**South-East Europe**

**Urban Resilience Building Action Network**

**SEE URBAN**

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**List of acronyms**

**AKM**  Association of Kosovo Municipalities

**ALA**  Association of Local Authorities of Republika Srpska

**AMA**  Association of Municipalities of Albania

**AMC**  Association of Municipalities and Cities of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**BE1** Beneficiary 1: Croatian Counties / Cities Disaster Risk Reduction Platform

**BE2**  Beneficiary 2: The Centre for Development of the South-East Region

**BE3** Beneficiary 3: Association of Municipalities and Cities of FBiH

**BE4** Beneficiary 4: Association of Local Authorities of Republika Srpska

**BiH** Bosnia and Herzegovina

**CCCP** Croatian Counties / Cities Disaster Risk Reduction Platform

**CDSER** The Centre for Development of the South-East Region

**COs**  Country Offices

**CP**  Civil Protection

**CPM** Civil Protection Mechanism

**DEMOS** Decentralization and Municipal Support

**DG ECHO** Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

**DPPI**  Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative

**DRM**  Disaster Risk Management

**DRR**  Disaster Risk Reduction

**EMA**  Emergency Management Agency

**ENP** European Neighbourhood Policy

**EU**  European Union

**EUCPM** European Union Civil Protection Mechanism

**EUD** European Union Delegation

**EWG**  Expert Working Group

**GDCE** General Directorate of Civil Emergency

**MAPL** KosovoMinistry of Local Government Administration

**LSG** Local Self Governance

**MIA** Ministry of Internal Affairs

**MoU** Memorandum of Understanding

**NGO** Non-Governmental Organization

**PLANAT** The Swiss Platform for Natural Hazards

**PPRD** Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters Programme

**RS** Republika Srpska

**SEE** South East Europe

**UNDP**  United Nations Development Programme

**UNESCO** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**URBAN** South East Europe Urban Resilience Building Action Network

# Executive summary

Project “South East Europe Urban Resilience Building Action Network” (SEE URBAN) is the prevention project financially supported by European Union (EU) Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) answering to “pilot and demonstrate replication capacity focusing on urban resilience to disasters built up upon existing knowledge and good practices”. This 2-years project was implemented and coordinated by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with Croatian Counties / Cities Disaster Risk Reduction Platform (CCCP), The Centre for Development of the South-East Region (CDSER) from the Republic of North Macedonia and representing Bosnia and Herzegovina, Association of Municipalities and Cities (AMC) of FBiH and Association of Local Authorities (ALA) of Republika Srpska. It was implemented in 7 countries/territories in the SEE[[1]](#footnote-1) via field presence of 6 UNDP Country Offices and UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub. It was a demand driven project, as it was conceived by the devastating 2014 floods in SEE during which 2,6 million people were affected, 137 000 people evacuated from their homes and 79 lost their lives[[2]](#footnote-2).

**The overall project objective** aimed to prevent the effects of urban disasters, to protect people, the environment and property by sharing and adapting best municipal level DRR connectivity model of institutionalized and capacity building cooperation at local and regional level that will feed into the work of respective national Civil Protection agencies thus promoting a common understanding of urban cross-border disaster risks and raising DRR public awareness.

Corresponding with the **Task B**, **this project specifically aimed at formalizing local level cooperation in urban DRR** (both at city/municipality/county and cross-border/regional level) by replicating and adapting a Croatian connectivity model of local DRR stakeholders for each project country/territory respectively subsequently forming a network of urban local level DRR stakeholders (SEE URBAN) thus by setting up preconditions for additional replication capacity in other EU member states and countries aiming to become a part of CPM. To get the interest from participating and future SEE URBAN members this project planned to develop a SEE URBAN electronic DRR library (http://seeurban.net/) to compile relevant DRR documents and enhance electronic communication between partners.

Secondly, in line with the **Task C**, through the implementation of capacity building workshops and online access to urban related DRR information[[3]](#footnote-3) **project aimed at strengthening local level DRR practitioners´ knowledge on urban risks** and developing approaches and skills to mainstream and integrate these urban risk concerns into development.

And finally, **project addressed its efforts at increasing public awareness** of the final beneficiaries namely citizens of urban areas using modern tools/ways of communication to increase public knowledge on urban disaster risk prevention and mitigation.[[4]](#footnote-4)

SEE URBAN project was fully in line with the SDG 11 targets (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg11) to reduce the vulnerability of people against the disasters, reduce disaster economic losses and supporting local governments to implement local DRR strategies. It was also critical for the implementation of the Sendai Framework of Action in a section on the establishment of local and sub-regional DRR Platforms.

Besides that, SEE URBAN became one of the first projects, which is answering to the objectives of the plan of action for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction by establishing and strengthening local level DRR Platforms, forging partnerships through regional DRR Platform and enhancing DRR collaboration at the local level by supporting user-friendly DRR information exchange systems.

That said, by promoting EU best practice networking model from Croatia so far SEE URBAN has been successful in formalizing **13 local level DRR platforms** **with 297 municipalities** taking part respectively.Furthermore, SEE URBAN project managed to establish cooperation between DRR practitioners **representing 7 SEE countries/territories over 6 national level introductory meetings, 15 roundtable discussions, 2 regional meetings, and 13 workshops**. A total of **1,349 DRR stakeholders** took part of respective SEE URBAN events whereas **1,048 of them were men (78%) and 302 were women (22%).** Finally, SEE URBAN was successful in accepting the **SEE URBAN regional declaration of Local Disaster Risk Reduction Platforms** aimed at **“Supporting Urban Resilience to Disasters in South East Europe”.**

# Summary of the project implementation process

## 2.1. General overview of the process

**In the short run**, SEE URBAN project institutionalized cooperation/connectivity modality between local level DRR stakeholders at city/municipal/county level as an integral part of the comprehensive national civil protection systems and subsequently into the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. In doing so project adapted the good practice used in Croatia[[5]](#footnote-5) in which the initiative of ten Croatian Counties and five Croatian cities DRR representatives so-called CCCP was established.

From the very beginning UNDP supported this innovative model of municipal level DRR Platform which was integrated into the National DRR Platform[[6]](#footnote-6) with relevant project experience and activities on Disaster risk prevention and reduction but also set an excellent precondition for future regional cooperation. [[7]](#footnote-7)In that sense, **SEE URBAN aimed at establishing similar cooperation modality first and foremost in Bosnia and Herzegovina through the direct involvement of primary beneficiaries namely AMC[[8]](#footnote-8) in FBIH and ALA[[9]](#footnote-9) but also within all the other respective project countries/territories[[10]](#footnote-10) in SEE that would impact their interconnectivity, coordination and enhancement of joint work in order to result in mutual cooperation, easier ideas flow, joint projects, activities and practice sharing within the implemented activities in disaster risk management.**

In addition to this, **in the medium run**, **organization of series of DRR workshops on urban risks had an impact on the capacity building of local level DRR practitioners which resulted in better understanding of urban DRR and subsequent mainstreaming in local level policies.[[11]](#footnote-11)** Furthermore, accessibility to professional contents, strategies, directions, international and national sources connected to the disaster risk prevention were improved through the establishment of an online DRR e-library for their future cross-referencing.[[12]](#footnote-12) This resulted in direct communication/cooperation through the implementation of well-structured, client oriented DRR database and most importantly contributed to a larger issue of access to specific DRR information and developed national capacities. Moreover, proposed DRR e-library was formulated in the form of open websites thus making the DRR topics more transparent and accessible to citizens too.

And finally, **in the long run, this project resulted in setting up preconditions for establishing of a regional network/cooperation** **in urban DRR** between all the established national local level DRR cooperation modalities. This led to an improved regional sharing of know-how of specific knowledge/expertise in urban DRR.

In the beginning of the project, CCCP has formed a working group which was tasked in producing of all the relevant materials that will be used to transfer knowledge and best practice experience from Croatia, as the EU member state, into the 6 other countries/territories taking part of the SEE URBAN project. All these preparatory works were supported by the work of SEE URBAN Regional Technical Advisor who was overseeing the entire process.

At the national level in all 6 other participating countries/territories coordinating role was played by the respective UNDP COs in collaboration with three other project beneficiaries: two in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Association of Municipalities and Cities of FBiH and Association of Local Authorities of RS) and one in the Republic of North Macedonia (the Centre for Development of the South-East Region).

As planned by the SEE URBAN working plan the project results were delivered as agreed and communicated with all the project beneficiaries and all the respective UNDP COs. The following extract of process highlights were delivered:

