



Date: 26.04.2017

Place: Aalborg

Knowledge FOR Resilient soCiEty

K-FORCE Project meeting in Aalborg, Denmark

University of Tirana

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Outline of presentation

- *Disaster risk in Albania*
- *Institutional and legal framework for DRR in Albania*
- *Outcome of interviews with experts of the field*
- *Employment possibilities in the field of DRR*





Disasters in Albania

Albania has a high exposure against natural disasters:

- 1) Natural causes (geological, hydrological, atmospheric, biophysical);
 - earthquakes, floods, forest fires, and snowstorms.
- 2) Anthropogenic causes (floods caused because of dams break, intentional fires);

Other hazards include

- landslides, drought, epidemics, avalanche, tsunami, technological hazards, dam burst and storms.



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Disasters in Albania

- Earthquakes and floods have caused the greatest damages and the largest victims number during the past.
- Available data shows that the risk level is increasing and is comparatively higher in Albania than in neighboring countries
- Albania ranks 41st in the world in terms of vulnerability to landslides, 43rd in terms of earthquakes and 58th in terms of drought risks (Global Assessment Report, UNISDR, 2013)





Disasters in Albania

Table 1: Predictions regarding natural disasters occurrence in Albania

Nr.	High possibility	Medium possibility	Low possibility	Variable possibility
1.	Fog	Erosion	Earthquake	Avalanche
2.	Hail	Drought	Lightning	Infection of crops
3.	Slide of soil	Flood		Snow storm
4.	Fire in Forest	Ice storm		Wind storm
5.		Intensive rain storm		
6.		Sinking		



Disasters in Albania

The disasters with the greatest number of victims in Albania

The disaster	Date	Location	Victims number
Snowfall/extreme temperature	6 March 1985	North	68
Landslide	11 January 1985	North	57
Earthquake	15 April 1979	Shkodra, Lezha	35
Earthquake	30 November 1967	Shupenze	11
Flood	17 November 1992	Kruja, Lac, lezha, Shkodra	11
Earthquake	26 May 1960	Korca	7
Storm	08 January 2002	Shkodra, Dibra, Puka, Kukes	6
Snowfall/extreme temperature	January 2012	North	5



The disasters in Albania with the greatest number of affected people during 1945-2012

The disaster	Date	Location	People number
Drought	1989	The whole country	3.200.000
Storm	08 January 2002	Shkodra, Dibra, Puka, Kukes	400.000
Snowfall/extreme temperature	January 2012	North	230.000
Storm	08 January 2002	Shkodra, Dibra, Puka, Kukes	125.000
Flood	21 September 2002	Shkodra, Lezha	66.884
Flood	17 November 1992	Kruja, Lac, lezha, Shkodra	35.000
Flood	3 December 1992	Shkodra, Lezha, Vlora, Fier	14.000
Flood	20 December 1997	Lezha	8.000
Snowfall/extreme temperature	6 March 1985	North	7.085
Flood	27 November 2009	Shkodra, Lezha	6.600
Earthquake	26 May 1960	Korca	7
Storm	08 January 2002	Shkodra, Dibra, Puka, Kukes	6
Snowfall/extreme temperature	January 2012	North	5



The damages caused by some natural disasters in Albania during 1992-2012

The disaster	Date	Location	Damages (USD thousands)
Flood	21 September 2002	Shkodra, Lezha	17.500
Flood	27 November 2009	Shkodra, Lezha	7.930
Flood	17 November 1992	Kruja, Lac, lezha, Shkodra	7.000
Earthquake	06 September 2009	Dibra	1.540
Flood	04 December 2012	Lezha	173





Legal framework on DRR

- Two articles in the Constitution (article 170 and 174) which refer to emergency and disaster situations and measures to be taken in case of them.
- The Law on “Civil Emergency Services’ – Law 8756 from 2001 and
- Law Nr. 11/2013 “On some amendments to the Law no 8677 date 04.05.2001 state the measures to address the disasters.
- Legal framework currently under revision





