

## SPECIALISED CENTRES - PROJECT PROPOSAL 2018-2019

### European Center for Mitigation of Natural Risks (ECMNR)

<b>TITLE OF THE PROJECT</b>	<b>Promoting risk culture among the population for informing and providing necessary knowledge for preventing the emergency situations generated by floods</b>
<b>COUNTRY</b>	Republic of Moldova
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>	A. Bantus
<b>PRIORITY FOR ACTION OF THE MEDIUM TERM PLAN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Using scientific and technological knowledge to better assess evolving risks and adapt accordingly the resilience strategies. <input type="checkbox"/> Developing cooperation among all decision-makers to better define authorities' adequate role in DRR. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promoting risk culture among population (children, adults and groups with special vulnerability). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fostering population's active participation (as individuals and as community) to DRR.
<b>COORDINATOR CENTRE</b>	ECMNR
<b>PARTNER CENTRES</b>	Partner Centre 1: ECRP Partner Centre 2: TESEC Partner Centre 3: ECBR

#### 1. Project background

For the Republic of Moldova and the ECMNR, the prevention and management of emergencies generated by natural disasters depends largely on citizens' participation. They need to be informed and convinced that the effect of risks associated with weather, climate and water continues to grow. The objective is that citizens living in floodplains have to engage themselves in the activities for management of emergencies generated by floods. Over the years, since 2001, the ECMNR has launched knowledge to support the preparation and implementation of several strategies and programs for prevention and management of emergencies generated by floods, discussed and agreed with the line ministries. However, the abundant snow and floods in Moldova, which paralyzed the country in April 2017, have repeatedly highlighted how fragile the state is and how vulnerable citizens can become.

**Background:** Over the years, since 2001, the ECMNR has carried out within the projects a series of activities in the field of information and education of the population, by developing proposals (tools) to support the preparation and implementation of several strategies and programs of prevention, information and management of emergency events

generated by floods, discussed and coordinated with the branch ministries. The snow falls at the end of April 2017 show that Moldova has many weak points unknown to the public and so far overlooked by the authorities. The conventional risks in the country have been previously discussed - energy dependence, lack of drinking water supply, floods, etc. These issues were reflected in the concept of the National Strategy of Disaster Risks Reduction 2013-2020, discussed at the beginning of 2013 (Ministry of Environment, 2013). There is uncertainty about the results of the public consultations on this strategic document and whether it is achievable or not. That is why the last natural disaster is an opportunity to resume the discussions on the establishment of a clear and safe mechanism for mitigating the risks caused by the natural disasters, in particular, in the context of climate change. The issue on natural disasters prevention is mentioned in part in the Individual Action Plan with NATO, but only as to the scientific cooperation. In addition, the partnership with NATO means that Moldova should take good practice in civil emergency events planning with subsequent updating of the civil protection system. The Association Agreement with the EU and the European commitments represent the most lasting and consistent form of cooperation and assistance that Moldova has ever been able to dispose of. The planned prevention activities include also the information, education and training of population through exchange of practical knowledge and skills training (joint training, exercises, study visits).

**The general aim of the ECMNR project is:**

- To bring preventive activities closer to citizens and the community by imposing high standards of knowledge and application, increasing the share of preventive education, to increase the involvement of the population, communities and responsible authorities for achieving a high degree of self-protection, which obviously leads to the improvement of the level of protection of life and nature in the Republic of Moldova.
- To promote risk culture among the population (students, adults and especially vulnerable groups, as children and adults living in flood-prone areas and aggrieved by floods) in accordance with the fourth priority action of the Sendai Framework: "Improving Disaster Preparedness"
- To promote a dialogue on disaster prevention, preparedness and accountability measures by sharing practical knowledge and skills training (joint training, exercises, study visits) in preparing the citizens, schoolchildren, students, collectives, and volunteers for personal, family and group protection at community level for involving the most vulnerable groups of population suffering from disasters.
- To prepare intuitive materials, instructions, booklets used in case of floods and for public information and participation.
- To promote risk culture among the population and the elderly in order to raise awareness and provide the necessary knowledge concerning the risks, which they are exposed to, and to develop self-protection behaviors.
- To promote risk culture and civic responsibility among the population in order to involve those interested in preparation for floods by training volunteers as trainers for others.
- The partners are the EUR-OPA Centers in the neighboring countries that are equally affected by floods (Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine).

**2. Specific objectives**

**2018**

- Preparing and presenting specific intuitive study materials (guides, instructions, booklets, leaflets, posters that will include information on the flood-producing causes, ways of their prevention, and on individual and group protection and intervention actions for information, training and transfer of knowledge for citizens and volunteers/trainers - in Romanian and English;

- Transferring knowledge through training seminars for citizens / volunteers / students using courses, printed materials and teaching simulators, developing the capacity to face potential floods, minimizing devastating effects on people (physical and mental) as far as possible. These pedagogical tools will be assembled by the ECMNR employees and with the support of SPC and SE.

