



DRR policies and practices on the basis of UNECE EPR

16-17 October 2023, Skopje

SESSION 2 : Coherence between central and local DRR authorities

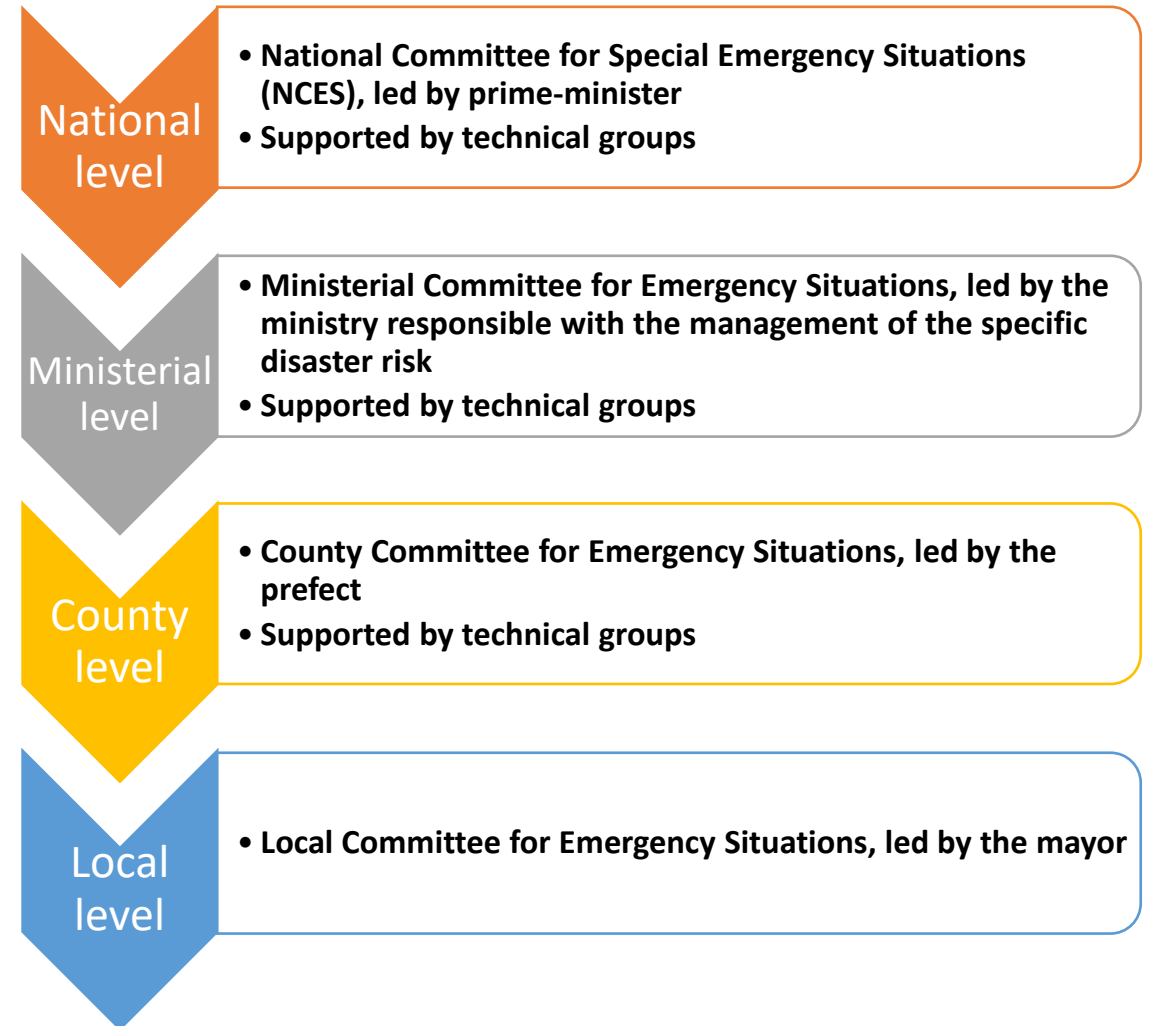


GENERAL INSPECTORATE FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

DRR authorities in Romania

Since 2004, the **National System for Emergency Situations (NSES)** is in place

- a **nationally owned** mechanism of stakeholders which operate on multi-levels
- covers most **disaster risk management phases**
- strong top-down **coordination**, strengthened during emergencies;
- well-structured **legislation** to cover both preparedness and response, as well as prevention phase
- dedicated **contingency fund** for covering intervention costs and disaster losses
- **GIES** acting as an overall coordinator as the NCES secretariat (since NCES is a non-permanent body)





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After Hyogo Declaration

- NCES became the main body responsible with the implementation of HFA, to build on existing system
- GIES as the National Focal Point for HFA

BUT

- NCES activity is mainly focused on **response**
- not all relevant central authorities and only few civil society organizations are part of the NCES
- little DRR **knowledge** and awareness
- lack of data to priorities risks and actions
- **weak legal enforcement** of DRR activities
- GIES initiatives on DRR, only within its own competences – public information, promoting legislative acts, risk assessment projects
- mostly **ad-hoc initiatives** from the ministries, academia and civil society

