

Romania

National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011)

Name of focal point : Mr VISAN Eugen

Organization : General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations

Title/Position : Deputy Inspector General

E-mail address : eugen.visan@mai.gov.ro

Telephone : +40 212420377

Fax : +40 212420990

Reporting period : 2009-2011

Last updated on : 21 January 2011

Print date : 08 Aug 2011

Reporting language : English

An HFA Monitor update published by PreventionWeb

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/europe/rou/>

Strategic goals

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Strategic Goal Statement:

Romania emphasizes disaster risk reduction through legislative and organizational measures and through actions taken towards building a culture of safety and resilience. National, regional and local development programs and projects are subsumed to the principles of sustainable development, environmental impact prevention and reduction, responsibility and protection of citizens against disasters.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Strategic Goal Statement:

A well-determined Romanian legal framework implements disaster risk reduction mechanisms at all levels. This framework is based upon incorporating risk reduction elements in land use practices, infrastructure development and land use planning policies. Institutional cooperation, multiannual planning and an integrated approach are key-actions in building capacities in order to strengthen disaster resilience

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Strategic Goal Statement:

The National Emergency Situations Management System is built to perform comprehensive pre-disaster planning, emergency response and post-disaster actions. Identifying, assessing, ranking and monitoring the risks are necessary in order to maintain the system's efficiency. The update and improvement of contingency plans and preparedness for emergency situations of the population and public authorities are key-elements for the emergency services.

Priority for action 1

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 1

National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Is DRR included in development plans and strategies?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* No: National development plan

* No: Sector strategies and plans

* No: Climate change policy and strategy

* No: Poverty reduction strategy papers

* No: Common Country Assessments (CCA)/ UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

Description:

Disaster risk reduction and risk management activities are governed by a set of regulations providing an integrated and unified approach. These regulations define responsibility areas for each sector and provide details for specific disasters (floods, earthquakes, landslides, drought and others). However further improvement is appropriate.

The disaster management system is well-defined and regularized and risk prevention and response are ensured by permanent or temporary structures established for each domain.

Context & Constraints:

Some aspects concerning the responsibility of ministers and the information dissemination scheme are ambiguous. This fact is determined by the ongoing changes within the organizational chart. Moreover, the NGO's and private sector's involvement is not sufficiently promoted.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 2

Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Is there a specific allocation of budget for DRR in the national budget?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* 0 % allocated from national budget

* 0 USD allocated from overseas development assistance fund

* 0 USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)

* 0 USD allocated to stand alone DRR investments (e.g. DRR institutions, risk assessments, early warning systems)

* 0 USD allocated to disaster proofing post disaster reconstruction

Description:

Each year the government, the local authorities and the economical agents allocate funds dedicated to disaster risk management. Most of these funds are used in higher-priority areas, such as response and rehabilitation activities. Most of the funds dedicated to disaster risk reduction activities are allocated specifically for single projects.

Local response forces are not always provided the required material and technical resources.

Context & Constraints:

Present context makes it impossible for the authorities to have a realistic overview and to correctly evaluate the required funding for further development. The main constraints are the funds that are not specifically allocated for disaster risk reduction, the shortcomings in institutional cooperation and the lack of long-term development plans. Some preventive measures can be seen as unjustified expenses instead of profitable investments.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 3

Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Do local governments have legal responsibility and budget allocations for DRR?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* No: Legislation

* No: Budget allocations for DRR to local government

Description:

The ministries with responsibilities concerning disaster risk reduction have local branches that ensure implementation of specific measures. A voluntary emergency response service is organized at the lowest administrative-territorial organizational level – the comune.

Context & Constraints:

NGOs are not sufficiently encouraged to participate in building the national integrated disaster management system and get themselves involved in local and regional emergency situations management structures. Public authorities can use NGOs expertise and their databases in community training and mobilization, early warning, risk identification and so on.

Most of the times, people do not get involved in disaster risk reduction actions or in disaster response, mostly due to the belief that it is the authorities' responsibility to provide for their safety. The voluntary emergency response service in a commune with predominant elderly population is inefficient, because the people are not able to provide substantial help. People are not sufficiently motivated to collaborate with the authorities due to insufficient information regarding ongoing situation and the required actions

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 4

A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Are civil society organisations , national planning institutions, key economic and development sector organisations represented in the national platform?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* 0 civil society members (specify absolute number)

* 0 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)

* 0 women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)

Description:

A National Emergency Situations Management Committee is in place and works as a multisectorial platform for disaster risk management. However, most of disaster risk reduction measures are established based upon the post-disaster actions

Context & Constraints:

See above.

