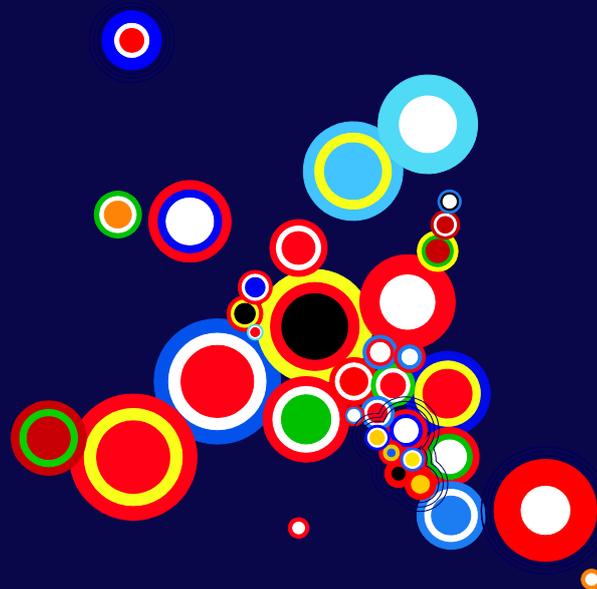




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

MULTI-COUNTRY

Prevention, preparedness and response to floods in the Western Balkans and Turkey,



Action Summary

This action is intended to help reducing the negative impact that floods have in the target region and its EU neighbours by facilitating the beneficiaries to better deal with floods' risk management and creating capacities for effectively and efficiently deal with this kind of hazards at regional level

The objective of the Actions is to increase beneficiaries' capability to develop effective national civil protection systems and collaborate in a coherent manner in dealing with floods at regional and European level (prevention, preparedness and response).

Action Identification	
Special Measure Title	Special Measure on flood recovery and flood risk management
Action Title	Prevention, preparedness and response to floods in the Western Balkans and Turkey, Lot 2
Action Reference	IPA 2014/ 037-853.9 Special measure on flood recovery and flood risk management / Prevention, preparedness and response to floods in the Western Balkans and Turkey, Lot 2
Sector Information	
ELARG Sectors	N/A
DAC Sector	74010 - Disaster prevention and preparedness
Budget	
Total cost (VAT excluded) ¹	EUR 4.0 million
EU contribution	EUR 4.0 million
Management and Implementation	
Method of implementation	Direct management
	European Commission, DG ECHO, Unit A.5, based on a sub-delegation with DG ELARG
Location	
Zone benefiting from the action	Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey
Timeline	
Deadline for conclusion of the Financing Agreement	N/A
Contracting deadline	31 December 2015
End of operational implementation period	31 December 2018

¹ The total action cost should be net of VAT and/or of other taxes. Should this not be the case, clearly indicate the amount of VAT and the reasons why it is considered eligible.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

1. RATIONALE

The target region is prone to natural disasters of which floods account for the major share. These natural phenomena often transcend borders and significantly challenge the ability of a single country to cope with the effects. Important river floods that took place in Europe in the recent past (e.g. Rhine, Meuse, Oder and Elbe river floods) clearly revealed that floods are not only a national concern, but have a cross-boundary character since actions in one country may diminish or aggravate the impact of floods in a neighboring country.

Hence, building and strengthening joint capacities for coordinated activities to prepare for floods, prevent them or mitigate their impact have become one of the highest priorities for the Western Balkans and Turkey. Considering beneficiaries' geographical location, on the one hand, and their status as EU candidates or potential candidates, on the other hand, it is obvious that building such capacities in a way that would allow coherence with the EU Member States' actions and practices would be the most beneficial approach and the present program is intended to help achieving this.

Considering the above mentioned circumstances, this action is intended to help reducing the negative impact that floods have in the target region and its EU neighbours by facilitating the beneficiaries to better deal with floods' risk management and creating capacities for effectively and efficiently deal with this kind of hazards at regional level. In order to achieve this, the programme considers the policy requirements, mechanisms and procedures in force/applied at EU level and pays good attention to the lessons learnt so far in this area, by the EU Member States and also by the beneficiaries.

This action complements the action foreseen in the area of Prevention, preparedness and response to floods under the IPA MB 2013 Annual Programme.

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

As the table below clearly shows, floods are the most frequent natural disaster in the Western Balkans and hold the second place in Turkey (after earthquakes). Only in 2010 there were 4 requests for assistance to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism coming from the Western Balkans region: 2 from Albania, 1 from Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The beneficiaries acknowledge that floods are more often a cross-border event and there is no method yet established and agreed upon to coordinate cross-border activities in case of floods, and therefore the risk is much higher and consequences can be much more serious.