Steps forward:

- 2014: an EU funded project for the first National Risk Assessment, to provide guidance on risk prioritization
- 2016: **National Platform for DRR** was legally formed, as a consultative structure to support NCES in the implementation of Sendai Framework
- 2019: an EU funded project was initiated, to develop a **National Strategy for DRR** with expertise from the WB

It is expected that by June 2024 the National Strategy for DRR to be legally adopted, paving the way to integrate the single-hazard activities and promote all-society approach to DRR



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pentru Reducerea Riscurilor
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Issue 1: Integrating DRR into national policies and regulations

- GIES, as the national authority for civil protection, is included in the **institutional consultations** prior to the adoption of all relevant legislative acts on DRM and other linked domains (such as territorial planning, climate change, critical infrastructure) and in **technical working groups**
- also, in case of national strategies and programmes adopted by government decision or law, an **additional feedback** is requested from the Ministry of Interior and GIES, as a subordinated structure

Challenges:

- little awareness of central authorities of the systemic nature of risk and the importance of multi-hazard and multi-risk approach
- legislative constraints – most DRR activities are not covered by existing legislation, therefore there is **no legal basis** to support them (especially financially)
- little interest on DRR, mostly due to the specific legislation mainly focused on preparedness and response
- reluctance to DRR projects at local level without reinforcement from central level, generated by **traditional top-down approach** and lack of knowledge



Issue 1: Integrating DRR into national policies and regulations

Steps forward:

- adoption of National Strategy for DRR, to support the integration of DRR in national and sectorial policies and plans
- extensive role of NP for DRR: **legal provision** for NP for DRR to provide consultative feedback on all relevant national strategies and programmes linked to DRM



Issue 2: Distribution of DRR responsibilities and competences

- for different types of hazards, different central authorities have the **leading role** and the main responsibility in managing the risk
- most central authorities have decentralized services (at county level), which guides and monitors the risk management activities for the specific hazard
- the existing NSES is constantly being adapted to address the requirements imposed by UCPM and Sendai Framework

Challenges:

- the current modus operandi **hinders the systemic approach** of risks
- legal framework doesn't cover all stakeholders
- civil society and private sector are **insufficiently involved**



Issue 2: Distribution of DRR responsibilities and competences

Steps forward:

- update the NP for DRR structure, include new **dedicated working groups** (for risk communication, for social protection, for cultural heritage etc.)
- reframe the operating mechanism of NP for DRR to facilitate the decision making process
- establish **county DRR platforms**, building upon the existing county level committees for emergency situations

These county DRR platforms will coordinate and monitor the implementation of the NS for DRR at local level



Issue 3: Financial resources allocated to DRR

Financial instruments in place:

- the Intervention Fund, a budget line dedicated to disaster response and post-disaster expenditure;
 - Catastrophe Deferred Draw Down Option (Cat DDO) to address shocks related to disasters or health-related events;
 - EU funds available through the Solidarity Fund (critical infrastructure repair, rescue, and temporary shelter, cultural heritage repairs, and debris removal/clean up);
 - the Romanian Program for Catastrophe Insurance – a compulsory indemnity home insurance scheme, introduced in 2008 to cover losses caused by earthquakes, floods, and landslides;
 - budgetary lines at central and local level dedicated to specific DRR measures, such as seismic retrofitting (until 2021), maintenance and improvement of the meteorological monitoring and prognosis and the water level monitoring systems.
- + EU funds and grants and WB loans for dedicated projects



Issue 3: Financial resources allocated to DRR

Challenges:

- all national strategies and programmes for the management of specific risks have action plans, where budgets and funds are identified, BUT most major investment funds are EU funds or WB loans
- some central authorities prefer to access EU funds for dedicated projects, due to the **stability of the source** vs. budgetary restrictions
- these funds are available mostly at central level, the central authority provides grants or loans to local authorities, private sector or the citizens

Steps forward:

- dedicated **DRR grants** for local authorities



Issue 4: DRR integrated into spatial planning and urban development

- the specific legislation states that the General Urban Plan and the related Local Urban Plans must take into consideration the **natural hazard maps** (floods and landslides) as well as the emergency planning zones
- the county inspectorates for emergency situations provide input on the General Urban Plan and the related Local Urban Plans, in order to make sure the **safety restrictions** are applied



Issue 5: Experiences regarding a decentralized crisis management organization

- central authorities have decentralized structures at county level, which are implementing & monitoring measures established by central authorities/specific legislation
- central authorities work well together, the **network** was strengthened during joint projects and programmes and due to the regional and international acts and frameworks
- decentralized structures are not accustomed to work together outside the disaster phase or without **proper reinforcement from the central level**



Thank you for your attention! Any questions?



Manuela TINDECHE – DRR expert

General Inspectorate for Emergency Situation

manuela.tindeche@igsu.ro