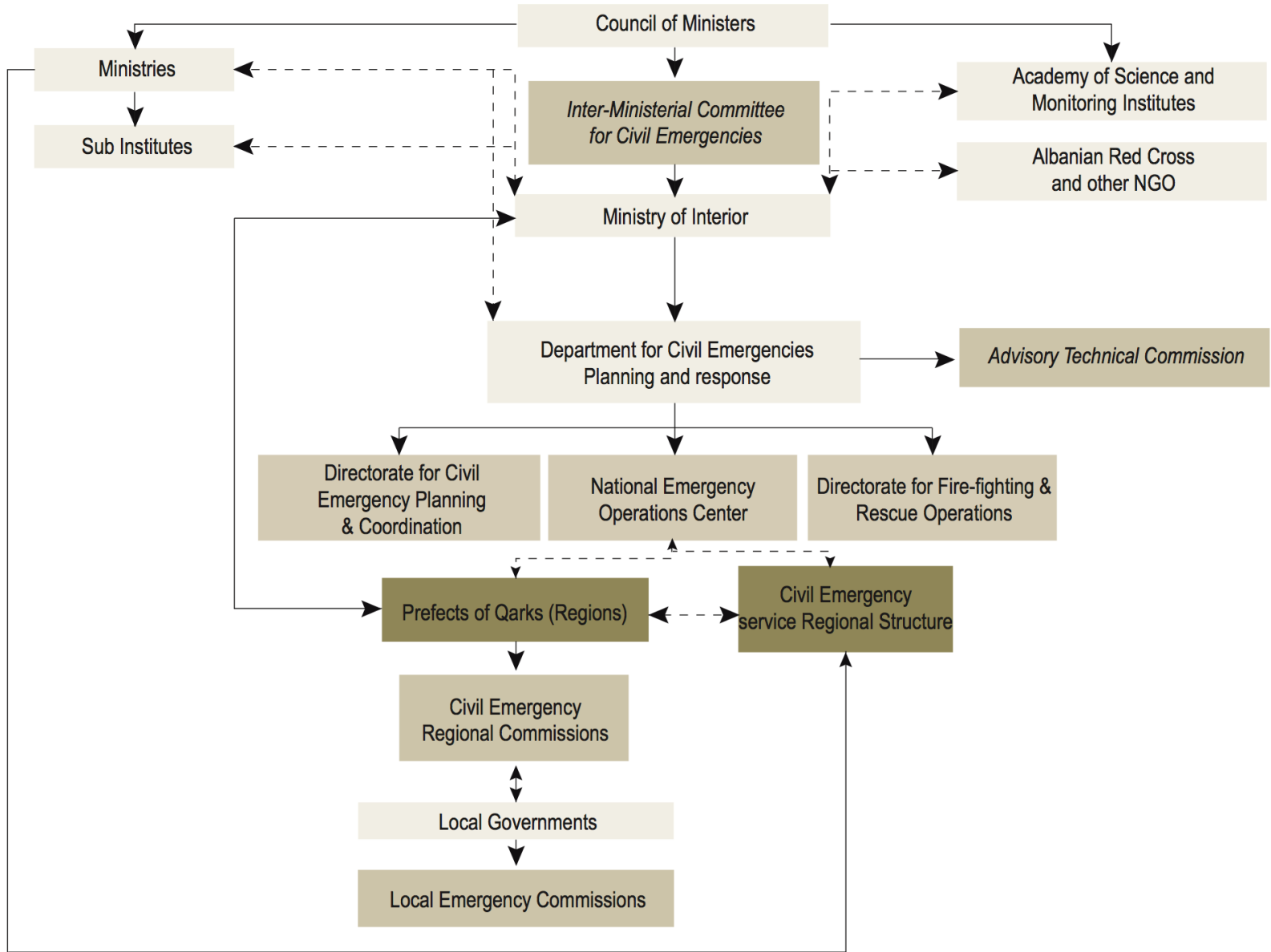
Institutional framework on DRM

- The process of the emergencies management is lead by the Council of Ministers. Its responsibilities:
 - endorse strategies and policies related to prevention and mitigation of emergencies
 - assigns the responsibilities of the line ministries.
- In case of a civil emergency, the concerned line ministries delegate their representatives to the **Operations Directorate of Command and Control of Civil Emergency**.
- In accordance with the area of expertise each of them designs plans and deal with emergencies.
- All the responsive steps of emergencies are coordinated by the Inter-Ministerial Committee of Civil Emergencies.



Figure 3.1

The current Albanian Civil Protection structure.





Institutional framework on DRM

The ‘**National Civil Emergency Plan**’ developed in 2004, specifies the structures for DRM in central and local government:

- **The General Directorate of Civil Emergency**, was established in the **Ministry of Interior**. The main structures of this Department include the Unit for Civil Emergency Planning and Coordination, the Unit for Fire-Fighting and Rescue operations and the National Operations center for Civil Emergency (NOCCE).
- **At prefecture level (12 prefectures) - The Commission of Planning and Responding to Civil Emergencies** functions under the responsibility of the prefect. There is only one person employed at this level who is responsible for emergency situations.
- **At municipality level (61 municipalities)** the mayors are responsible for responding to emergencies. He is the person who chairs the **Commission of Planning and Responding on Emergencies** which has all the necessary responsibilities to coordinate the response at this level. There is an emergency officer in each municipality. Tirana Municipality has a department of civil emergencies.



Institutions involved after a disaster event

- **Armed Forces (AF), State Police Structures, Ambulances, Police of Fire-Fighting and Rescue (PFFR)** and other operational forces are placed in readiness.
- Depending of the status of the emergency, they may initiate actions on the request of the respective **Prefect of the Region** and orders by their supervising bodies.