* The Country Office in **the Republic of North Macedonia** has supported the establishment of models of local DRR platforms in parallel through the SEE URBAN project and a project on building flood risk resilience in the Polog region. The first model that is functioning in the south-east region is a non-formalized network of DRR practitioners, local governments NGOs and academia and includes 10 urban and rural municipalities. The model in the Polog region is established through an inter-municipal collaboration and is called “Network for Resilient and Protected Polog”. It consists of 9 municipalities and is focused only on flood risk reduction. It will have a joint administrative body (sector/department) which is expected to be established in mid-2019.
* The overall process of creation of DRR networking modalities in **the Republic of North Macedonia** was very participative, ensuring engagement of wide range of relevant stakeholders on local level and participation of national emergency agencies. Members of the network actively participated at all stakeholder meetings/workshops in Strumica, and the regional meeting organized in Skopje, and had an opportunity to voice their concerns and to present their view on issues related to disaster risk management issues.
* The second regional working meeting was organized on 15 and 16 October 2018 in **Skopje, the Republic of North Macedonia** by the Country Office and the project partner CDSER. The main objective of the meeting was to present the SEE URBAN models established with the project support in each of the participating countries/territories. The participants also benefited from the participation and experience of EU member states’ local level authorities dealing with civil protection issues. Moreover, the meeting was used to take stock of the overall project achievements, to discuss possible follow up on regional level, and to explore opportunities to expand this model of local level DRR cooperation into Eastern Partnership countries and perhaps Central Asia. The regional meeting was attended by the representatives of the local SEE URBAN platforms from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and the Republic of North Macedonia, as well as representatives from Croatia, Slovenia, Armenia, Moldova, Georgia, DPPI (Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative) and UNDP offices from participating countries/territories.
* The SEE-Urban project in **Kosovo** supported adapting best municipal level DRR connectivity model of institutionalized and capacity building cooperation at local level. Through organized workshops and meetings with central and local DRR institutions the cooperation between DRR stakeholders has been improved. As result, the DRR cooperation between 4 municipalities is achieved and Inter-Municipal Cooperation Agreement was signed between four municipalities (Istog/k, Klinë/a Malishevë/Mališevo and Pejë/Peć).
* In **Kosovo**, the stakeholders involved in the process of establishing the local network are the Emergency Management Agency/Ministry of Internal Affairs; Ministry of Local Government Administration Association of Kosovo Municipalities, 24 Municipalities of Kosovo. Furthermore, consultation is also made with the Decentralization and Municipal Support – (DEMOS) project of the Swiss Cooperation Office regarding the Inter-Municipal Cooperation. The Task Force for establishment of the local DRR network consisted by 4 municipal representatives, EMA official and was supported by UNDP Kosovo.
* Members of the **Kosovo** Task Force for DRR Local network had the opportunity to learn from CCCP about their local DRR model during a 3-day regional conference in Opatija, Croatia, in October 2017, with the main aim to share best practices in municipal DRR connectivity among the countries of the Western Balkans, and to exchange the data and information of relevance to local DRR initiatives and needs.
* Members of the **Kosovo** DRR local network and other representatives from directorates for search and rescue, public service and emergencies shared experiences of local DRR networks and discuss further potential of regional cooperation in the field of urban DRR, in a two-day SEE Urban Regional meeting on 15-16 October 2018 at Skopje.
* In addition, the UNDP **Kosovo** jointly with DRR stakeholders contributed to knowledge sharing and awareness raising through inputs for e-library, production of promotional materials and informative sessions conducted with relevant municipal officials, to support the work of network in the future and build knowledge about DRR interventions.
* The overall process of creation of DRR networking modalities in **Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)** was also a very participative, ensuring engagement of wide range of relevant stakeholders given the complex administrative arrangement of the country.
* At the beginning of the project implementation the advisory group comprised of relevant stakeholders was created. This group consisted of representatives of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republika Srpska, Association of Municipalities and Cities of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Security of **BiH**, Civil Protection Administration of Federation of **BiH** and Civil Protection Administration of **Republika Srpska**, in addition to the representatives of cities of Tuzla and Doboj to ensure the presence of the final beneficiaries. The project implementation from designing of the work plans to find best modalities for networking and technical advice was guided by the expert group.
* After the initial agreements and launch of the project, intensive consultations on the creation of civil protection networks of municipalities and cities in **BiH** were conducted. This resulted in creation of the CP Network of FBiH. The Network was created as part of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of Federation of **BiH**. Expert networks are already envisaged through strategic documents of Association, so no additional approvals were required. During the implementation of the project the CP Network of FBiH adopted the Rulebook of Civil Protection Network of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation **BiH**. During the project implementation the CP Network of FBiH conducted three meetings one in form of public discussion and two in form of conference.
* In **Republika Srpska** the process was delayed due to longer consultations between the Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republika Srpska and Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska. The partners decided that the best way forward for Republika Srpska was to build on the existing civil protection network of municipalities in Republika Srpska that is being supported through Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska. To further strengthen the existing network, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska and Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republika Srpska. During the project implementation civil protection network of municipalities in Republika Srpska conducted six regional meetings.
* The networks created in Federation of **BiH and Republika Srpska** were successfully presented on conferences in Albania, Serbia and Montenegro as well as at Regional Conferences in Opatia and Skopje. The knowledge sharing and awareness raising was successfully conducted through inputs for e-library and media coverages and organizations of trainings for municipalities. The partners provided valuable documents that were translated and submitted for e-library.
* In 2016, with the support of UNDP **Serbia**, Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities and the Serbian Government’s Public Investment Management Office, the City of Kraljevo and 16 towns and municipalities from the West Morava River Basin signed a Memorandum of Understanding, agreeing to work together to prevent risks and ensure quick and efficient response and recovery from floods and other disasters. In February 2017, with support of SEE URBAN project, local self-governments from two river basins (the Western Morava and the Kolubara rivers) in **Serbia** established Cooperation Protocols, defining common goals, plans and obligations. Two new Cooperation Protocols were signed in February 2018, among the towns and municipalities of the Great Morava River Basin (11 local self-governments) and the Upper Danube River Basin – Banat Watercourses (8 local self-governments signed all the documents and 8 local self-governments are in preparatory phase of fully joining the initiative). In December 2018, the fifth Cooperation Protocol was signed for the Drina River Basin (8 local self-governments), with trans-national cooperation component and regional signicifance.
* To summarize, a total of 5 local-level DRR modalities have been established in **Serbia**, gathering 60 towns and municipalities, out of 174 (35 %). Similar efforts were initiated in the Lower Danube River Basin – Backa Watercourses, and the Southern Morava River Basin.
* SEE URBAN project in **Serbia** established an Expert Working Group (EWG), gathering enthusiastic professionals from various institutions: Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Ministry of Finance, Sector for Emergency Management - Ministry of Interior, Public Investment Management Office, PWE Srbijavode, Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities and local representatives. The EWG facilitated a dialogue on challenges for initiation and implementation of joint local-level DRR activities.
* SEE URBAN project directly contributed to the Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Governments of the **Republic of Serbia**, which was adopted in June 2018, namely to Articles 88a – 88d, which enable higher levels of formalization of the inter-municipal cooperation in the area of disaster risk reduction and management. First DRR Cooperation Agreements on the river basin level are expected in 2019.
* A Letter of Support from the Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Mr. Ruzic, was sent to His Excellency Ambassador of the European Union to Serbia, Mr. Fabrizi, regarding SEE URBAN’s importance for operationalization of inter-municipal cooperation: “*SEE URBAN, the regional DG ECHO financed Project implemented by UNDP has supported this unique, grass-root efforts by the cities and towns in Serbia. This Project also served as a tool to inspire Amendments, but also to support inter-municipal cooperation which was initiated. Therefore, I would like to use this opportunity to thank you, on behalf of my Ministry and the local self-governments in Serbia for the support which SEE URBAN has provided in finding ways for efficient cooperation modalities for local self-governments, to strengthening their resilience to natural resources.*”
* Strong high-level political support was provided during implementation of the entire project. Moreover, SEE URBAN project in **Serbia** supported development of the Draft Law on Voluntary Firefighting and the Draft Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management, which were adopted in November 2018.
* Within the SEE URBAN project, UNDP also provided recommendations for joint financial planning, incl. Template for strategic policy document - River Basin DRR Programme, and Pilot DRR Programme for the Western Morava River Basin.
* Also, the following capacity building events were organized: QGIS Trainings, Ceremonial Signing of Two Cooperation Protocols 2018, Expert Working Group Meeting 2018, 2nd Round-Table Discussion 2018 in Kragujevac, 3rd Round-Table Discussion 2018 in Zrenjanin, Rudno Workshop for development of River Basin DRR Programme, Training for local DRR Practitioners 2018, Reginal Danube River-basin cooperation event in Osijek 2018, DRR stand at the Climate Diplomacy Week 2018, River basins’ stand at the 112 EXPO 2018, International DRR Day Celebration 2018 in Čačak, and River basins’ stand at the DRR Awareness Raising Day 2018 in Paraćin.
* Moreover, the following documents were delivered: Analytical Study of Serbian River-Basin Cooperation (in Serbian and English), Template for River Basin DRR Programme (in Serbian and English), Pilot Western Morava River Basin Programme (in Serbian and English), Models for institutionalization of the inter-municipal cooperation in DRR (in Serbian), and SEE URBAN Project Brochure (in Serbian).
* Serbian local level DRR platforms on river basin level have been included in IPA 2018 programming, as the Government of **Serbia** is planning additional funds to support this river basin DRR connectivity model, to blend with funds from local budgets and enable joint work on risk reduction, in line with the Sendai Framework for Action and with the obligations steaming from the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.
* The movement to inspire local DRR connectivity model brought about changes to the Law on Local Self-Government, as evidenced by the Letter of the Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Mr. Branko Ruzic to Mr. Sem Fabizzi, EU Ambassador to Serbia.
* The local DRR connectivity models gave stronger voice to local self-governments in Serbia, which are tasked with primary risk reduction and response mandate in Serbia. the local self-governments took part in the public debate on the new Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management. The Government of Serbia is planning additional IPA funds to support this connectivity model based on river basins, to blend with funds from local budgets and enable joint work on risk reduction, in line with the Sendai Framework for Action and in line with the obligations steaming from the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.
* During the project implementation in **Montenegro**, the cooperation/connectivity modality between national and local DRR stakeholders has been improved, aiming at further institutionalization of the DRR cooperation modality established on the level of Tara river basin, according to the identified common risks from disasters.
* A unique model of local DRR cooperation and collaboration in Montenegro has been developed, based on the common risks from floods, landslides and forest fires on the Tara river basin level. The establishment process was implemented in two stages.
* By end of December 2018, 7 municipalities in Tara river basin in **Montenegro** signed cooperation agreement. The agreement covers cooperation of the municipalities in aspects of river basin management and environmental protection responding to requirements of areas management in line with UNESCO Man and Biosphere status of the area.
* The adoption of the new Law on Local Self-Government in **Montenegro** affects implementation of the cooperation agreement, also in the field of protection and rescue.
* The agreed local DRR platform of **Albania**, was established through a Memorandum of Understanding in the conference of July 2, 2018. The platform is co-chaired by the two Albanian associations of municipalities: Association of Municipalities of Albania (AMA) and ALA.
* The DRR e-library, documents comprising Albanian DRR Legislative Framework contains various studies and assessments, as well as directives/regulation related to **Albania’s** membership to European Civil Protection Mechanism. They are being considered and reflected during preparation of the new Draft-law ‘On Civil Protection” by the General Directorate of Civil Emergency (GDCE) as well drafting of civil protection training modules.
* In **Croatia** a set of documents was collected so to be used in the SEE URBAN e-library. Part of this set was also a translation of practical guide for Social Vulnerability Assessment methodology to be a helpful tool for all the other countries/territories. This came following the conclusion that the SEE countries/territories are in lack of Social Vulnerability methodology and therefore their respective Risk Assessments are incomplete so the Guide for local level practitioners produced by UNDP was now made available in local language for the entire region.
* CCCP representatives shared their EU expertise and lectured at the **Skopje** Regional Meeting in October 2018. The topics presented were related to the issues of Public Procurement in the Civil Protection (as part of EU projects) and Crisis Communication (using Radio Amateurs connections).
* Capacity building workshop was organized in July 2018 in **Croatia** so to enhance DRR knowledge of local level DRR stakeholders. The topics discussed were Sendai DRR Framework and DRR Social Vulnerability.