Priority for action 2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 1

National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment available to inform planning and development decisions?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* No: Multi-hazard risk assessment

* 0 % of schools and hospitals assessed

* 0 schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)

* No: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments

* No: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments

Description:

The government has funded pilot projects for creating earthquake and landslide hazard maps for most regions and some major cities, programmed to be completed in 2010. Every four years, town halls develop emergency situations plans in case of floods, dangerous hydrological and meteorological events, dam's accidents and accidental pollution. These plans contain all the prevention and response measures and the information flow in case of an emergency situation and are available to the general public on the Prefecture's webpage and in any town hall.

Context & Constraints:

Comprehensive local assessment requires a great financial and logistic effort, as well as human resources which are hard to accomplish due to present financial constraints. Moreover, the required analyses for hazard mapping are performed within European Commission funded projects and thus, there are further constraints associated with the possibility to engage in such projects

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 2

Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are disaster losses systematically reported, monitored and analysed?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* No: Disaster loss database

* No: Reports generated and used in planning

Description:

Several monitoring and warning systems are in place, such as: National Seismic Network, National Integrated Meteorological System and Integrated Water Management System (WATMAN). These systems provide early warning of major events to the authorities and to the population. In order to improve some of these systems, in 2006 a feasibility study has been conducted in order to develop a system which ensures field data collection, validation and processing, information dissemination and decision-making process regarding earthquake events. Moreover, the Integrated Information and Decision System for Water Disasters (DESWAT) is being implemented

Context & Constraints:

Some projects require further funding and more human resources in order to be completed

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 3

Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

- * No: Early warnings acted on effectively
- * No: Local level preparedness
- * No: Communication systems and protocols
- * No: Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination

Description:

Several monitoring and warning systems are put in place such as: National Seismic Network, National Integrated Meteorological System and Integrated Water Management System (WATMAN). These systems provide early warning of major events to the authorities and to the population.

Context & Constraints:

Improving existing monitoring systems require further funding and more human resources.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 4

National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional DRR programmes or projects?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

- * No: Programmes and projects addressing trans-boundary issues
- * No: Regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks
- * No: Regional or sub-regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms
- * No: Action plans addressing trans-boundary issues

Description:

Romania and its neighbors are involved in several cross-border cooperation programs intended for disaster risk monitoring. Some programs are already implemented while others require European Commission's approval or are being analyzed.

Context & Constraints:

The constraints concerning these cooperation programs are related to the required financial and logistic efforts and the possibility to engage in such programs.

Priority for action 3

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 1

Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Is there a national disaster information system publicly available?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* No: Web page of national disaster information system

* No: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

Description:

In 2005 a 3-year strategy for emergency situations public information and training was implemented in Romania. This strategy is part of the "Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Management – consultancy for the development and the implementation of a national public awareness campaign" project. In 2007 a national campaign for emergency situations public information and training, based on a study revealing public knowledge, perceptions and attitudes concerning emergency situations was conducted. In the later years a higher involvement of the non-governmental sector in the development of school curricula concerning emergency situations training and in the development and dissemination of education material for public information and awareness became necessary. The most important ways to inform the public are mass media and on-line monitoring systems (such as earthquakes monitoring system available on www.infp.ro)

Context & Constraints:

Even if the public is well informed and possesses enough experience in emergency situations (especially floods), people are not aware that Romania is permanently a subject to disasters and that this situation should lead to a proper lifestyle and a rapid response culture. Thus the Romanian community coping capacity and resilience to disasters is diminished. Romanian public possesses general knowledge of required attitude, behaviour and actions in case of emergency situations, but it lacks practical experience. There is little involvement of civil structures in emergency situations issues. The population is rather indifferent to disaster prevention and response, mostly due to the belief that it is the authorities' responsibility to react and reduce the effects of a disaster. Further constraints are related to required financial efforts in order to maintain and improve on-line monitoring and warning systems.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 2

School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial

resources and/ or operational capacities

Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

- * No: Primary school curriculum
- * No: Secondary school curriculum
- * No: University curriculum
- * No: Professional DRR education programmes

Description:

In 2007 the project "National strategy for emergency situations public information and training" was developed.

During 2007 - 2010, teachers and personnel working with public authorities involved in emergency situations prevention and response conducted an emergency situation training campaign from pupils to students. This training consists in knowing specific regulations, providing first aid, specific training, warning and evacuation applications.

Another project developed in 2007 consists in including the optional subject "Natural disasters" in the preschool and school curricula.

Context & Constraints:

In some cases, teachers are not aware about the importance of pupil's emergency training and thus they use the time dedicated for this training to teach other subjects. This shows how important it is to make "preparedness for natural disasters" an important subject in school curricula.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 3

Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget?

-- not complete --

- * No: Research outputs, products or studies
- * No: Research programmes and projects
- * No: Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR

Description:

There is a project upon developing an East-European Multi-Risk Management Center. This center will ensure the risk management for geological, hydrological, climate and technological events. The project takes into account the existing system upon which this center will be build.

