



Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for
South Eastern Europe – DPPI SEE

STATEMENT
OF
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION INITIATIVE FOR SOUTH EASTERN
EUROPE (DPPI SEE)
AT
THE FIFTH GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
CANCUN, MEXICO, 22 - 26 MAY 2017

(delivered by Mrs Ivana Ljubojevic Robbe, Head of DPPI SEE Secretariat)

Your Excellences,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to speak on behalf of Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE) at the Fifth Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and would like to thank the Government of Mexico for their warm hospitality and to United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for successful organisation of the event.

The DPPI SEE is a regional initiative, which offers a platform for collaboration and cooperation in the field of disaster management among ten (10) countries of South Eastern Europe, namely **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey**. The region of South Eastern Europe (SEE) is exposed to a range of trans-boundary disaster risks, with floods, forest fires, landslides, earthquakes and droughts representing the most significant of those with potentially high social and economic impacts on the SEE countries. These shared risks clearly recognised by the SEE countries provided an impetus for mutual cooperation in disaster prevention and preparedness and notably - disaster risk reduction, resulting in the creation of the DPPI SEE back in 2000.

As one of the very few regionally-owned and self-funded mechanisms of the kind, working towards systematically enhancing disaster resilience of the SEE region through collective action of its member countries, the DPPI SEE fosters cross-border cooperation in the SEE while seeking to strengthen the capacities of its members to prevent, prepare for and reduce risks of natural and man-made disasters. With its work and activities, the DPPI SEE is firmly rooted in the realities of disaster management of the region and is a symbol of regional commitment established through mutually beneficial partnerships (both between the DPPI SEE members and with wider international community). Moreover, the DPPI SEE continues to collaborate with many **regional and international partners**, such as European Commission, Regional Cooperation Council, EU Member States, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UNDP and other relevant UN agencies, NATO, etc.

A number of activities have been conducted under the DPPI SEE **Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP)**, including in collaboration with the DPPI SEE partners, to enhance capacity, expertise and facilitate data and knowledge sharing on regional disaster risk reduction. Over the ten (10) year period of the Programme implementation (2007 - 2017), more than 130 events have been organized, with participation from more than 2,500 disaster management professionals. In continuation of the joint DPPI SEE/UNISDR/ CADRI **Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Development project** which ran in two (2) phases between 2009 and 2012 and generated a regional pool of 149 DRR trainees and 32 trainers, since 2013 to date, the DPPI SEE objective has evolved to supporting the SEE countries in preparing for development of national disaster risk reduction strategies and further and more layered improvement of disaster management systems, while building on guidelines and recommendations of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 - 2015, i.e. Sendai Framework 2015 - 2030.

Conclusion

Today many signs point towards a successful strategy of co-operative disaster risk management in the SEE. The region is in the process of integrating disaster prevention and preparedness with sustainable development and climate change. Following up on the European Union best practices, the SEE region has made a tangible shift from the traditional response based disaster management approach to disaster risk management emphasizing the preventive measures, the importance of understanding and regularly assessing risks and incorporation of disaster risk reduction in national development policies. DPPI SEE countries have recognized the need for mainstreaming of DRR in their national development strategies, with the majority of them having established National Platforms for DRR bringing together both government and non-governmental actors.

Finally,

The future action of DPPI SEE shall continue to complement joint efforts and progress achieved in implementing the Sendai Framework on the EU level and shall work towards further strengthening the regional and national disaster risk reduction/ management capacities towards building a safer environment in the SEE region, with continued support from the EU, UN and other DPPI SEE partners.

I thank you for your attention