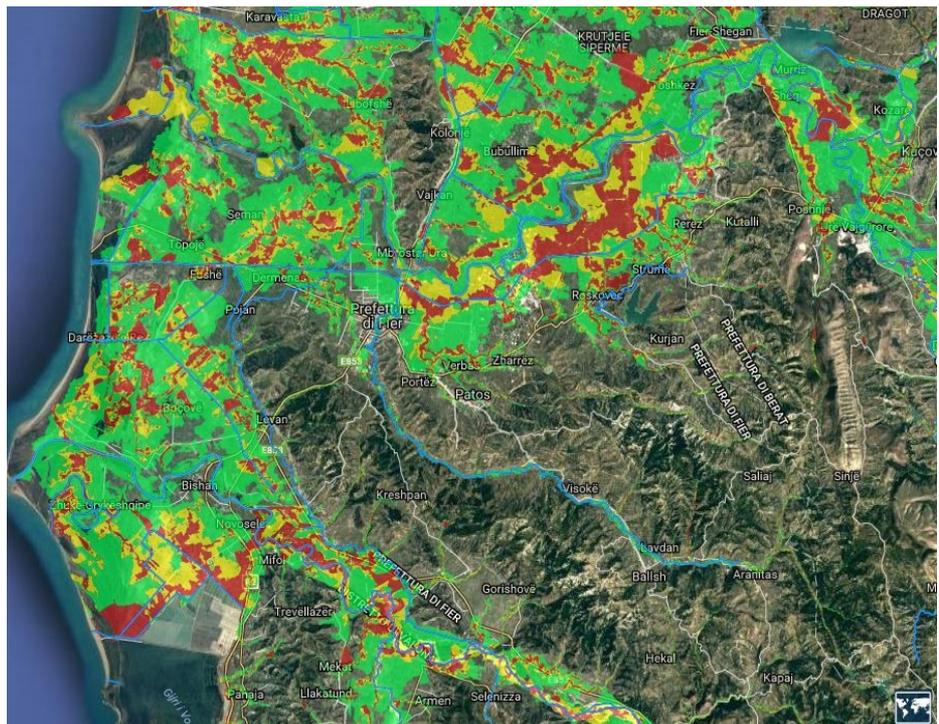


Working on the Programme implementation...

Following the PRO NEWS Programme kick-off on 15th January, in the first period of programme implementation, from February to April 2017, representatives from the Programme Consortium conducted visits and inception meetings in Tirana.

The aim was to be familiar with the Programme beneficiaries, to establish the partnership and to present the programme framework.

The missions were coordinated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the General Directorate for Civil Emergencies, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders participate and take part to the relevant discussions. The Consortium participated with experts from each partner and the management Team, while the beneficiary institutions provided technical experts relevant for the discussion of the components.



The main efforts in this first phase of work were focused on the reinforcement of partnership with all the beneficiary partners; clarification the role of MoIA and GDCE as main beneficiary of the Programme and its function as coordinator among other Albanian institutions; establishment of cooperation with IGEWE as main beneficiary of Activity D and addressing the lack of human resources at the MoIA and GDCE to follow the Pro News Programme activities.

At the end of the inception phase was achieved the establishment of partnership with the beneficiaries, setting up the communication flow between the Beneficiaries and the Consortium Partners; and finalizing PRO NEWS work plan by targeting the activities to the needs of the Beneficiary Partners and in line with the approved PRO NEWS proposal.

The endorsement of the work-plan by all beneficiaries on May 25, 2017, marks the beginning of the Programme activities implementation.



This project is funded by the European Union



This project is implemented by Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italian Civil Protection Department



Second Steering Committee of PRO NEWS Programme

The Programme enters the implementation phase of its activities

The Programme for Improving National Early Warning System and flood prevention in Albania (PRO NEWS) hold its second Steering Committee meeting, on July 14, 2017.

This second meeting marked the beginning of the implementation phase of the Programme, according to the work-plan approved during the programme inception phase.

The meeting, organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) and the General Directorate for Civil Emergencies (GDCE), brought together representatives from main national stakeholders of the sector, such as the Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Technical Secretariat of Water Council, the State Authority for Geo-Spatial Information, other responsible flood prevention authorities in the country, international organizations working in the sector, and the Consortium partners.

The Consortium presented the Programme's inception report through an overview on the activity plan for the next six months. The components of the Programme were presented one by one, focusing on the main steps starting the work.



The assessment tool for evaluation of the Emergency Plans designed jointly by CIMA and DPC, is the first step to start the evaluation of the existing documentation at Prefectural level, in frame of the Component B *“Improvement of the Legal and Institutional framework on Early Warning, Flood Management, Civil Protection and Emergency Planning”*.

In frame of the Component E *“Promotion of the development of awareness raising campaigns and the adoption, among the population, of correct behavior in case of emergency”*, there are on-going preparation of surveys and questionnaires as well as interviews to the main stakeholders in the country, in order to assess public awareness level and to develop a National

Public Awareness Campaign.

The Consortium outlined the plan of activity for the Component F *“Support to Albanian institutions in accessing the Union Civil Protection Mechanism”* until May 2018. The proposal foresees a package of INFO DAYS organized with the participation of DG ECHO and policy workshops aimed at increasing the capacity building of GDCE staff in relation to WGs and DG meetings preparation as well as project proposal within the Union Civil Protection Mechanisms.

All the participants emphasized the importance of having the PRO NEWS work-plan approved, looking forward for prompt actions on the way of programme's implementation.



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Technical mission on improvement of the early warning system and flood management in Albania

In frame of Component D of the PRO NEWS Programme “*Improvement of Flood Early Warning and integration into the European Flood Awareness System*”, a technical mission took place on July 12 – 13, 2017 at the Institute of Geo-Sciences Energy Water and Environment (IGEWE) in Albania.

The PRO NEWS Programme’s experts discussed widely with the staff of IGEWE the technical component of the programme related to the improvement of the early warning system and flood management in Albania. Consortium experts visited also the Operational Room where meteorological bulletins are released and weather events are monitored.

Improving the Awareness and the Resilience of the Public on early warning

In frame of the Component E “*Promotion of the development of awareness raising campaigns and the adoption, among the population, of correct behavior in case of emergency*”, there are on-going preparation of surveys and questionnaires as well as interviews to the main stakeholders in the country, in order to assess public awareness level and to develop the National Public Awareness Campaign.

Through the questionnaires it is intended to assess the public knowledge on Early Warning system and disasters risk; to understand how the people percept the risk in case of a disaster and to identify the main information sources regarding the warning system and the risk from disasters in Albania.

The questionnaires are tailored according to the target audience. There are prepared already 4 different types of questionnaires - for the general public, for private businesses, for teachers and for students. The national and local authorities and main stakeholders working on civil emergency will be addressed through interviews and one to one meetings.

National workshop: Levelling UP on Emergency Planning

On October 5th-6th, 2017 the PRO NEWS Programme hosted in Tirana the national workshop “*Levelling UP on Emergency Planning*”, with participation of 12 Albanian prefectures, the General Directorate for Civil Emergencies (GDCE) and other national stakeholders in country.

The goal of the workshop was 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 PRO NEWS Consortium Partners presented the Good Practices from Italian Authorities on Emergency Planning, the draft assessment tools for Emergency Planning and the preliminary results of draft assessment of emergency plans for pilots Prefectures. 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.

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*, the Component B of the PRO NEWS Programme.

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