1.1.2 TURKEY Country Assessment Study Visit

Date   :   10 – 11 May 2012

Place   :   Istanbul (Turkey)

No. Participants: 20 (8 from TR; 4 from RO; 4 from BG and 4 from MD)

The ESNET Project Turkey Country Assessment Meeting was held on 10 - 11 May 2012, in Istanbul, under the hosting of IBC - International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation and AFAM - Istanbul Aydin University Disaster Education, Application and Research Centre.

The meeting was held with the objective to assess the disaster potential, with accent on the seismic risk degree and the earthquakes effects in the intervention areas of Turkey.

In the meeting it was focused to achieve the planned main objective to have an accurate and up-to-date assessment of the potential of disasters provoked by earthquakes in Turkey and also specifically in Istanbul.

In the meeting participated the scientific researchers and technical experts from Project Partner Institutions: Romania National Institute of Research and Development for Earth Physics – NIEP, Geophysical Institute of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences - BAS, and Geology and Seismology Institute of Moldavian Academy of Sciences – IGS.

The assessment was carried out at National level and the Turkey Country Context Report was targeted to be developed. In the meeting the Context Report was aimed to be used in designing the common concept/approach for dealing with earthquakes at regional level, thus ensuring the cross-border character of the objective.

In the assessment meeting Asst.Prof.Kubilay KAPTAN, Turkish Republic Istanbul Aydin University Asst.Prof.of Civil Engineering Department, AFAM Director made the leading and comprehensive presentations on "Earthquake Vulnerability of Turkey and the Region and Disasters Management in Turkey". The presentations featured Seismology of Turkey, Major Earthquakes Since 1999, Expected Earthquake Risk in Istanbul, Civil Infrastructures and Types of Constructions on the Fault Lines, Structural and Architectural Mistakes, Earthquake Risk Mitigation, Seismic Assessment and Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Preventing Total Collapse.

In the final session heading with "Disaster Preparedness System and NGO Aspect in Turkey" a presentation was realized by IBC, ESNET Project IPA Program Coordinator Nalan UKER. In the presentation Disaster Preparedness Priorities, Minimizing the Potential Loss of Life and Physical Damage, Minimizing the Adverse Effects of a Hazard, Active and Passive Disaster Preparedness Measures, Ensuring Timely Appropriate and Effective Delivery of Relief, Disaster Mitigation Social and Engineering Aspects, the Disaster Management Hierarchy in Turkey topics were featured.

Within the context of the Turkey Country Assessment Meeting a technical study visit to KOERI (Bosporus University Kandilli Observatory and E/Q Research Institute) was realized and the visit was scheduled as,

- AHEP (Disaster Preparation Unit)
- Earthquake Engineering Department (Istanbul Early Warning and Rapid Response System) – Shaking Table Laboratory
- UDIM (National Earthquake Monitoring Center)
- Solar Physics Department
- KOERI Museum

The Technical visit was accompaniment by Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute National Earthquake Observation Center Manager Dr.Dogan KALAFAT with his worthwhile involvement.

On the second day of the Turkey Country Assessment a technical visit also was realized to Republic of Turkey Istanbul Governorship Special Provincial Administration Istanbul Project Coordination Unit. In the meeting a presentation was made on Istanbul Seismic Risk Mitigation and Emergency Preparedness Project (ISMEP) by the Director of Unit Mr.K.Gokhan ELGIN as a Project that deserves to be a real model from all aspects.

End of the assessment sessions and technical visits the meeting was concluded successfully and accordingly as it was objected and projected. It was determined to submit the all the Country Assessments Context Reports by 25th June 2012 in the field of prevention, monitoring and intervention related to potential earthquake risk.