Finally, in terms of the cooperation with the European Commission namely DG ECHO, SEE URBAN regional technical advisor has been regularly in contact with the designated DG ECHO project officer to discuss the above-mentioned project implementation highlights and visibility which were acceptable both to EU and UNDP.

## 2.2. Comparative analysis

Setting up the appropriate model of local level DRR networking was not only about passing the best EU practice experience from Croatia, but it was most importantly about adapting this example to the model that would be in line with the legal framework for the functioning of the Civil Protection services and local authorities in all SEE URBAN countries/territories respectively.

In that context, each country/territory had to first and foremost explore the connections between respective laws on Local Self-Governments and the laws on Civil Protection[[13]](#footnote-13). The comparative analyses have shown that with only minor differences Civil Protection is indeed part of the organizational structure of municipalities which are also to carry out protection and rescue services within their respective territories. Besides that, common thing is that the legal framework for forming and functions of the local level Civil Protection service is provided by the respective laws on Local Self-Government, whilst the activities, functioning, coordination and legal status of employees is regulated by the respective Civil Protection Acts.

Therefore, the following possible mechanism of cooperation i.e. establishment of local level DRR networking modalities have been discussed during the first year of the implementation:

* **Non-governmental association / non-governmental organization**

This model would be the in fact the one that would most resemble the model used in Croatia however it was concluded that such connectivity would be too complicated at this point of time. Besides that, even the Croatian model hasn’t originally started at this level since, at first, they initiated their cooperation and coordination via the inter-municipal/local level agreements. Only later, their model evolved to become and function in today’s format. In general, again with minor differences between participating countries/territories, it was concluded that non-governmental associations / non-governmental foundations are established by domestic and / or foreign natural and / or legal entities. On the other hand, local level authorities i.e. cities, municipalities etc., as legal entities, are represented by their respective heads i.e. mayors, presidents of the municipalities etc. so this clearly indicates inability of the protection services to form NGOs, since they themselves do not have the status of a legal entity. Starting from the legal principle that no one can transfer to another entity more rights than he himself has, clear conclusion is that at this point of time establishment of an NGO in a form of cooperation Platform was not feasible and that it would be the third and final step in establishment of a successful local level DRR platform.

* **Inter-municipal (local level) cooperation**

Experiences in the application of inter-municipal cooperation solutions lead to conclusion that the existing legal frameworks in SEE countries/territories are not fully adequate, primarily due to the complexity of procedures and the necessity of forming bodies that should perform "joint" tasks on behalf of the founders. This has the consequence of bulky and expensive structures that represent an obstacle. However, it is to be expected that these issues would be addressed and that Law amendments are to simplify the inter-municipal/ local level cooperation in all areas, including civil protection, thus allowing for more appropriate use of Cooperation Agreements.

* **Cooperation Agreement**

This model is recognized as the most optimal at this time thus allowing for project results to be fully achieved in a form of an intermediary solution and at the same time laying the foundation for future strengthening and adaption of the proposed model of local level DRR connectivity. Cooperation models were established based on the principle of voluntarism, and not as a formal process of establishing inter-municipal cooperation with all necessary authorities and means of joint bodies.

During the project implementation, the following **cooperation models** have been applied:

**In Albania:**

* Considering that Albania has not created a National DRR Platform yet, SEE Urban provided an excellent opportunity and interest to also push the agenda for a DRR national platform, as local level urban DRR networking will eventually feed into the national level DRR Platforms. UNDP CO closely liaised with the General Directorate of Civil Emergency to ensure ownership at the national level.
* UNDP CO Albania, based on its previous experiences and considering also the CCCP, also engaged from the beginning of the project with two key stakeholders in local governance issues: the AMA and the ALA. This was to ensure project ownership and sustainability.
* The initial idea of local DRR platform modality was raised and finalized during the 1st roundtable and workshop of July 2017. However, only following broad and continuous consultations both with the associations and local authorities, it was possible to formalize the idea. The agreed local DRR platform of Albania, was established through a Memorandum of Understanding in the conference of July 2, 2018. The platform is co-chaired by the two Albanian associations of municipalities: AMA and ALA.
* It was agreed that local DRR platform will serve to:
  + exchange ideas, knowledge, joint action, and mutual support among local, national, international actors involved in the field of disaster prevention and reduction;
  + strengthen municipal capacities in preparing, responding, recovering and mitigating disaster risk as well as for incorporating them into local development plans, policies and programs;
  + encourage dialogue and a comprehensive local decision-making based on the open exchange of information and risk data, broken down by gender, age, inability, easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible and complemented by local knowledge;
  + develop cooperation programs and projects in ​​prevention and readiness for disaster response with similar associations within and outside Albania;
  + support the establishment of systems and services for the exchange of information, best practices, technologies, lessons learned, and measures to reduce the risk of disaster;
  + develop periodic campaigns for local community education and awareness on disaster risk and ​drafting local strategies for reducing it.
* The DRR e-library, documents comprising Albanian DRR Legislative Framework contains various studies and assessments, as well as directives/regulation related to Albania’s membership to European Civil Protection Mechanism. They are being considered and reflected during preparation of the new draft-law ‘On Civil Protection” by the GDCE as well for the drafting of civil protection training modules.

**In Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

* In the Federation of BiH, The Civil Protection Network of the Association of Municipalities and Cities was created as a DRR networking modality to be used in the FBiH. The network was created as part of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
* Expert networks are already envisaged through strategic documents of Association, so no additional approvals are required. The First meeting of The Civil Protection Network of the Association of Municipalities and Cities was held on June 20 in Sarajevo. The meeting was attended by representatives of over 50 municipalities and cities of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as representatives of key state and entity stakeholders in DRR (Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Civil Protection Administration of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina). Meeting was concluded with adoption of the draft of Rulebook of Civil Protection Network of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina that was later approved by Presidency of Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina for forma adoption.
* The Rulebook establishes Network as an advisory body within the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina, which adopts views, opinions, suggestions and suggestions in its work, exchanges good practices and experiences, organizes expert meetings and consultations on topics related to the scope of the Network. The aim of the Networks is to apply and adapt the examples of good practice of uniting local self-government units to reduce the risk of elemental disasters and other accidents in local self-government units to reduce the consequences of these events and protect people, the environment and property.
* In Republika Srpska the process was delayed due to longer consultations between Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republika Srpska and Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska. The partners decided that the best way forward for Republika Srpska is to build on existing civil protection network of municipalities in Republika Srpska that is being supported through Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska. To further strengthen the existing network, The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska and Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republika Srpska. The first meeting of network of municipalities of Republika Srpska supported through SEE URBAN project took place on 21st December in Teslic when signing of the MoU was done.

**In Croatia:**

* The model used in Croatia first originated in the form of cooperation and coordination via the inter-municipal/local level agreements. Later, this model evolved to become and function in the format of NGO. With that, they were able to connect all interested local level self-authorities (namely Counties and Cities) and to form the Executive Board and elect President/Vice-president as decision makers. CCCP have also introduced their Statute and most importantly all their members have financial contribution towards this connectivity format which is making this model sustainable. As this was the first such model introduced in the SEE region, this was used as the EU best practice example presented to all the other countries/territories receiving positive feedback and resulting with a total of 11 local level DRR Platforms being established in SEE.

**In Kosovo:**

* The inter-municipal cooperation and international cooperation has been built based on the international standards for local governance defined by the European Charter on Local Governance and its Protocols. Specifically, this area is regulated by the Law on Local Self-Government and the Law on Inter-Municipal Cooperation as well as other acts for law enforcement. These two primary and secondary acts build the necessary basis for inter-municipal cooperation and municipal cooperation in the municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo, as well as by-laws, the Regulation on Promotion of Inter-Municipal Cooperation no. 09/2013; Regulation on the procedure of international cooperation of the dt. 18.12.2012. This form of cooperation modality was used by SEE-Urban project to establish Local Disaster Risk Reduction local network.
* This legal base was elaborated with DRR institutions, representatives of EMA, municipalities and it was decided to follow procedures and requirements to officially establish the Local DRR network between municipalities willing to cooperated in the DRR field. Four municipalities of Kosovo (Klinë/a, Istog/k, Pejë/Peć and Malishevë/Mališevo) jointly with AME and project set the task set a Task Force to work on establishment of a DRR local network. The task force obtained written confirmation for cooperation with SEE-Urban project, establishment of local DRR network and assignment of the official to work with SEE- Urban project and local DRR network. DEMOS project of the Swiss Cooperation Office Cooperation Strategy 2013-2016 for Kosovo developed the Handbook for inter-municipal cooperation and inter-international municipal cooperation in line with existing laws in Kosovo. Thus, UNDP Kosovo, coordinated and agreed with Swiss Cooperation Office to using the same Manual for the establishment of the DRR local network.
* The process required set of action by each Task Force member, and coordination with Central level such as:
  + Initiation of inter-municipal cooperation;
  + Proceeding the initiative for establishing Inter-Municipal Cooperation to Municipal Assembly;
  + Drafting Inter-municipal cooperation Agreement (including the role and responsibilities of each municipality);
  + Justify and obtain approval by 4 Municipal Assemblies of the initiative and the Inter-municipal cooperation Agreement;
  + Develop the organogram of model of local DRR network;
  + Select Name of Local DRR network;
  + Develop Logo of Local DRR network;
  + Verify the Inter-municipal cooperation Agreement Legality as per Law by Ministry of Local Governance Administration;
  + Signing of the Inter-municipal cooperation Agreement by all parties;
  + Obtain approval of the signed Inter-municipal cooperation Agreement by Municipal Assemblies and publishing at the Official Gazette.