## **2019**

- Developing specific knowledge transfer / training materials for areas exposed to flood risks using special forms of communication (*verbal, non-verbal (by gestures), written*) with the population, materials instructing the population how to behave before the flood, during the flood, during the evacuation and after the phenomenon cessation, in Romanian and English ;

- Transferring knowledge (*contemporary academic language proving educational forms of knowledge transfer*) through training seminars for citizens / volunteers / students using courses, printed materials and teaching simulators using the School that is a key institution of the community and is a viable dialogue partner for both local authorities and citizens (parents of children and former schoolchildren) in order to mobilize the community at the prevention phase. *There is a partnership with some educational institutions, but they are outside the educational system so far.*

- Validation of good practice during the final workshop work with associated centers.

### **3. Activities**

## **2018**

Coordinator Centre: ECMNR, Chişinău, Republica Moldova

- The ECMNR will organize short-term seminars with teachers, parents and children, including vulnerable groups, in two educational institutions in Chisinau in order to acknowledge and understand the effects of floods on children and adults for attracting volunteers, including teachers, students and schoolchildren, to provide educational support for families affected by floods, etc., and to organize leisure activities for and with the community. We will organize leisure activities for the community in order to recognize and understand the effects of floods on children and adults, by using active participatory methods, group interactive methods, etc. Some planned events are coordinated with the management of the educational institutions as these events are carried out outside the classroom. :

- Date: March – April 2018;
- Duration: two academic hours in each institution;
- Participants: up to 30 participants, including those from each vulnerable group. (Vulnerable groups are children and adults living in flood-prone areas and aggrieved by floods) ;

- Organizing training seminars for Teachers, students, schoolchildren, citizens / volunteers in order to certify them as trainers. (To understand their training as volunteer trainers and not as certified as specialists);

- Date: May-June 2018

- Duration: 2-3 days
- Participants: 25-30 people / Moldovan volunteers;

- Organizing swimming lesson primarily for children from families affected by floods. (Organization of initiation courses in swimming with priority for children from families aggrieved by floods as own measures to reduce the risk of floods and to protect their own lives and protect the lives of others. This choice was generated by German good practice. The group will be completed among the volunteers.)

- Date: May-October 2018
- Duration: One academic hour twice a week
- Participants: 10-15 people
- Organizing a workshop with associated centers and holding an international seminar
- Date: October 2018
- Duration: 2 days
- Venue: conference: hall at the Best Western Plus Flowers Hotel (optional)
- Participants: 3 directors of the EUR-OPA Associated Centers from Romania, Bulgaria, and Ukraine; 25-30 people from the areas exposed to the risk of floods, teachers, students, schoolchildren / citizens / volunteers / trainers.

Partner 1: ECRP Sofia, Bulgaria - providing expert reports and educational materials to initiate a continuous dialogue on prevention, preparedness and accountability measures in case of floods. (The centers referred to in the project accepted the participation after the consultation of the project. The provision of expertise and the exchange of educational materials will be sent - received by e-mail.)

Partner 2: TESEC Kiev, Ukraine - providing expert reports and educational materials to initiate a continuous dialogue on prevention, preparedness and accountability measures in case of floods.

Partner 3: ECBR Bucharest, Romania - providing expert reports and educational materials to initiate a continuous dialogue on prevention, preparedness and accountability measures in case of floods.

## 2019

Coordinator Centre: ECMNR, Chşinău, Republic of Moldova

- Organization of short-term seminars directly with citizens in the areas exposed to flood risks and distribution of information materials on the prevention and protection of the population in case of floods with the active participation of educational institutions since the protection against risks involves first of all their knowledge.

- Date: March-June; August-September 2019
- Duration: 2 academic hours
- Venue: directly in the areas exposed to the risk of floods
- Participants: up to 30 people from each vulnerable group

- Organizing a workshop with associated centers and holding an international seminar

- Date: September-October 2019
- Duration: 2 days

- Venue: conference hall at the Best Western Plus Flowers Hotel
- Participants: 3 directors of the EUR-OPA Associated Centers from Romania, Bulgaria, and Ukraine; 25-30 people from the areas exposed to the risk of floods, teachers, students, schoolchildren / citizens / volunteers / trainers.

Partner 1: ECRP Sofia, Bulgaria - providing expert reports and educational materials to initiate a continuous dialogue on prevention, preparedness and accountability measures in case of floods.

Partner 2: TESEC Kiev, Ukraine - providing expert reports and educational materials to initiate a continuous dialogue on prevention, preparedness and accountability measures in case of floods.

Partner 3: ECBR, Bucharest, Romania - providing expert reports and educational materials to initiate a continuous dialogue on prevention, preparedness and accountability measures in case of floods.

#### **4. Expected results**

##### **2018**

- Promoting a national training program inspired by the best practices applied in the Council of Europe member States on the subject of risk management, providing practical knowledge and creating in Council of Europe member States a positive perception of disaster risk reduction for citizens in general and for those living in flooded areas in particular.

There is not a pedagogical program yet to enter the curriculum of the school. The next two years, according to the EU's Association Agenda (2017-2019), the consolidation of the cooperation with the EU could offer more benefits to Moldova. The planned prevention activities include information, education and training of population. A particular attention will be paid to the training of young people in the field of major risks related to disasters management. The list of medium- and long-term priorities also aims at setting up a national training program on risks management. It will be inspired by the best practices applied in the EU countries.