Table: Number of disasters by country and by disaster type (1990-2011)

	Albania	Bosnia- Herzegovina	the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Montenegro	Serbia	Turkey	Total
Drought	1	2	1	0	0	0	5
Earthquake (seismic activity)	2	0	0	0	1	31	35
Epidemic	2	1	1	0	0	2	6
Extreme temperature	2	3	3	0	4	6	22
Flood	9	8	7	4	5	27	66
Mass movement dry + wet	0	1	0	0	0	8	9
Storm	2	2	1	0	0	7	13
Wildfire	1	1	2	0	0	4	13

Source: "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database

High vulnerability to floods is also reflected by the relevant disaster statistics published on the PreventionWeb¹ for the period 1980-2010 which confirm that floods is the natural hazard with the highest occurrence in the Western Balkans. The region is characterized by significant human and economic exposure to this type of natural hazard and by a high vulnerability index (i.e. on a scale from 1 to 10, the vulnerability index is: 7 for Albania, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 6 for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Turkey and Serbia).

The South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Initiative Risk assessment for South Eastern Europe-Desk Study Review also confirms that, in the Western Balkans, floods account for the major share of natural disasters (e.g. percentages floods in the total disaster events for the period 1974-2006: Albania-32%; Bosnia and Herzegovina-31%, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia-44%, Serbia-38%; Montenegro-34%). About Turkey, the distribution of different hazards during the same period indicates floods on the 2nd place among natural hazards, after earthquakes.

A proper flood risk management and a pragmatic preparedness and response framework are imperative under such circumstances, at both national and regional levels, and this includes standardisation in language, procedures, equipment, warning systems and border crossing protocols.

The beneficiaries' need for better prevention and preparedness to floods is fully in line with the objectives set at EU policy level. The floods that took place in Europe in the recent past (e.g. Rhine, Meuse, Oder and Elbe river floods) triggered the European Union to put effort in research and policy making on flood risks². Meanwhile, a proposal for an EU-directive on flood risk assessment and management was adopted in 2007 (Directive 2007/60/EC, also known as "Floods Directive"³), to complement the Water Framework Directive with the aim to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The Floods Directive requires the Member States to first carry out a preliminary assessment (by 2011) and to identify the river basins and associated coastal areas at risk for flooding. For such zones they would then need to draw up flood risk maps (by 2013) and establish flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness (by 2015). Numerous floods emergencies were registered across Europe in 2010 which resulted in 9 activations of the European Civil Protection Mechanism and there is a strong commitment for strengthening the efforts in the European Union towards more effective flood management.

In the given context, a gradual approximation to the EU *acquis* related to floods is encouraged and supported by the Commission in the IPA II beneficiaries. The Council also called for common approach to flood management operations, along with the Member States and relevant international stakeholders, for international flood-related exercises with particular emphasis on cross-border cooperation, coordination and cooperation on trans-boundary information exchange, optimal use of risk assessment and mapping guidelines and increased knowledge exchange of best practices concerning disaster management systems and flood-related capabilities. Council Conclusion⁴ from 12 May 2011 underline the need for an integrated approach to flood management, building upon existing Member State and EU

¹ PreventionWeb (<http://www.preventionweb.net>) serves the information needs of the disaster risk reduction community, including the development of information exchange tools to facilitate collaboration.

² Research funds were made available for a number of research projects and programmes, including the Integrated Project FLOODsite, carried out during 2004-2009 (<http://www.floodsite.net/>)

³ "The Sixth Framework Programme is supporting the largest ever EU flood research project, "FLOODsite", which is developing integrated flood risk analysis and management methods." (<http://www.floodsite.net/>)

⁴ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/121964.pdf

legislation and policies, with special attention paid to the Floods Directive, encompassing the entire disaster management cycle (prevention, preparedness, response and recovery).

Apart from the EU *acquis* on floods the European Union has already a substantial amount of policy work in the field of disaster prevention, preparedness and response which can help beneficiaries to address better the floods risk and management:

- The implementation the EU Civil Protection Modules as defined in Commission Decision C(2010) 5090⁵ enhance the interoperability, the speed of deployment, the predictability of response, the support that is needed from the affected state, and overall quality and effectiveness of the civil protection interventions. There are three types of floods related modules which can be promoted to beneficiaries: *High capacity pumping*, *Flood Containment Module* and *Flood Rescue Module using boats* (see Annex 7 for details).
- The implementation of the EU Guidelines on Host Nation Support will prevent foreseeable obstacles to foreign assistance to enter and operate in a country.
- The EU Guideline on Standard Operation Procedures would allow for improved effectiveness and success of the deployment and operations of civil protection teams and modules and will in general contribute to the adoption of a common approach to operations in the EU.