**In Montenegro:**

* A unique model of local DRR cooperation and collaboration has been developed, based on the common risks from floods, landslides and forest fires on the Tara river basin level. The establishment process was implemented in two stages.
* Following initial presentations and discussions, and because of the analysis of legal framework it was evident that existing framework is limiting for establishment of formal cooperation mechanism. As stated in the analysis: “Experiences in the application of inter-municipal cooperation solutions point to the fact that the existing legal framework is not adequate, primarily due to the complexity of procedures and the necessity of forming bodies that should perform "joint" tasks on behalf of the founders. This has the consequence of bulky and expensive structures that represent an obstacle. That is why the amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government, which is in the form of the Draft, is at the public debate. If decisions on inter-municipal cooperation are accepted, the cooperation of municipalities in all areas, including protection and rescue, will be simplified and based on the Cooperation Agreement”.
* The adoption of the new Law on Local Self-Government will enable the conclusion of a cooperation agreement, also in the field of protection and rescue. However, it is still unclear whether such contracts will provide the possibility for self-serving or association services to act on donors and EU funds. Within this context, only very motivated and cooperation-oriented services would have needed preconditions for cooperation platform establishment. Based on previous experience and close cooperation with municipalities in Tara river basin, project focused on establishing cooperation in this area.
* The activities resulted in cooperation protocol signed in 2017 between 3 municipalities. To further secure sustainability of the platform, the project used ongoing UNESCO related process. Namely, Tara river is an area protected with three different modalities. These modalities are: National protection as part of the area are 2 national parks (Durmitor and Biogradska Gora) and two parks of nature (Komovi and Piva); World heritage sites and Man and Biosphere reserve.
* As part of obligations towards UNESCO and as part of countries international obligations, it is necessary to form Coordination body for MAB management. One of the priority areas of cooperation is DRR. Within this context project supported the process resulting in establishment of Coordination body by 7 municipalities of Tara river basin.

**In the Republic of North Macedonia:**

* UNDP CO had two models of local DRR platforms that were established in parallel through the SEE URBAN project and a project on building flood risk resilience in the Polog region. The first model that is functioning in the south-east region is a non-formalized network of DRR practitioners, local governments NGOs and academia and includes 10 urban and rural municipalities. It is focused on different hazards and broader disaster risk reduction issues. The Center for Development of the South-East Region, the main project partner, serves as a Secretariat of the network. The network has an advisory and expert support role for planning and implementation of DRR actions on local and regional levels. The advantages of this model are:
* extended affiliation of persons with different expertise and experience;
* strengthen capacities for integrated planning, and implementation of actions and measures for DRR;
* possibilities for resource mobilization;
* opportunities for regional collaboration within SEE URBAN.

The weaknesses of this model are: Uncertain funding beyond the project lifetime and in time, lost interest and enthusiasm of the network members.

* The model in the Polog region is established through an inter-municipal collaboration and is called “Network for Resilient and Protected Polog”. It consists of 9 municipalities and is focused only on flood risk reduction. It will have a joint administrative body (sector/department) which is expected to be established in mid-2019. The mayors of all participating municipalities have already signed MoU for allocation of funding for implementation of priority measures for flood risk reduction in the region. The strengths of this model are:
  + it is rooted in the national legislation;
  + lower cost for local governments and more integrated planning for flood risk prevention reduction, response and recovery on regional level;
  + predictable funding from the municipal budgets; and
  + possibilities for bigger resource mobilization. The weaknesses of this model are: limited expertise of the local governments on flood risk management and weak links with relevant national emergency agencies.

**In Serbia:**

* A unique model of local DRR cooperation and collaboration has been developed, based on the common risks from floods, landslides and forest fires on the river basin level. There are 4 signed Cooperation Protocols in river basins of the Western Morava River Basin (17 LSGs), Kolubara River Basin (8 LSGs); the Great Morava River Basin (11 LSGs), Upper Danube River Basin – Banat watercourses (16 LSGs) and Drina River Basin (8 LSGs) – including a total of 60 towns and municipalities in Serbia. During the year 2018, similar efforts were initiated in two additional river basins: The Lower Danube River Basin – Backa Watercourses, and the Southern Morava River Basin.
* SEE URBAN project directly contributed to the Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Governments of the Republic of Serbia, adopted in June 2018, which enable higher levels of formalization of the inter-municipal cooperation.
* While previously possible forms of joint action were embedded in public enterprises (e.g. for management of regional landfills) or association of LSGs, now it is practically possible for two or more municipalities to establish a common governance body (e.g. administration), or a common service. Inter-Municipal Cooperation Agreement should define the title and location of the head-office of such common body or a service, its realm of competences and responsibilities, financing modality, management and supervision of its work, accession conditions for new LSGs joining the Cooperation Agreement, as well as terms for resignation and stepping-out of the inter-municipal cooperation, etc. All the LSGs need to adopt same decisions/acts at their local assemblies in each sequence of the process of inter-municipal cooperation establishment and reporting needs to be conducted towards the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government. Special attention should be drawn to (possible) criteria for rights and obligations of each LSG in Inter-Municipal Cooperation Agreements.
* First Cooperation DRR Agreements on the river basin level are expected in 2019.
* Within the SEE URBAN project, UNDP developed templates for implementation of the new legal framework for inter-municipal cooperation, offering several possible forms of joint action such as Public Enterprise; Association of LSGs; Common Service/Body/Institution; Allocated Duties; and Coordination Body.
* UNDP also provided recommendations for joint financial planning, incl. Template for strategic policy document - River Basin DRR Programme, and Pilot DRR Programme for the Western Morava River Basin.

And finally, as a conclusion it is to be noted that following the SEE URBAN project implementation there are 13 Local Level DRR Platforms established within 7 countries/territories of SEE which are connecting 297 local level authorities within 1 Regional SEE URBAN Declaration. For more details see the table below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SEE URBAN LOCAL LEVEL DRR PLATFORMS** | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **TOTAL** |
|  | **BIH** | **MNE** | **ALB** | **SRB** | **KOS** | **MKD** | **CRO** |  |
| **NUMBER OF PLATFORMS** | **2** | **1** | **1** | **5** | **1** | **2** | **1** | **13** |
| **NUMBER OF LOCAL LEVEL AUTHORITIES** | **125** | **3** | **61** | **60** | **4** | **19** | **25** | **297** |

**Project time schedule analysis:**

Most of the project activities were executed in line with the proposed project implementation timelines as per the Description of the Action. When it comes to actual and initial project time schedule it needs to be noted that only one activity (C2. SEE URBAN DRR e-library created and maintained as part of CCCP website) related to establishing an online platform for the SEE region encountered internal problems since the planned Agreement to CCCP in 2018 was not contracted. A completely new platform has been developed and performed by UNDP CO Serbia.

# Project management/implementation process

## 3.1. Positive aspects/opportunities

As already noted, a total of more than 30 UNDP staff represented UNDP Regional Hub for Europe and CIS and 6 respective UNDP COs had been working to support the implementation of SEE URBAN project. UNDP technical staff involved are in fact part of the respective Environment, Climate and Disaster Resilience Programme Teams and were therefore well suited to deal with the topic of SEE URBAN project. That said, their experience acquired from previously implemented DRR projects has been beneficial for the success of SEE URBAN.

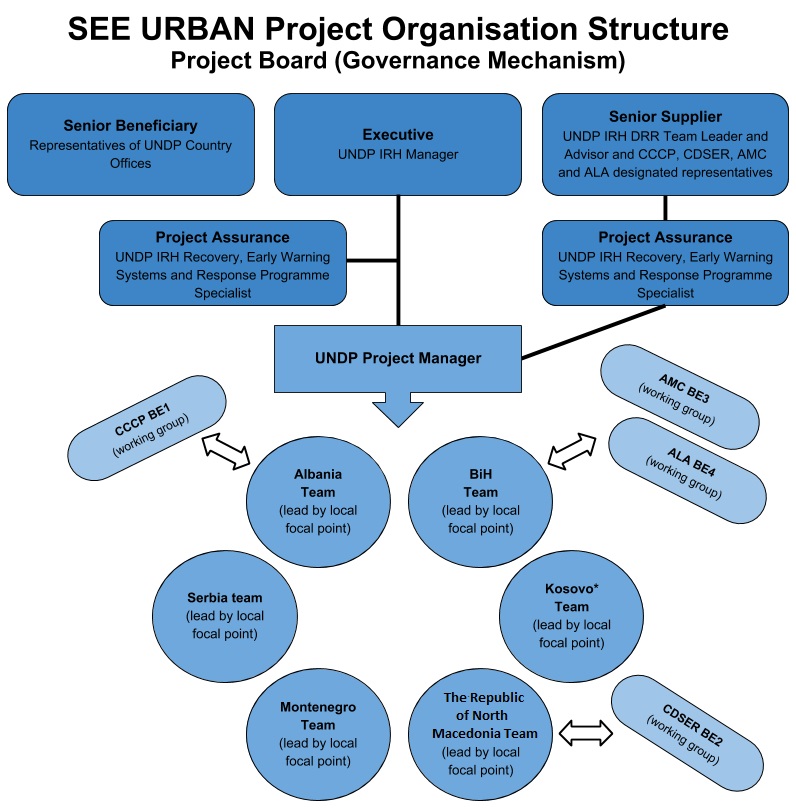
On top of that, SEE URBAN supported inter-institutional dialogue on DRR among various ministries, institutions and agencies representing national level and local self-governments as primary DRR responders. and initiated a top-down DRR dialogue in SEE countries/territories which was crucial for successful DRR project implementation. Efforts are being made to improve dialogue between the central government and local self-governments so that modalities for advanced implementation of DRR activities and measures are fully agreed upon. Moreover, SEE URBAN opened an area of both vertical and horizontal DRR cooperation. At the horizontal level, there was a clear interest of local level authorities to work together as part of the newly formed local level DRR Platforms. However, SEE URBAN also instigated the interest of vertical cooperation between National and Local level DRR Platforms. For that matter, e.g. in **Albania**, the project provided an excellent opportunity to push the agenda for a national DRR platform in which the local level urban DRR networking was set to complement with the national level DRR platforms.