- Performing the direct transfer of accumulated knowledge and good practices to the community and citizens living in floodplains in order to inform and educate them on flood problems, using the guides, guidebooks, leaflets, posters, teaching simulators and direct verbal contacts that will include information on the causes of floods, methods of their prevention, as well as individual and group protection and intervention actions. *(The project will be carried out in this specific field. All materials will be prepared by ECMNR and will be submitted in English).*

- Raising awareness and increasing knowledge of disaster risks, forms of acquiring knowledge of the causes of floods, ways of their prevention, as well as individual and group protection and intervention actions, and skills for individuals, groups, members of family and community.

- Initiating a dialogue on flood prevention, preparedness and accountability measures with partners based on the received materials and sharing experience on flood risk mitigation at the EUR-OPA Major Risks Centers. *(The centers referred to in the project accepted the participation after the consultation of the project. The provision of expertise and the exchange of educational materials will be sent - received by e-mail.)*

##### **2019**

- Performing the direct transfer of accumulated knowledge and good practices to the community and citizens living in floodplains in order to inform and educate them on flood problems, using the guides, guidebooks, leaflets, posters, teaching simulators and direct verbal contacts that will include information on the causes of floods, methods of their prevention, as well as individual and group protection and intervention actions
- Raising awareness and increasing knowledge of disaster risks, forms of acquiring knowledge of the causes of floods, ways of their prevention, as well as individual and group protection and intervention actions, and skills for individuals, groups, members of family and community.
- Increasing and strengthening the resistance and proactive behavior of citizens in floodplains with the assistance of volunteer-trainers.
- Validation of good practices on disaster risk reduction for citizens living in floodplains within the EUR-OPA Centers by a workshop at the ECMNR in Moldova.
- Promoting the official duties of the Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova and mobilizing the educational institutions, academic potential and civil society in this sense in order to strengthen the resistance and reduce the risks.

*(Provision of an effective continuity in increasing awareness of knowledge on disaster risks, of the forms of obtaining knowledge on the causes of floods, of the ways of their prevention, as well as of the individual and group protection and intervention actions, and of the skills for individuals, groups, family members and community. Increase and consolidation of proactive resistance and behavior of citizens in flood-prone areas, with the help of volunteers-trainers; The approval of good practice on disaster risk reduction for citizens living in flood-prone areas within EUR-OPA Centers by a workshop at ECMNR in Moldova;)*

## **5. Deliverables**

**2018**

Coordinator Centre: ECMNR, Chșinău, Republic of Moldova

- Reports from seminars and workshops, which should be delivered to the EUR-OPA Major Risks administrative office and the Partner Centers of Bulgaria, Ukraine and Romania. *(Language of communication: Romanian and English)*
- Publication of teaching and guiding materials for citizens: guides, recommendations, brochures, leaflets, posters that will include information on the causes of floods, ways of their prevention, as well as individual and group protection and intervention actions and course support for the participants (founders) at the seminar, targeting areas exposed to the flood risk. *(Language of communication: Romanian and English)*

Partner 1: ECRP Sofia, Bulgaria - reports, recommendations, brochures, leaflets, including expert reports and educational materials, containing information on the causes of floods, ways of their prevention, as well as individual and group protection and intervention actions in Bulgaria.

Partner 2: TESEC Kyiv, Ukraine - reports, recommendations, brochures, leaflets, including expert reports and educational materials, containing information on the causes of floods, ways of their prevention, as well as individual and group protection and intervention actions in Ukraine.

Partner 3: ECBR, Bucharest, Romania - reports, recommendations, brochures, leaflets, including expert reports and educational materials, containing information on the causes of floods, ways of their prevention, as well as individual and group protection and intervention actions in Romania.

## **2019**

Coordinator Centre: ECMNR, Chșinău, Republic of Moldova

- Reports from seminars and workshops, which should be delivered to the EUR-OPA Major Risks administrative office and the Partner Centers of Bulgaria, Ukraine and Romania.

- Publication of teaching and guiding materials for citizens: guides, recommendations, brochures, leaflets, posters that will include information on the causes of floods, ways of their prevention, as well as individual and group protection and intervention actions and course support for the participants (founders) at the seminar, targeting areas exposed to the flood risk.

Partner 1: ECRP Sofia, Bulgaria - reports, recommendations, brochures, leaflets, including expert reports and educational materials, containing information on the causes of floods, ways of their prevention, as well as individual and group protection and intervention actions in Bulgaria.

Partner 2: TESEC Kyiv, Ukraine - reports, recommendations, brochures, leaflets, including expert reports and educational materials, containing information on the causes of floods, ways of their prevention, as well as individual and group protection and intervention actions in Ukraine.

Partner 3: ECBR, Bucharest, Romania - reports, recommendations, brochures, leaflets, including expert reports and educational materials, containing information on the causes of floods, ways of their prevention, as well as individual and group protection and intervention actions in Romania. *(For the continuity in the educational activity).*