Context & Constraints:

The mentioned project is almost complete, but it requires further funding and institutional support.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 4

Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Do public education campaigns on DRR reach risk-prone communities?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* No: Public education campaigns.

* No: Training of local government

* No: Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level

Description:

The National Strategy for Emergency Situations Communication and Public Information was developed and implemented during 2008-2010.

Furthermore, the National Strategy for Emergency Situations Public Information and Education is been developed and partially implemented.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of required funds and human resources are the main constraints. In order to properly build up the public awareness, public authorities' activities must collaborate with mass media and NGOs. Mass media emphasizes touching stories and shocking images. Thus, mass media prefers to present the disaster's effects rather than the risk reduction measures and proper behavior in case of disaster.

Priority for action 4

Reduce the underlying risk factors

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 1

Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc)

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

- * No: Protected areas legislation
- * No: Payment for ecosystem services (PES)
- * No: Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)
- * No: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)
- * No: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes

Description:

Environmental policies, developed in compliance with the European directives, take into account the sustainable development objectives. They incorporate disaster risk reduction issues in land use strategies, natural resources management and adaptation to climate change.

Context & Constraints:

The main constraints consist of economical, social and urban development necessities

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 2

Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

- * No: Crop and property insurance
- * No: Employment guarantee schemes
- * No: Conditional cash transfers
- * No: DRR aligned poverty reduction, welfare policy and programmes
- * No: Microfinance
- * No: Micro insurance

Description:

Each county council has allocated funds for reducing disaster effects and supporting affected population. In Romania home insurance against disasters is mandatory

Context & Constraints:

Dedicated funding and resources are sometimes used in higher-priority areas, due to financial constraints

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 3

Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* No: National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.

* No: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

Description:

A governmental strategy is being implemented in order to sustain the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and agricultural associations by promoting tax facilities (low interest loans, tax exemptions, subsidies), but it does not take into account disaster impact

Context & Constraints:

See above

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 4

Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* No: Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas

* No: Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas

* No: Training of masons on safe construction technology

* No: Provision of safe land for low income households and communities

Description:

A rehabilitation program for the high earthquake risk buildings is put in place. The authorities pay subsidies to owners in order to partially cover the expenses, such as expertise fee, project cost and long-term interest on the loans. The owners and the owners associations are legally obliged to take measures in order to reduce the seismic risk of their buildings.

The seismic design of building structures is in compliance with the European building codes and land use policy takes into account the specific risks and hazards.

Context & Constraints:

Most of the high earthquake risk buildings in Romania are at least 70 years old and they were not designed to withstand major earthquakes.

The owners and the owners associations are not aware of how important the high earthquake risk buildings' rehabilitation is. Most of the times, because the building brings profit, the owners would rather repair it than reinforce it. They neglect, postpone or can not afford major adjustments

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 5

Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Do post-disaster recovery programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* 0 % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR

* No: Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery

Description:

The regulations governing the way the disaster risk reduction policies and the land use practices are incorporated in the building rehabilitation process are put in place. The design of the new buildings is in compliance with the European buildings codes.

Context & Constraints:

The development of new projects means higher costs and undetermined delays in the projected completion date, due to the birocracy. A simplified procedure for obtaining a building permit is appropriate

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 6

Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Are the impacts of major development projects on disaster risk assessed?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* No: Assessments of impact of projects such as dams, irrigation schemes, highways, mining, tourist developments etc on disaster risk

* No: Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

Description:

In 2008 The National Strategy for Sustainable Development was developed. This strategy governs the incorporation of disaster risk reduction elements into all programs concerning populated areas. The current development plans and programs for cities, industry and infrastructure take into account the results of the environmental impact studies

Context & Constraints:

See above.

Priority for action 5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 1

Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* No: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety

* No: Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness

Description:

Emergency Situation Management System is put in place and specific regulations ensure dedicated funds and resources for local councils.

Due to past years occurring floods the decision process and the cooperation between institutions has been strengthened at all levels.

Context & Constraints:

Dedicated funding and resources are sometimes used in higher-priority areas, due to financial constraints

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 2

Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial

resources and/ or operational capacities

Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

- * No: Contingency plans with gender sensitivities
- * No: Operations and communications centre
- * No: Search and rescue teams
- * No: Stockpiles of relief supplies
- * No: Shelters
- * No: Secure medical facilities
- * No: Dedicated provision for women in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities

Description:

Contingency plans are developed for each county. The regulations oblige the authorities and the civil sector to hold regular training exercises, in compliance with the specific multiannual plans. These exercises proved their efficiency during the disasters the community faced

Context & Constraints:

In some cases, a simple review of the response plan takes the place of the regular training exercises. Some actors involved in the disaster response are not aware that regular training exercises improve coping capacity and speed of response.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 3

Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

- * No: National contingency funds
- * No: Catastrophe insurance facilities
- * No: Catastrophe bonds

Description:

There are specifically allocated funds within the state budget and the local budget. When needed, these can be supplemented by reallocating funds within the state budget by governmental decree.