The existing examples and lessons learnt from the establishment of multinational civil protection modules co-financed by the Commission through the Preparatory Action (see Annex 8 for details) can be used to support the beneficiaries in implementing their own joint civil protection modules for floods' response.

Hence, at EU level there is a clear political commitment towards a coherent and integrated approach in dealing with floods, which clearly match the beneficiaries' regional priority needs. Also, there is a clear view regarding what EU can effectively offer to the IPA II beneficiaries in terms of policy transfer and guidance in the area of floods risk management. Under the circumstances, implementation of an *IPA Multi-beneficiary Programme focussed on flood prevention, preparedness and response* has high relevance and worthiness. Among other things, such programme would create a platform for the participating beneficiaries to intensify and strengthen their working relations to deal with the floods in the region and would increase the interaction with the EU Member States through implementation of joint activities. The beneficiaries would get further integrated towards the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and be better prepared to deal with the challenges entailed by flood risk management and, implicitly, with the challenges posed by approximation and enforcement of the environmental *acquis* (with focus this time on the EU Floods Directive). The joint capacities created would allow for effective information exchange, cooperation and coordination among beneficiaries which, in turn, would allow for faster and more effective response to floods at national, regional and EU levels.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Lesson learned

The project will consider the lessons learnt from implementation of the IPA MB 2009-2013 projects implemented in the area of disaster risk management.

⁵ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:236:0005:0017:EN:PDF>

The recommendations made by the recent thematic evaluation of the EU pre-accession multi-beneficiary assistance to Western Balkans and Turkey in the fields of environment and disaster risk reduction have also been taken into consideration in designing this programme, including the need to reinforce the consultation with the relevant stakeholders, as well as the importance of ensuring that the regional approach brings added value to the interventions considered. The report also points out the need to assess the project sustainability at an early stage.

Financial Assistance

The action complements the action foreseen in the area of Prevention, preparedness and response to floods under the IPA MB 2013 Annual Programme and continues the support previously provided to IPA beneficiaries in the field of disaster risk management under IPA Multi-beneficiary, either in the area of civil protection under IPA MB 2009 and IPA MB 2012 Annual Programmes, or in the area of disaster risk reduction under IPA MB 2011. It also considers the findings of the Regional Programme on Disaster Risk Reduction in South-East Europe implemented under the IPA MB 2008 Annual Programme (e.g. IPA Beneficiary Country Needs Assessments).

The two previous IPA Multi-beneficiary Programmes on civil protection cooperation for IPA beneficiaries (IPA MB 2009 – phase I and IPA MB 2012 – phase II) have a cumulated period of implementation of more than 4 years (phase I started in Dec 2010; phase II is expected to end in 2015). They are meant to bring the beneficiaries closer to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and include training programmes with exchanges of experts component, regional exercises and workshops on the topics identified as the most relevant (e.g. assistance during disasters and host-nation support (HNS), early warning systems (EWS), development of '112' systems, etc).

IPA MB 2011 project "Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey" aims at reducing vulnerability of IPA Beneficiaries to natural disasters and increase their resilience to climate change. It will involve the National Hydro-meteorological Services (NHMS) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) authorities in the Western Balkans and Turkey and envisages 8 main results, including enhanced regional capacity/coordination in areas such as data sharing, modelling and delivering of timely warnings and seismic risk reduction. A regional Multi-Hazard EWS will be designed and increased public awareness on DRR is also envisaged. These results will be achieved through implementation of more than 25 activities, including a training programme, workshops, secondment of staff to the Drought Management Centre, development of a web-accessible database, establishment of a monitoring East-West network on seismic risks, and preparation of a design document describing a regional Multi-Hazard EWS. The project will be implemented by 2 international organizations, UNISDR and WMO. The project started in May 2012.

The approximation to the EU Floods Directive has been already a subject to several national IPA Programmes: Croatia – Development of flood hazard maps and flood risk maps (IPA 2010); Serbia – Study of Flood Prone Areas in the Republic of Serbia (IPA 2007); Turkey – Capacity Building to Implement the Flood Directive (IPA 2010). The current project will take the results of the national programmes related to floods fully into account and build upon them by focusing on inter-institutional and international exchange of experience and best practices within the region and with the EU Member States.