Institutions involved before and after a disaster event

- **Geoscience, Energy, Water and Environment (IGWE), the Institute of Nuclear Physics (INPh), and other relevant institutes, inspectorates and organizations** receive and provide information to the NOCCE on eventual dangers or threats, and in the case of an emergency, coordinate activities to assess the situation and estimate the needs.
- The participation of civil society in the responding activities in case of emergencies is stated in the current law. **The Albanian Red Cross** has some responsibilities such as to evaluate the capacities, to participate at community – level disaster planning. There are other organizations such as the **Albanian Center for Population and Development** which is cooperating with the Ministry of Health to contribute in emergency activities.



Future steps in DRM

- The Law on “Civil Emergency Services has subsequently been modified by institutional and technical commissions. Draft to be presented in 2017
- The new Civil Protection structure will adopt a multi-level system, emphasizing the role of local levels, whose competencies and responsibilities will be enhanced and enlarged to include preventative activities and planning, under the responsibility of prefects.
- Drafting the Emergency Plans and flood hazard&risk maps at Prefecture level for the whole country is a subcomponent of 2.5 MIL € IPA 2013 Program
- 25 municipal urban plans taking into account risk assessment and DRR have already been completed. The other 36 will start soon.



National plan of DRR activities until 2020

1. *Strategy on DRR and CP/strategic document approved.*
2. *Multyhazard Risk assessment and maps in national level reviewed, risk assessment and maps in 61 municipalities developed.*
3. *Loss databases improved in national level and developed in all the municipalities.*
4. *Substantial implementation of law “On compulsory insurance of dwellings from earthquake and flood” .*
5. *School curricula approved in all the education levels.*
6. *Multyhazard Early warning and alert systems substantially improved Building codes in force and fully implemented.*
7. *10 other cities will be part of “My city is getting ready” campaign.*
8. *Albania will be the 35th member of Union Civil Protection Mechanism*





Interview process

For the purposes of market research, during the period March-April 2017 the representatives of Epoka University and University of Tirana have conducted several interviews with experts of the area, professionals working in DRR, and representatives of government institutions in charge of civil protection.

- **Regional Environment Center** –an organization operating in the South Eastern Europe in the field of environment protection. They embraced the idea of new master programs and linked it to the outcome of one of the projects they were currently developing. They emphasized that REC have constantly demanded more action in the field of education, either by trainings, workshops or curricula development in primary and secondary education but in this request they had faced some barriers and skepticism by other partners of different programs.





- **General Directorate of Civil Emergencies in Albania** - We discussed mainly regarding the legal and institutional framework of disaster risk management. They were the most skeptical regarding the education programs especially because their focus was on the need of consolidation of legislation and institutions in the field.
- **Ministry of Agriculture and Water Administration, General Inspectorate of Water, and Municipality of Tirana** - The outcome of these interviews was very good, and the idea of new master program was embraced in all cases. They expressed the need of education in the field and both the more technic program planned to be offered by Epoka and the economics programs plan to be offered by UT was deemed important with the current development of the country.





- **Experts of the area, and researchers of the field** - Such include expert of the UNDP Climate change Program in Albania, Institute of Water research in Albania, IBECA project in Albania. In these cases we had very positive reviews. They emphasized that for too long Albania has been supported by international experts in this field, and it is very important to create our own experts which need to acquire in depth knowledge from their studies, not only during work trainings.
- **Albanian Financial Supervisory Authority representatives** - The Authority is in charge or supervision of Insurance market in Albania, therefore their opinion and suggestions were very important in terms of market needs in economics of DRR. They were more skeptical in relation to creation of a full master program in Disaster Risk management from our University, but regarded as very important the initiation of study programs in the field of risk management in general. This was the origin of the development of the idea of MSc in Risk Management in our University.



Employment possibilities in the field of DRR

1. Central and Local Government structures
2. NGO and other organizations working in the field of environment
3. Insurance companies
4. Large companies
5. Research institutions





Certificates and other requirements in job description

- National qualification framework
 - Not applied yet
- Training during the *job*
- *Trainings offered by international organizations*
 - *World Bank*
 - *UNDP*
 - *Other international organizations*
- Training offered by the Albanian School of Public Administration
 - Certificate issued
- Training and other formal education offered by education institutions
 - Not clarified yet in the bylaws of Higher Education Law
- Yearly evaluations
 - Based on outcomes
 - Based on trainings and other formal education
 - Based on long-run strategies of human resources for the institution





Next steps

- World Bank representatives who have been in charge of a project in the area of DRR for the curriculum of the master program;
- Ministry of Work representatives on the issue of LLL courses;
- Ministry of Education and Sport for the issue of new master program and LLL courses;
- National Agency of Territory Planning for discussion on market needs
- Representatives of large companies in Albania which by law are required to have an emergency plan on the need for education of their staff





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