Furthermore, it needs to be mentioned that all the positive initiatives, opportunities and best practices are being shared and discussed on a day-to-day basis as part of UNDP staff project operations and in constant communication with other project beneficiaries. The project implementation is being monitored in accordance with the outlined UNDP programming policies and procedures including lessons learned from similar experiences.

Ultimately, another project success is the interest raised among local stakeholders in the region. For instance, the project supported inter-institutional dialogue on DRR among various ministries, institutions and agencies representing central level (EMA/MIA, Cadastral Agency, MAPL, etc.) and local level as primary DRR responders in **Kosovo**.

Two round-table discussions in **Serbia** in 2018 gathered over 70 participants and 96% of the participants which submitted evaluations rated the local benefits (river-basin cooperation modality, established in Serbia) as “above average”. The members of the regional networks from the project countries actively participated at the workshops, events and roundtable discussions and shared views on the issues they face at the local level when dealing with natural disasters.

The project provided for a platform for cooperation of municipalities that are the first to respond to disasters as well as prevent them. Through this platform local communities with support from higher levels were able to learn from successful experiences from **Croatia** as well as other countries from the region and discuss among themselves on how concretely they can cooperate to jointly approach issues they are faced with.



**Figure 1. SEE URBAN Project Organization Structure**

## 

## 3.2. Internal and external difficulties encountered measures taken to overcome problems and eventual changes introduced

During the implementation of SEE URBAN Action, several delays were recorded, however, none of them affected the implementation process and technical results delivery.

In the case of **BiH**, namely the Republic Srpska the process was delayed due to longer consultations between the Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republic of Srpska and the Civil Protection Administration of Republic of Srpska. The partners decided that the best way forward was to build up on the existing civil protection network of municipalities that is being supported through the Civil Protection Administration of Republic of Srpska. To further strengthen the existing network, a MoU was signed between the Civil Protection Administration and the Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republic of Srpska. This Memorandum is the starting point for the development of a partnership in civil protection and disaster risk reduction. The aim was to facilitate the bilateral cooperation of the signatories in terms of coordination and improvement of the prevention and preparedness of local self-government units. The signature of the memorandum was originally planned for the second quarter of 2017, but it was taken place in December 2017. SEE URBAN delivery of project technical results in BiH continued as planned within the 2018.

In the case of **Kosovo**, the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM) despite initial agreement to become a partner of SEE-Urban project and to support the establishment of local DRR network, later conditioned partnering with immediate funding and requested to exclude SEE-Urban project from any direct communications with beneficiary municipalities. Thus, UNDP in consultation with the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and municipalities, redesigned the model for DRR local network and AKM was withdrawn from being a partner to establish a local DRR network.

The **municipality of Drenas/Glogoc**, which confirmed the willingness to become a member of the local DRR network, did not participate in workshops/meetings organized by SEE-Urban project in **Kosovo**. In this municipality the director of the Department for Rescue and Protection was replaced in 2017. The project tried to include this municipality in the DRR local network during 2018, but there was no willingness for engagement.

The **preparation process of the inter-municipal cooperation agreement** between municipalities faced challenges while preparing the decisive documents based on the Inter Municipal agreement laws for municipal assembly’s approval, as this was the first time to be drafted such a document in Kosovo.

A total of 4 representatives from EU member countries (namely Croatia and Slovenia) were present at the regional best practice meeting organized in Skopje in October 2018 where they presented their EU civil protection experiences. Representatives from Denmark, Sweden and Hungary was also invited but their attendance was cancelled due to other commitments.

Certain institutional changes occurred within the CCCP, more specifically related the Executive Board members leading to the change of changed the President and Vice-president which was a time-consuming process and caused a significant decrease of their internal capacities. This was also reflected on the performance of this local partner in terms of the timely and effective implementation of entrusted project activities.

Therefore, in communication with the EU DG ECHO the activities and budget in terms of:

* completion of the SEE URBAN website;
* collection of the remaining DRR related documents from all the partners in 7 countries and territories covered by the project; and
* translation of collected materials was rearranged and eventually led to the successful completion of all project tasks.

Following these changes, a new SEE URBAN website was created and entrusted to UNDP for future maintenance. Additionally, a website domain also had to be changed due to policies that “EU” domains cannot be used outside of the EU and, hence, the name project website was replaced by http://seeurban.net which works perfectly with the project intention of creating a network of local level DRR stakeholders. For country specific challenges during the project implementation, please refer to Annex 2.

## 3.3. Partnership/core group cooperation

As planned by the SEE URBAN organizational structure, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub was tasked with providing policy and programmatic support to UNDP´s development activities in the region of SEE. That said, Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH) Disaster Risk Reduction team for Europe and CIS acted as SEE URBAN project coordinators ensuring project is well coordinated regionally. This was a particularly important task since SEE URBAN is simultaneously being implemented in 7 different countries/territories of SEE. Therefore, UNDP Regional Hub has been constantly supporting the impact of project activities being implemented at the national level by assisting UNDP Country Offices through coordination/advisory services and technical support.

That said, so to ensure adequate project national level implementation respective UNDP Country Offices (COs) in the project countries/territories oversaw implementing tasks and actions within their countries/territories. UNDP COs and their respective management and DRR experts are present in all the countries/territories implementing SEE URBAN project. It was in fact those UNDP COs who enabled proper project implementation since if it wasn’t for this field presence, SEE URBAN presumably would not be as successful. UNDP COs have been the ones who have established and formalized cooperation via respective grant agreements with the four other project beneficiaries namely UNDP **Bosnia and Herzegovina** with the Association of Municipalities and Cities of FBiH (BE3) and Association of Local Authorities of RS (BE4), UNDP in the **Republic of North Macedonia** with the Centre for Development of the South-East Region (BE2) and UNDP **Serbia**[[14]](#footnote-14) with the Croatian Counties / Cities Disaster Risk Reduction Platform (BE1).

Therefore, at the regional level UNDP IRH facilitated direct communication with respective UNDP COs to ensure adequate and prompt information exchange via regular online discussions. At the same time, UNDP COs oversaw respective day-to-day communication with the BE1, BE2, BE3 and BE4 to adequately process and communicate any given project information.

Major importance of SEE URBAN is that it is not only a need driven project dealing with DRR issues recognized in South-East Europe but in fact it deals with the underlying problems that disaster risk reduction systems face in many other EU countries. In that sense, this transfer of valuable experience of formal affiliating of municipalities and counties from the EU member state namely Croatia over to the entire SEE region is of specific importance for the entire EU. In a way, this project will be a testing tool as per which DRR capacities and networking of local communities as first-hand civil protection responders are to be strengthened so that similar model can be replicated anywhere else in the EU thus by making this project becoming “EU URBAN”.

And finally, it needs to be noted that since the main project goal was to establish the partnerships between many different DRR actors the entire project team primarily focused on facilitating proper information exchange between national and local level DRR stakeholders. In that sense, communication with the working groups and coordination of activities between 7 different countries/territories within SEE was challenging but, in the end, successfully implemented. Below information highlights the important partnerships and core group discussions over course of the project implementation.

CO in the **Republic of North Macedonia** partnered with the CDSER and they acted as a responsible party for delivering a set of project activities on local level. CDSER was responsible for organization of all local level workshops/round tables/stakeholder meetings, support of the overall project networking at local level, co-organizing the second regional meeting in Skopje, presentation of the local model to other participating countries/territories, and promotion of the project activities and results. The Centre also serves as a Secretariat to the SEE URBAN network for the south-east region. The CO is collaborating with the Centre in the frames of the projects aimed at improvement of the Strumica River Basin, which creates an opportunity to continue the support for the SEE URBAN network in this region with CDSER as a partner.

SEE URBAN project in **Montenegro** gathered professionals from various institutions: Ministry of Interior, Municipalities and local representatives, and facilitated a dialogue on challenges for actions implementation on the river basin level, including legal issues, common executive service, etc.

The UNDP Regional Hub has been constantly supporting the impact of project activities being implemented at the national level by assisting UNDP **Kosovo** through coordination/advisory services and technical support. The main project goal to establish the partnerships between many different DRR actors and facilitating proper information exchange between national and local level DRR stakeholders was in line with previous UNDP Kosovo work in the field of DRR. Thus, the partnership with EMA/ MIA and was strengthen through their active participation on SEE-Urban project activities. UNDP has partnered in 2017 with the Swiss Platform for Natural Hazards (PLANAT) in supporting the Kosovo DRR Strategy. Through this connection, UNDP was able to use the developed Manual for Inter-Municipal Cooperation agreement, with support from the Swiss Development Cooperation, for establishment of local DRR network. The core group of cooperation for SEE Urban project activities consisted by 4 Kosovo Municipalities and with EMA/ MIA and MAPL. However, 24 municipalities and other Agencies and Ministries were part of close partnership for successful implementation of activities.

SEE URBAN project in **Serbia** gathered enthusiastic professionals from various institutions: Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Ministry of Finance, Sector for Emergency Management - Ministry of Interior, Public Investment Management Office, Srbijavode, Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities and local representatives, and facilitated a dialogue on challenges for actions implementation on the river basin level, including legal issues, joint financial planning, common executive service, etc.

## 3.4. General lessons learned and possible improvements

The entire region of SEE is exposed to similar natural hazards, with most common ones being earthquakes, floods, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires and landslides. Besides that, many of the countries/territories taking part of the SEE URBAN project are sharing similar history. The numerous challenges the countries/territories are facing after the war in the 1990s, combined with political deadlocks and weak economic situation, placed disaster risks, traditionally connected with civil protection, at the bottom of priorities, never receiving enough political interest.

Therefore, disaster risk reduction is essential to achieve sustainable development and the development, strengthening and implementation of relevant policies, plans, practices and mechanisms need to aim at coherence, as appropriate, across sustainable development. Resilience Building Action Networks are excellent platform to bring together DRR practitioners, local decision-makers, CSOs and academia and to share responsibilities by central and local governments and relevant national authorities, sectors and stakeholders for disaster risk reduction, and they could contribute to advance the sustainable development agenda in the country, particularly on local level. Different models for local level collaboration and action on DRR that fit the local context should be explored because there is no model that fits all. Also, such networks/platforms should be inclusive of everyone that wants to join and contribute with the knowledge and experience.