EU Danube Strategy is an internal strategy for the Member States to address the problems of the Danube region but it also involves non-EU members from the Western Balkan - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia. The objectives of priority axis 5 "Environmental risks" of the EU Danube Strategy are mainly related to developing a flood management plan for the whole river basin, climate change related impacts on risks, further strengthening of the

early warning tools, strengthening operational cooperation among civil protection authorities in the Danube countries, etc. The Strategy aims at aligning existing funding to its objectives and has no additional dedicated funding mechanisms created for its implementation.

The International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) has been established with the objective to boost transboundary cooperation for sustainable development of the region and involves Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia. Among others ISRBC aims at establishing sustainable water management, which would provide for protection against detrimental effects of water (flooding, excessive groundwater, erosion and ice hazards).

An important role in the programme is going to be played by the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI). Launched in November 2000 under the Stability Pact, DPPI was intended to play a key role in ensuring a cohesive regional development in the area of disaster preparedness and response and, given its mandate and role, has been a key partner in implementation of the programmes above mentioned.

Another key South-Eastern Europe regional structure that will be involved in the programme is the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), whose mandate is to sustain focused regional cooperation in South East Europe, including in the area of security cooperation (which encompasses) disaster risk management.

Coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be ensured in the defining the capacity building programme to be implemented under the Activity 2, given the experience acquired by this organization in the flood management area in the ENPI East Region (including through the "Environment & Security Initiative").

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	
<p>The overall objective of the project is to increase beneficiaries' capacity to ensure proper flood risk management at national, regional and EU levels.</p>	<p>Degree of compliance with EU requirements and practices in the area of floods prevention, preparedness and response.</p>		
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (OVI)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>Specific Objective:</p> <p>Specific objective 1: To increase beneficiaries' capability to develop effective national civil protection systems and collaborate in a coherent manner in dealing with floods at regional and European level (prevention, preparedness and response).</p>	<p>Percentage of beneficiaries which have adopted or initiated the implementation of the Commission Decision C(2010) 5090 on civil protection modules in their national regulations and/or policies and procedures for disaster preparedness and response;</p> <p>The number of multinational civil protection modules registered for participating in the Mechanism voluntary pool of European emergency response capacities and experts.</p> <p>Percentage of target beneficiaries that developed new arrangements or improved the existing ones regarding provision of Host Nation Support (HNS) for foreign civil protection assistance interventions.</p> <p>Percentage of target beneficiaries that developed new Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) or improved the existing ones regarding cross-border interventions.</p> <p>Effective communication and cooperation in real-life actual emergencies, both within the region and with ERCC and the Mechanism's Participating States.</p>	<p>Evidence on communication/ coordination/ cooperation among the target beneficiaries in real life emergency situations</p> <p>Pieces of legislation, new policies, methods and practices reflecting consistency with the European and regional systems in place and good practices.</p> <p>Evidence on foreign civil protection assistance interventions provided by beneficiaries.</p> <p>Project progress and monitoring reports.</p> <p>EU officers mission reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustained political commitment from beneficiaries -Participants in each project activity will be selected based on criteria objective and relevant for the action concerned (participant profile tailored to the specifics of each intervention) - Timely availability of relevant participants in the project will be ensured by all beneficiaries - Beneficiaries will cooperate and enable civil servants and experts to implement and pass the knowledge and skills gained to the other relevant professionals
RESULTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>Result 1</p> <p>Operational multinational civil protection modules for flood response that are able to operate regionally and through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.</p>	<p>The number of floods' related civil protection modules which have been created and their compliance with the requirements of Commission Decision C(2010) 5090 on civil protection modules.</p> <p>Percentage of beneficiaries participating in the civil protection modules;</p> <p>Number of experts trained and equipped as members of multinational civil protection modules for floods response.</p> <p>In the case of a major emergency with a request for international assistance the multinational civil protection</p>	<p>Arrangements established among beneficiaries about the permanence of the modules for a defined minimum period of time.</p> <p>Standard operational procedures for deployment of the civil protection modules in real emergencies.</p> <p>Evidence on the deployment of the civil protection modules due to major emergencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustained political commitment from beneficiaries -Participants in each project activity will be selected based on criteria objective and relevant for the action concerned (participant profile tailored to the specifics of each intervention) - Timely availability of relevant participants in the project will be ensured by all beneficiaries - Beneficiaries will cooperate and enable civil servants and experts to implement and pass the knowledge and skills gained to the other relevant