Context & Constraints:

Dedicated funding and resources are sometimes used in higher-priority areas, due to financial constraints

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 4

Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

- * No: Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available
- * No: Post disaster need assessment methodologies
- * No: Post disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects
- * No: Identified and trained human resources

Description:

Contingency plans are updated every four years. If they prove inefficient during training exercises or if unanticipated events occur or new risks are uncovered, the plans are updated as many times as necessary.

The flow of information dissemination scheme inside institutions and between them is legally defined. The information exchange is mostly redundant and within an institution the communication is both horizontal and vertical.

Context & Constraints:

The main constraints are the lack of practical experience concerning the cooperation and the response of the authorities and of the population in some cases, due to low recurrence period of specific disasters and to the little importance given to it.

Drivers of Progress

a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

Levels of Reliance:

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?:

Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy?:

Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Following the entry into force of the Land use planning Act in 2001, the authorities have conducted studies on multi-hazard analyses and developed disaster hazard maps and disaster risk maps. In order to update these studies, the authorities initiated several programs to develop new hazard maps. These projects require though further funding and human resources

b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized

Levels of Reliance:

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

The inform policy and programme conceptualisation and implementation don't take into account gender issues

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

The national strategy for emergency situations prevention provides a number of tools which can be used for disaster risk reduction. Moreover, the authorities and the communities possess practical experience in the real emergency situations interventions (for example, flood), which cover the training of personnel, information exchange, cooperation between authorities, decision process and the post-disaster rehabilitation and substantially contributes to a better response

d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

The government pays subsidies to farmers and agriculture involved communities, but these measures don't ensure social protection during disasters.

Risk reduction and recovery programmes don't take into account the risks to the most vulnerable groups, such as Roma communities. Their specific traits make it impossible for the authorities to always involve these groups in the existing disaster risk management plans.

e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

There are only few NGOs activating in the field of emergency situations. Public administration and NGOs cooperate usually in case of emergency situations, and less in disaster risk reduction planning. This shows the limitations in the authorities' approach and organization. NGOs activating in the field of emergency situations cover mostly environment protection issues and possess little experience on cooperation with response forces and local authorities. Moreover, NGOs cannot cover all the Romanian counties

f) Contextual Drivers of Progress

Levels of Reliance:

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

It needs more effort on unification of legislative framework addressing prevention and intervention in case of emergency situations.

There are good signals from universities regarding the interest on developing disaster management courses and projects in the area of risk prevention proposed to the competent authorities.

Future outlook

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Overall Challenges:

There is need on one hand to optimize the integration of disaster risk consideration in the society development policies, and on the other hand to plan, taking in consideration financial and social constringes, risk reduction strategies in the areas where development did not totally included prevention measures in these policies.

Future Outlook Statement:

The strenghtening of the efforts for safety culture implementation to a higher level in Romanian society represent a priority which must follow with determination.

We are preoccupied to continue the programs and projects, especially to local and regional level, for raising the disaster resilience of communities

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Overall Challenges:

To discover and to recognize the weak points of the national system of emergency situations

management, in order to correct them and to improve the hazard resilience to all levels

Future Outlook Statement:

A reorganization and systematization of legal framework covering the disaster prevention is already in progress. The main objective is to strengthen the mechanisms in such a way that the risk reduction to be the key component for communities development planning, in order to pass from the stage “fighting with the risk” to the stage “living with the risk”.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Overall Challenges:

To change the concept of full commitment on all risk reduction areas, existing in some institutions, to the approach of integrated platform in which each component has a well defined place and role to play.

Future Outlook Statement:

Romania planed to continue the improving process of the National System for Management of Emergency Situations.

Finishing the risk maps, updating the contingency plans and developing of competitive preparedness programs are still action priorities.

Stakeholders

Departments/organizations that have contributed to the report

- * Ministry of Environment and Forests (Gov) - Mrs. Livia Nedelcu
- * Ministry of Communication and Information Society (Gov) - Mr. Valentin Bugariu
- * Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports (Gov) - Mrs. Catalina Chendea
- * Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environmen (Gov) - Mr. Ion Turluianu
- * Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism (Gov) - Mr. Georgescu Liviu Marius
- * Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Gov) - Mr. Valentin Spoeala
- * National Meteorological Administration (Acad & Research) - Mrs. Aurora Bell
- * National Institute for Earth Physics (Acad & Research) - Mr. Gheorghe Marmureanu
- * National Institute for Earth Physics (Acad & Research) - Mr. Stefan Florin Balan
- * National Institute of Hydrology and Water Manageme (Acad & Research) - Mrs. Elena Anghel
- * National Institute for Construction, Town Planning (Acad & Research) - Mr. Vasile Meita