For each technical result and deliverable, a participative planning process was put in place that ensures that all stakeholders are, and participants are consulted to ensure participation, coordination and results. The project took a multi-stakeholder approach and it facilitated coordination between local authorities. Furthermore, EMA officials are actively engaged to assist with DRR concept to established DRR local network. So far, this approach has resulted with a relationship that is characterized as successful cooperation.

Permanent coordination with stakeholders with the central level institutions, ministries, agencies and local level authorities and local DRR practitioners is extremely important and needed for successful implementation of technical results. More specifically for the SEE Urban project the appointment by Mayor of the designated municipal officials for coordination and cooperation with project showed very successful to achieve the results, ensure results sustainability and good communication. For a detailed information on country specific lessons learned and recommendations, please refer to Annex 3.

* **Lessons learned: This lack of interest led not only to weak general capacities but also to unabsorbing of improvements and new approaches in dealing with disaster risks.** Alarmingly, even today, institutions and citizens are at the very beginning of understanding that the way DRR and climate change (CC) are included in development will, among others, shape our future.

**Possible improvements:** In that context, all throughout the SEE region there is a dysbalanced focus on higher-level governance structures, compared with those of local governments. As a result, municipalities/cities often remain disconnected from changes and progress happening at higher levels. This is the main cause for lack of important community DRR initiatives that proved to be most effective means of empowering citizens.

**Example 1.** In the Republic of North Macedonia, for instance, Resilience Building Action Networks are excellent platform to bring together DRR practitioners, local decision-makers, CSOs and academia and to share responsibilities by central and local governments and relevant national authorities, sectors and stakeholders for disaster risk reduction. They can be one of the instruments to promote coordinated approach on disaster risk reduction thus contributing to the sustainable development on local and national level. However, to be effective, different models that fit the local context have to be explored as there is no one fits all model. Also, such networks should be inclusive of everyone that wants to join and share its own knowledge and experience.

* **Lessons learned: Strong and permanent coordination with national counterparts including** national level institutions, ministries, agencies and local level authorities and DRR practitioners is extremely important and utterly needed for successful implementation of the disaster risk reduction policies.

**Possible improvements:** Inter-institutional dialogue on DRR among various ministries, institutions and agencies at national level is highly beneficial as this is the way to establish horizontal DRR cooperation. Also, there is a clear need for improved dialogue, on modalities for advanced implementation of DRR activities and measures, between the central Government and local self-governments. That said, effective and efficient disaster risk management requires strong inter-sectoral collaboration on all levels and established and functional mechanism for a continuous dialogue and exchange of ideas and experience on vertical level as well. In this context, one of the most important lessons learnt as part of SEE URBAN project implementation is that newly established local level DRR Platforms can be an added value to the national DRR Platforms and its operationalization on sub-regional, national and local level.

**Example 2.** To ensure sustainability of the project in Kosovo, a participative planning process was put in place that ensures that all stakeholders are consulted both at central and local level. The project took a multi-stakeholder’s approach and it facilitated coordination between local authorities. Furthermore, EMA officials are actively engaged to assist with DRR concept to established DRR local network. So far, this approach has resulted with a relationship that is characterized as successful cooperation. Permanent coordination with stakeholders with the central level institutions, ministries, agencies and local level authorities and local DRR practitioners is extremely important and needed for successful implementation of the disaster risk reduction policies. More specifically for the SEE Urban project the appointment by Mayor of the designated municipal officials for coordination and cooperation with project showed the commitment of each municipality and made possible their participation, active engagement for establishment of local DRR network. Monitoring of the political changes is crucial for to achieve project results by taking in consideration information sharing of the objectives and results made by project. In that context, after the results of local election in 2017, the project conducted meeting with municipal official and newly appointed Mayor of Klinë/a municipality.

* **Lessons learned: Vertical and horizontal multi-sectoral cooperation** is paramount for effectiveness and efficiency of DRR interventions in BiH, as it enables scaling up of good practices, models and tools, as well as lessons learned.

**Possible improvements:** This project successfully built on tested approaches, lessons learned and use already existing tools and it is of paramount importance to continue supporting and building on results achieved through this project. Vertical and horizontal multi-sectoral cooperation also increases sharing of information, which is as important as creating new data, especially for local communities, since they are often disconnected from changes and progress happening at higher level.

* **Lessons learned:** The overall **political interests and different view over mandates of institutions** are always lingering as a risk that is preventing a full and quality coordination in BiH.

**Possible improvements:** This is something that comes with DRR sector in BiH and interventions must be designed in a way to consider the complex country structure and context. The potential disagreements over existing capacities, as well as strategic and legal solutions require detailed, objective and knowledgeable factual situation assessment to be able to find good quality solutions.

* **Lessons learned:** Even though always anticipated **political changes** still usually come as a surprise. In that context, and as already mentioned, political changes have affected the project implementation process in Croatia, Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia and Kosovo.

**Possible improvements:** SEE URBAN project indeed adapted to the political changes faced and adjusted respective schedule of activities however it is to be noted that in terms of avoiding any effects of future political destabilization processes against the SEE URBAN implementation process, project coordinator and beneficiary representatives on the field are to regularly monitor respective national and local political situations and in case of need alert the SEE URBAN project board of any potential project impact so to initiate discussion on mitigation actions.

* **Lessons learned: Lack of commitment and coordination at the senior political level.**

**Possible improvements:** In that concern, SEE URBAN project is supporting and practicing continuous advocacy related to the importance of effective, efficient and sustainable DRR system. In Serbia, for example, strong high-level political support was provided during implementation of the entire project: all the events were organized together with State Secretaries, Minister Assistants and Deputy Director of the Public Investment Management Office. By doing so, SEE URBAN project is to ensure regular participation of stakeholders in coordination forums and to establish transparent, effective, and inclusive communication and coordination among all the actors involved in the project development.

# Project results

## 4.1. Quantitative monitoring, evaluation and dissemination

In general, SEE URBAN project aims to prevent the effects of urban disasters, to protect people, the environment and property by sharing and adapting best municipal level DRR connectivity model of institutionalized and capacity building cooperation at local and regional level that will feed into the work of respective national Civil Protection agencies thus promoting a common understanding of urban cross-border disaster risks and raising DRR public awareness. It consists of 4 major project tasks/activities.

**Task A** namely **“Management, coordination and reporting”** was first and foremost implemented with a goal to set up Project Implementation Strategy, to establish coordination and internal communication concept between the partners and to prepare and deliver well-structured reports to European Commission in timely manner.

In doing so following actions and results were achieved:

* **Action A.1: Kick-off Meeting**
* 1 Kick-off meeting presentation developed, and kick-off meeting attended
* **Action A.2: Mid-term and final Reports**
* 2 Annual work plans including calendar of events developed and communicated between all project partners;
* 1 Social and environmental screening template developed (in terms of project monitoring);
* 4 project monitoring updates developed (on quarterly basis);
* 1 progress report to EC produced for Y2017.
* **Action A.3: Final project meeting**
* 7 coordination meetings conducted online between all SEE URBAN project countries/territories;
* 1 coordination meeting conducted between all SEE URBAN project countries/territories;
* 2 additional coordination meetings conducted between UNDP and CCCP;
* Series of bilateral calls and meetings conducted;
* Final project meeting was held in October 2018 in the Republic of North Macedonia.

As part of the **Task B** namely **“Institutional development of relevant participating city/municipalities/counties with focus on urban DRR through replication/adjustment of Croatian counties/cities DRR platform as a model of cooperation at local/regional level”**, the Action supported:

1. the formalization of local level DRR connectivity/cooperation modality for each country/territory respectively;
2. strengthened the regional cooperation and knowledge exchange between project partners and DRR experts;
3. promoted common understanding of urban risks in participating cities/municipalities/counties and finally;
4. institutionalized cooperation in the field of urban DRR among participating cities/municipalities/counties at national level.

In doing so the following actions and results were achieved:

* **Action B.1: Establishment of expert working group in Croatia tasked with regional know-how sharing**
* 1 Pull of experts/working group established for the sharing regional know-how in Croatia.
* **Action B.2: Meetings with established work groups in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia aimed at determining future connectivity/cooperation modality for each country respectively**
* 6 Working groups established in respective project countries/territories.
* **Action B.3: Local level experience exchange roundtable discussions**
* 6 introductory working meetings/presentations of CCCP model organized in each country/territory respectively and Series of meetings organized with respective working groups at national levels;
* 1 set of local level urban DRR cooperation/connectivity presentation materials prepared
* 13 Local level DRR connectivity/cooperation modalities developed in the countries/territories of SEE region;
* 15 local level experience exchange roundtable discussions organized in the countries/territories of SEE region.
* **Action B.4: Organization of regional best practice sharing DRR working meetings**
* 2 Regional best practice sharing working meetings organized;
* 1 SEE regional level DRR connectivity/cooperation declaration accepted.

In line with the **Task C** namely **“Capacity building of local level authorities through DRR mainstreaming and education in urban DRR and the use of regional DRR e-library”,** SEE URBAN project has improved

1. access to relevant urban DRR information by enabling proper exchange of information, and
2. developed an online form of multi-language e-library related to urban risks by improving professional knowledge of local level DRR practitioners

In doing so, the following actions and results were achieved:

* **Action C.1: Collection of all relevant national and international e-documents and materials related to urban DRR risk at local level (cities, municipalities/counties)**
* 7 sets of urban risk DRR documents identified, collected and disseminated;
* 7 sets of relevant urban risk DRR documents made available in local languages;
* Urban DRR training material covering 6 topics for local level practitioners developed and translated.
* **Action C.2: SEE URBAN DRR e-library created and maintained as part of CCCP website**
* SEE URBAN DRR e-library created.
* **Action C.3: Capacity building workshop aimed at enhancing the capacities of local authorities’ knowledge in urban DRR**
* 13 local level DRR workshops organized in each country/territory respectively.

And finally, as part of **Task D** namely **“Project visibility and awareness raising”**, SEE URBAN project has

1. ensured EU visibility all throughout the implementation of project tasks and actions,
2. informed the media on project plans, aims, objectives, tasks and actions and
3. increased public awareness regarding urban DRR in SEE region.