	<p>modules have been deployed following the adopted Standard Operational Procedures;</p>	<p>Evidence on communication/ coordination/ cooperation among the target in real life emergency situations beneficiaries and between beneficiaries and the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) of the European Commission.</p> <p>Pieces of legislation, new policies, methods and practices reflecting consistency with the European and regional systems in place and best practices.</p> <p>Data/Evidence on the existing networking/cooperation tools and mechanisms which include the target beneficiaries established and/or maintained in the civil protection area.</p> <p>Project progress and monitoring reports.</p> <p>Training reports.</p> <p>EU officers mission reports.</p> <p>List and profile/CVs of participants in the project activities.</p> <p>Training/exercise/workshop/ exchange of experts evaluation reports based on feedback from participants.</p> <p>Exercise curriculum and report (incl. info on scenario, observers and feedback from participants)</p>	<p>professionals</p>
ACTIVITIES	MEANS	OVERALL COST	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>Activities to achieve Result 1:</p> <p><i>Activity 1.1. Establish multinational civil protection modules focussed on floods, in line with the EU technical framework and practices.</i></p> <p><i>Activity 1.2. Put into operation the civil protection modules by establishing standard operating procedures according to the EU Guideline for Standard Operating Procedures and based on the experience of existing EU (multinational) civil protection modules</i></p> <p><i>Activity 1.3. Establish border crossing protocols and Host Nation Support protocols according to the EU Guidelines on Host Nation Support, with the aim to ensure rapid and effective deployment of the civil protection modules to the affected country</i></p>	<p>Expert support (consultants) for developing and supporting the civil protection modules, for providing trainings and organising exercise, as well as for info dissemination and visibility requirements.</p> <p>Equipment for the civil protection modules and for the teams, according to the requirements of the EU Directive on civil protection modules.</p> <p>Logistics for training and exercises.</p>	<p>EUR 4.0 million</p>	

<p><i>Activity 1.4. Provide specific training to the staff of the multinational civil protection modules</i></p> <p><i>Activity 1.5. Organize a regional field exercise for the multinational civil protection modules established with the participation of civil protection modules of the same type from the Participating States of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.</i></p>			
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DESCRIPTION

The overall objective of the project is to increase beneficiaries' capacity to ensure proper flood risk management at national, regional and EU levels.

Specific objective 1: To increase beneficiaries' capability to develop effective national civil protection systems and collaborate in a coherent manner in dealing with floods at regional and European level (prevention, preparedness and response).

Result 1.

Operational multinational civil protection modules for flood response that are able to operate regionally and through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Activity 1.1. Establish multinational civil protection modules⁸ focussed on floods, in line with the EU technical framework and practices.

The civil protection modules will consist of teams and equipment and will aim to ensure a rapid and effective response to floods according to the guidelines and requirements of Commission Decision C(2010) 5090 on civil protection modules⁷ and based on the best practices and lessons learnt gained through the EU Preparatory Action projects co-financed by the European Commission in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Each module will involve at least 3 IPA II beneficiaries.

Activity 1.2. Put into operation the civil protection modules by establishing standard operating procedures according to the EU Guideline for Standard Operating Procedures and based on the experience of existing EU (multinational) civil protection modules.

The Guidelines are expected to take into consideration the activation of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism when a country from the region requires the assistance of the multinational modules supported through this programme. In the cases where the national civil protection authorities owning the modules deploy them to a third country affected by a disaster the Guidelines should envisage that this is done in coordination with the Mechanism.

As a part of this activity the applicant should explore with the national civil protection authorities of the IPA II beneficiaries which are also Participating States to the Mechanism the possibility to register the established multinational civil protection modules for participating in the Mechanism voluntary pool of European Emergency response capacities and experts⁸.