In doing so, the following actions and results were achieved:

* **Action D.1: Dissemination of all relevant project information and results**
* More than 200 media features have been published in SEE region;
* Set of project visibility materials developed in all the SEE URBAN countries/territories respectively.
* **Action D.2: Public presentations announcing project kick-off and project end**
* 36 major press events organized during first SEE URBAN meeting to announce the start of the project and to support the media coverage;
* 2 Layman’s report covering Regional Working Meeting produced with main results.
* **Action D.3: Urban risk DRR public awareness campaigning through online media (Twitter, Facebook)**
* 1 Internal communication Strategy between partners developed;
* SEE URBAN social network profile established and maintained by COs;
* Regular publications in online media done by COs.

**Results achieved per country/territory\*:**

**Albania**

* 1 local level DRR connectivity / cooperation modalities in Albania (disaggregated by cities/municipalities and cross-checked with the total number of cities/municipalities
* Set of DRR documents in an online form of multi-language e-library related to urban risks
* 46% of local level DRR practitioners in Albania who have improved their professional knowledge of urban DRR / stating that this newly introduced modality has improved coordination mechanisms for disaster and climate risk management at local/national level (disaggregated by organization/institution and gender)
* 8 features promoting SEE URBAN project issued in Albania.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

* 2 local level DRR connectivity / cooperation modalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina were usefully established, supported and put into work.
* Bosnia and Herzegovina successfully collected and shared sets of DRR documents related as an online form of multi-language e-library related to urban risks.
* The promotion of SEE URBAN project was extremely successful, with over 40 media appearances, in BiH which shows the high level of interest of stakeholders for this topic. In addition, important is to mention the high percentage of local level DRR practitioners in Bosnia and Herzegovina who have improved their professional knowledge of urban DRR through trainings, conferences and workshops that were organized throughout project implementation.

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\*results are updated in line with the corresponding indicators and based on the logical framework

* In total over 300 DRR practitioners participated in these events and have clearly voiced out the benefits of these newly introduced modalities and their contribution to improved coordination mechanisms for disaster and climate risk management at all levels.

**Croatia**

* 1 local level workshop organized with the purpose of DRR capacity building for the local level stakeholders.
* Set of DRR documents collected and uploaded at the SEE-Urban E-library including the translation of DRR Social Vulnerability guidelines.
* Lectures prepared for the panel discussion at the 2nd Regional meeting in Skopje.

**Kosovo**

* The inter-municipal cooperation agreement signed from 4 municipalities.
* A local DRR connectivity established.
* The set of existing DRR documents in three languages shared with uploaded at the SEE-Urban E-library.
* DRR practitioners and municipal officials participated in the regional meetings, workshops conducted by SEE-Urban project (63% of DRR practitioners have improved their professional knowledge of urban DRR).

**Montenegro**

* 1 local level DRR connectivity / cooperation modalities have been created by Protocols, in the Tara River Basin.
* A set of DRR documents is being prepared for an online (plat)form:
* [http://www.seeurban.eu/ and several reports and presentations have been published.](http://www.seeurban.eu/ and several reports and presentations have been published)
* Expert Working Group established including representatives of national institutions and local self-governments, and information sharing meetings were organized in 2018, round table discussion, regional conference in Skopje, 2 communication in crisis situations trainings.
* Promotional material has been produced. 6000 copies of educational material for children on: floods, fires and earth quakes where printed.

**The Republic of North Macedonia**

* 2 DRR networking modalities established – one in the Southeast Region, other in Polog Region (the latter in coop with complementary DRR project).
* 3 local workshops organized for Southeast Region DRR network entities, with the purpose of: capacity building, further development and case study of the Polog Region DRR network.
* 1 regional meeting organized in Skopje, sharing experiences and presenting models established with project support among representatives of SEE URBAN platforms and respective UNDP offices, local level Civil Protection authorities from EU member states, etc.
* 1 joint workshop of the two national DRR networks, SER and Polog, enhancing further exchange of DRM knowledge and experience and exploring opportunities for improved collaboration in flood risk reduction.
* 1 study visit to City of Kraljevo (Serbia) Civil Protection Directorate organized for Southeast Region DRR network entities.
* Enabling environment created for local and regional DRR connectivity, as well as vertical and horizontal multi-sectoral cooperation of all DRM-relevant/-active local/regional entities, including continuous capacity development and peer-to peer information and knowledge exchange.
* Extensive media and social network coverage of the 2nd regional meeting held in Skopje – by local and national TV and radio channels, online media, newspapers etc.

**Serbia**

* 5 local level DRR connectivity / cooperation modalities have been created by Cooperation Protocols, in the Western Morava River Basin (17 LSGs), Kolubara River Basin (8 LSGs); the Great Morava River Basin (11 LSGs), Upper Danube River Basin – Banat watercourses (16 LSGs) and Drina River Basin (8 LSGs) – including a total of 60 towns and municipalities in Serbia, out of 174 (35 %). During the year 2018, similar efforts were initiated in two additional river basins: Lower Danube River Basin – Backa Watercourses, and the Southern Morava River Basin.
* A set of DRR documents was prepared for an online e-library including original documents developed within the project: Analytical Study of Serbian River-Basin Cooperation (in Serbian and English), Template for River Basin DRR Programme (in Serbian and English), Pilot Western Morava River Basin Programme (in Serbian and English), Models for institutionalization of the inter-municipal cooperation in DRR (in Serbian) and SEE URBAN Project Brochure (in Serbian and English), as well as relevant strategies, laws, studies, etc.
* DRR practitioners from 60 LSGs (35%) attended SEE URBAN events in Serbia – estimated as 50% of total local level DRR practitioners. Two round-table discussions gathered over 70 participants, and workshop with trainings on social vulnerability, media relations and project preparation were held for 11 local and 2 national experts.
* The promotion of SEE URBAN project was extremely successful, with over 65 media features promoting SEE URBAN project were issued in Serbia, showing high interest of stakeholders for this topic.

For a detailed information on country specific technical results and deliverables, please refer to Annex 4.

## Dissemination and Visibility

The promotion of SEE URBAN project was extremely successful, with over **65 media appearances in Serbia** and **40 media appearances in BiH** which shows the high level of interest of stakeholders and visibility in TV, written media as well as social media. Prepared promotional material was distributed during all organized events. Based on design provided by ministry of interior **6000 copies of coloring books** covering topics of fire, floods and earthquake hazards was printed in Montenegro.

In the **Republic of North Macedonia**, the focus of the visibility and communication plan in the course of 2018 was put on the promotion of the regional meeting that took place on 15-16 October in Skopje. The regional meeting attracted big media attention and the information about this event and SEE URBAN project were presented on several national TV stations and online media. The project events such as the round table and capacity building workshop which took place in Strumica had also positive media coverage by local and national media. Press releases and social media were used to promote the results of EU and UNDP partnership.

As per the General Conditions of the EU-UNDP Delegation Agreement and the Joint visibility guidelines for EC-UN actions on the field, SEE URBAN project Communication and Visibility Plan was developed, agreed upon and implemented for the entire duration of the action. The main objective of the visibility actions was to communicate the positive results of the EU-UNDP partnership, focusing on the outputs and the impacts of the SEE URBAN project results.

Since the project was implemented in a total of 7 countries/territories of the SEE main priority was to ensure that the same message is being passed at all levels. In that sense, sets of promotional materials developed were unified and then translated and adapted to all the SEE URBAN project languages. E-library containing various urban DRR materials was made public at the http://seeurban.net website also available in multiple languages. Besides that, so to ensure public outreach social media SEE URBAN page was created at Facebook inclusive of Tweets and Posts as part of UNDP social media profiles in SEE.

And finally, all major project events namely introductory meetings at national level, two sets of roundtable discussions, workshops and **2 regional best practice** sharing meetings were all covered by media and press releases (presented in the following table).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SEE URBAN MAJOR EVENTS AS PER COUNTRY/TERRITORY** | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | **TOTAL** | |
| **Country/Territory** | **BIH** | **MNE** | **ALB** | **SRB** | **KOS** | **MKD** | **CRO** | | |  | |
| **TOTAL** | **8** | **6** | **5** | **5** | **5** | **5 2** | |  | **36** | |

All in all, there was a **total of 36 major events** organized in 7 SEE URBAN countries / territories resulting with a total of **224 media features** i.e. almost 7 on average which goes to show that the project received great media coverage across the South-East Europe. Besides that, the two events that received highest media coverage were the regional best practice sharing meetings (**Opatija, Croatia in October 2017** and **Skopje, the Republic of North Macedonia in October 2018**). Distribution of media features as per country / territory is presented in the following table from where the highest media interest was recorded in **Serbia** (noting 67 media features) and followed **by Bosnia and Herzegovina** (noting 46 media features). General conclusion and the lesson learned is that **Serbia** has recorded such positive media interest due to support received from the national level that has been present all throughout the project implementation.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SEE URBAN MEDIA FEATURES AS PER COUNTRY/TERRITORY** | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | **TOTAL** | |
| **Country/Territory** | **BIH** | **MNE** | **ALB** | **SRB** | **KOS** | **MKD** | **CRO** | | |  | |
| **TOTAL** | **46** | **4** | **15** | **67** | **18** | **44 30** | |  | **224** | |

Media presence at the SEE URBAN events, however, needs to be evaluated in a way so to discuss each country/territory separately. Looking at the table below where the connection between the number of SEE URBAN events and the number of recorded media features is presented the following can be concluded:

* In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, during the overall 2-year project implementation **8 major events** were organized and an average of 6 media features per event recorded. However, being that the 1st SEE URBAN event was organized in Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina in March 2017 that actual event raise the most interest (22 media features were recorded covering just this event) and therefore supported overall media coverage result in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
* In **Montenegro**, the lowest media coverage was recorded out of all the countries/territories taking part in the project. Even though the media was invited to take part of the events they somehow failed to substantively support SEE URBAN respective events in Montenegro resulting with **an average of less than 1 media feature per event**;
* In **Albania**, **an average of 3 media features per event** was recorded partially also thanks to the fact that the Head of General Directorate of Civil Emergencies was also present at SEE URBAN events;
* **Serbia** have recorded the second highest result **averaging over 13 media features** per each SEE URBAN event. As already noted, this was related with the support received from the national agencies particularly Serbian national institutions namely Public Investment Management Office, Sector for Emergency Management and the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development but also the participation of EU delegation at SEE URBAN events;
* In **Kosovo**, **an average of more than 3 media features per events** was recorded partially also thanks to the participation of EU delegation representatives at SEE URBAN events;
* In **the Republic of North Macedonia** **an average of almost 9 media features** covering SEE URBAN events was recorded. However, the biggest influence within this number is due to the organization of 2nd SEE URBAN regional best practice sharing meeting in Skopje in October 2018 which recorded a total of 17 media features;
* **Croatia** has recorded the **highest average of media features (15)** covering SEE URBAN events however this is due to the organization of 1st SEE URBAN regional best practice sharing meeting in Opatija in October 2017 which was in fact the most widely covered SEE URBAN event in total resulting with 30 media coverages.

## 4.3. Qualitative assessment of the activities

**SEE URBAN – overall project events**

For two years there were **36 major events** organized as part of SEE URBAN project namely **2 regional best practice sharing meetings, 19 meetings/roundtable discussions and 13 capacity building workshops**. However, 2 roundtable discussions and capacity building workshops were organized back to back therefore to avoid overlapping the number of participants they will be presented as single events meaning that the total evaluation will be done as per 34 major events. **A total of 1349 DRR stakeholders took part of respective SEE URBAN events whereas 1048 of them were men (78%) and 302 were women (22%).** That said, an average of almost 40 people were present at respective SEE URBAN thus by once again showing what a great interest has this project raised with DRR stakeholders at national and local level. Detailed presence of DRR stakeholders at SEE URBAN events is shown in the chart below.

**SEE URBAN Regional Best Practice Sharing Meetings**

At the regional level, there were two regional best practice meetings organized as part of SEE URBAN project. First one, organized in **Opatija, Croatia** in October 2017 gathered a total of 97 participants from across SEE whilst the second one organized in Skopje, **The Republic of North Macedonia** in October 2018 recorded almost 30% more participants resulting with a total of 125 DRR stakeholders present which goes to show that the overall interest in taking part of SEE URBAN project has gradually increased. Interesting to note is that in overall, 30% of all participants present at both regional meetings were women whereas a total of 222 participants was recorded (see chart below).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| In terms of evaluations conducted during both regional meeting it is to be noted that out of 222 participants 120 of them chose to take part of the evaluations and complete written questionnaires. There wasn’t a single participant evaluating SEE URBAN ideas as «poor and very poor» whilst a total of 86% evaluated it to be above average. | |  |
| Most importantly, the evaluation conducted as part of 2nd regional best practice sharing meeting in **Skopje, The Republic of North Macedonia** in October 2018 proved that the DRR stakeholders (both at national and local level) are greatly interested to take part of the SEE URBAN phase 2 as 87 % of evaluated participants stated that there is high need for project continuation. |  | |

**SEE URBAN Capacity Building Workshops**

A total of 13 capacity building workshops were organized during SEE URBAN project in 7 countries and territories of SEE. **Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina** have recorded highest interest in terms of the need for such workshops and therefore they have both had 3 workshops each with a total of 78 participants respectively. However, the biggest overall presence was recorded in **Albania** (a total of 99 participants) during the two workshops organized in Tirana. Detailed presence at SEE URBAN capacity building workshops is presented in the table below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SEE URBAN CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS – NUMBER AND PRESENCE** | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **TOTAL** |
|  | **BIH** | **MNE** | **ALB** | **SRB** | **KOS** | **MKD** | **CRO** |  |
| **Number of workshops** | **3** | **3** | **2** | **1** | **2** | **1** | **1** | **13** |
| Men | 64 | 43 | 86 | 9 | 46 | 18 | 18 | **284** |
| Women | 14 | 35 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | **84** |
| **Presence TOTAL** | **78** | **78** | **99** | **13** | **52** | **27** | **21** | **368** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| In terms of workshops it is to be noted that a total of 368 DRR stakeholders took part of SEE URBAN capacity building process. Out of that number, 23% were women and 77% were men whereas the highest percentage of women presence was recorded in workshops organized in **Montenegro** (45%) whilst the lowest was noted in **Kosovo** (12%). |  |

When it comes to the evaluation of the capacity building workshops it is to be noted that it was done via the written questionnaires and that some 68% out of all the participants agreed to take part of this evaluation process.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A total of 94% of workshop participants have evaluated the workshop materials and presentations to be above average. 5% of participants have graded workshops to be average and only 1 participant out of a total of 255 who were evaluated graded it as poor. |  |

When it comes to e-library posted at [www.SEEURBAN.net](http://www.SEEURBAN.net) website evaluation it was noted that 91% of a total of 248 DRR experts willing to take part of evaluation process via written questionnaires graded e-library to be above average in terms of benefits it brings. Only 9% have graded it as average and there were no records of evaluation participants grading it poor and/or very poor. However, it is to be recorded that 10 evaluation participants noted that, at that point of time, they have still not visited and/or used SEEURBAN e-library and therefore could not grade it.

**SEE URBAN Meetings and Roundtables**

Following the first 6 introductory meetings additional 13 roundtable discussions were held during SEE URBAN project implementation thus making the total number of 19 major events (not counting capacity building workshops and regional best practice sharing meetings). The biggest number of events participated by the biggest number of DRR stakeholders was registered in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** where a total of 243 participants took part of 5 respective events. On the other hand, smallest attendance was recorded in **Montenegro** where a total of 33 participants were present at 2 respective events (see table below for more details).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SEE URBAN MEETINGS AND ROUNDTABLES – NUMBER AND PRESENCE** | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **TOTAL** |
|  | **BIH** | **MNE** | **ALB** | **SRB** | **KOS** | **MKD** | **CRO** |  |
| **Number of mtngs/roundtables** | **5** | **2[[15]](#footnote-15)** | **3** | **4** | **2[[16]](#footnote-16)** | **3** |  | **19** |
| Men | 203 | 18 | 112 | 163 | 46 | 56 |  | **608** |
| Women | 40 | 15 | 26 | 45 | 6 | 21 |  | **151** |
| **Presence TOTAL** | **243** | **33** | **138** | **208** | **52** | **77** |  | **759** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| All in all, a total of 759 participants took part of 19 respective national events organized in the countries/territories of SEE. Out of that number, 20% were women (namely 152 participants) and 80% were men (608 participants). On average, highest percentage of women present at meetings and roundtables was recorded in **Montenegro** (45%) whereas the lowest one was noted in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (15%). |  |

Evaluations concerning the SEE URBAN meetings and roundtables were done in a way that in 2017 evaluations were aiming to discover the SEE URBAN success potential and the overall benefits of DRR connectivity whereas in 2018 DRR connectivity benefits were compared between local and regional level.

When it comes to evaluating the SEE URBAN idea during the 2017 events, the overall evaluation was done over a total of 13 respective events with a total of 259 participants taking part of the evaluation process. A total of 96% participants have evaluated the SEE URBAN idea as above average (meaning with “very good -5” and “good-4” marks) whereas only 4% have evaluated it to be average (with not a single person evaluating it at “poor and very poor”.) More detailed evaluations as per respective countries/territories is presented below.

In regards of the evaluation of the success potential, a total of 257 participants took part in filling in the questionnaires during 13 respective meetings/roundtables. From the regional perspective, a total of 72% of participants evaluated SEE URBAN success potential as above average (marked with blue and orange color in the table below). However, at the level of countries/territories results were somewhat different so it happened that in Montenegro and Albania success potential was rated the highest (91% respectively as above average) whereas in Bosnia and Herzegovina success potential was rated the lowest being at 56% above average.

Finally, in 2018 additional set of 6 roundtable discussions were evaluated aiming to discover the benefits and the need for regional DRR connectivity. A total of 194 persons took part of this evaluation and the actual results are presented in the chart below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| It is interesting to note that a total of 78% of participants evaluated the benefits of regional DRR connectivity as above average whereas only 2% and 1% respectively have evaluated it as poor and very poor. |  |

1. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, Serbia and the Republic of North Macedonia.

   \* For the European Union, this designation used is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UN Security Council resolution 1244/99 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://reliefweb.int/disaster/ff-2014-000059-srb> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. KMS project implemented by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and hosted by DPPI SEE http://seekms.dppi.info/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. SEE URBAN Public Awareness Campaign will be build upon previous experiences of UNISDR – resilient cities campaign <http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/> and UNDP experience in the area of ICT for disasters [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. More on this current practise used in Croatia at: <http://platforma-hzg.hr/en/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. National Platforms for DRR are nationally owned and led multi-stakeholder forum or committee working on disaster risk reduction (supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – UNISDR) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Project will also consider good coordination practice between the cities in FYR of Macedonia by adapting some of the Centre for Development of the South-East Region (CDSER) networking modality. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. http://www.sogfbih.ba/ [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. http://www.alvrs.com/v1/index.php?lang=en [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Particularly focusing on CDSER activities as a succesful networking model that already exists but however lacks capacity building in terms of Disaster Risk Reduciton issues which is exactly what could be stregthened through cooperationi with the CCCP [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Also containing produced material as part of previously implemented regional DRR project the likes of: „Building Capacity in Disaster Risk Reduction through Regional Cooperation and Collaboration in SEE“, „Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey“ [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Such laws referring to the duties and obligations of national and local level services in terms of civil protection are not necessarily named the same in all the of SEE URBAN countries/territories [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. In the absence of UNDP Croatia which seized with its activities in the 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Roundtable Discussion and Capacity Building Workshop in Podgorica, Montenegro organized in November 2018 were conducted back to back with the same participation so in order to avoid results/statistics overlapping the evaluations and participants recorded were presented only within the evaluation segment targeting respective capacity building workshops [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Roundtable Discussion and Capacity Building Workshop in Pristina, Kosovo organized in September 2018 were conducted back to back with the same participation so in order to avoid results/statistics overlapping the evaluations and participants recorded were presented only within the evaluation segment targeting respective capacity building workshops [↑](#footnote-ref-16)