Activity 1.3. Establish border crossing protocols and Host Nation Support protocols according to the EU Guidelines on Host Nation Support, with the aim to ensure rapid and effective deployment of the civil protection modules to the affected country

Activity 1.4. Provide specific training to the staff of the multinational civil protection modules

Activity 1.5. Organize a regional field exercise for the multinational civil protection modules established with the participation of civil protection modules of the same type from the Participating States of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

⁷ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:236:0005:0017:EN:PDF>

⁸ See for reference Article 11 of the new EU civil protection legislation
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:347:0924:0947:EN:PDF>

INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Description	Baseline (2014)	Last (2014)	Target 2017	Source of information
R 1. Indicator 1	The number of floods' related civil protection modules which have been created in compliance with the requirements of Commission Decision C(2010) 5090 on civil protection modules.	0		5-6	Arrangements established among beneficiaries about the permanence of the modules for a defined minimum period of time.
R 1. Indicator 2	The number of multinational civil protection modules registered for participating in the Mechanism voluntary pool of European emergency response capacities	0		2	Standard operational procedures for deployment of the civil protection modules in real emergencies. Evidence on the deployment of the civil protection modules due to major emergencies.
R 1. Indicator 3	Percentage of beneficiaries participating in the civil protection modules;	0		100%	Action progress reports
R 1. Indicator 4	Percentage of target beneficiaries that developed new arrangements or improved the existing ones regarding provision of Host Nation Support (HNS) for foreign civil protection assistance interventions.				Competent institutions annual reports Pieces of legislation, new policies, methods and practices reflecting consistency with the European and regional systems in place and best practices.
R 1. Indicator 5	Percentage of target beneficiaries that developed new Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) or improved the existing ones regarding cross-border interventions.				Data/Evidence on the existing networking/cooperation tools and mechanisms which include the target beneficiaries established and/or maintained in the civil protection area. Project progress and monitoring reports.

5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)

Environment in relation to this Action is not a cross-cutting issue but is in fact a central topic for most of the interventions of this Action: a significant component of the envisaged assistance indeed relates to environment and disaster management.

The Action contributes to reducing the vulnerability of human or natural systems to the impacts of disasters, climate change and climate-related risks by maintaining or increasing adaptive capacity and resilience. Investing in the establishment in civil protection modules for flood containment and high capacity pumping will alleviate beneficiaries' capacities for effective disaster prevention, preparedness and response which will have a direct positive impact on the preservation of the environment

ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY (AND IF RELEVANT OTHER NON-STATE STAKEHOLDERS)

Civil society benefits directly from the increased capacities of the national civil protection authorities and intervention teams. Civil protection modules such as high capacity pumps and flood containment equipment reduce the impact of floods on households and could prevent damages and losses.

The relevant stakeholders - the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative (DPPI) in South East Europe, have been involved in the consultations throughout the development of the project proposal.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The principle of equal opportunities should be taken into account when evaluating the quality of the project proposal. Specific attention will be paid to this dimension when determining who will benefit from training events, exchange of experts and exercises.

MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

The project will not allow for any discrimination, be it related to minorities or other issues.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability of the project will be ensured by the established flood response capacity for national and international deployments and generated impetus and self-interest of the beneficiaries to continue activities covered by the project.

After the completion of the project the created multilateral civil protection modules and their deployments will become a subject of reporting and discussion at the meetings of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative (DPPI) of the South East European countries, where the European Commission is a member of the Advisory Board and is regularly represented.

Some of the established civil protection modules are expected to be registered in the voluntary pool of European Emergency Response Capacity (EERC) managed by the European Commission, DG ECHO within the framework of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. Once becoming a part of the pool the modules will be subject to further training, exercises and qualitative check; they will be also expected to get involved in international disaster response operations when the Mechanism receives a request for emergency relief assistance by affected countries.

7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

The project will be promoted on a dedicated web site¹, which has been used also for the IPA programmes on civil protection cooperation, phase I and phase II. A bi-annual newsletter covering all activities of the programme will be produced and disseminated among the relevant stakeholders both in the IPA beneficiaries and in the EU. Media will be involved in the field exercises.

All activities must be carried out in accordance to the Communications and Visibility Manual for EU External Action. Publicity must be ensured in accordance with the applicable rules on the visibility of external actions laid down and published in the “EU guidelines on visibility” available on: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/visibility/index_en.htm.

The visibility issues must be respected all types of communications written correspondence and preparation of deliverables (brochures, posters, newsletters, pamphlets and other type of informative material). The standard formats will be used in briefings, newsletters, press conferences, presentations, invitations, and signs, to highlight EU participation. The key tools of information and communication are:

- Media – press releases, press events, interviews, background papers, project visits
- Events – forums, information days, workshops, professional debates, seminars, conferences, project presentations, other regional events

Publications – newsletters, brochures, leaflets, project information sheets, reports, studies, programme presentation summaries

- Publications Internet pages
- Others: billboards, plagues, stickers, flags, maps, posters and tables.

All the deliverables to be published / issued required prior approval by the contracting authority.

¹ <http://www.ipacivilprotection.eu/>