



CROATIAN PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



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Croatia - threats:

Natural:

- Earthquakes
- Floods and flashfloods
- Droughts
- Landslides
- Ice rain
- Storms
- Tide waves

Anthropogenic:

- Industrial accidents with dangerous substances
- Traffic accidents (rail, roads, tunnels!)
- Maritime accidents
- Damages on dams
- Nuclear accidents



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- Why?

1. History

- Protection & Rescue (P&R) System has a long history
- 140 years of Firefighting
- 80 years of Civil Protection (CP)
- Regulatory framework:
 - Constitution (1990) - Firefighting and CP regulated at local level
 - 2004 P&R Act - on principles of subsidiarity and solidarity
 - 1965 Seismic resistance construction legislation



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2. Elements of DRR

- Land use and spatial planning
- Population density
- Economic development
- Environmental and natural resources protection
- Education and raising public awareness of disaster hazards
- Disaster-related damages



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- How?

First step :

- Establish an Initiative Committee, identify responsible actors for initial tasks (e.g. national Civil Protection service or crisis management and planning service)
- Identify all current risks for the country and all activities aimed at reducing the risks, linking them to the HFA objectives and priorities
- Develop basic documents to explain the importance of NP and the need for its establishment, to politics, science, economy, religious communities and NGOs, as well as their role therein



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National Platform may be:

- A document defining DRR activities, primarily in the field of P&R (raising public awareness, education, early warning systems)
- A document linking the P&R world with the spatial planning world
- A document merging P&R systems (state, local government, NGOs), spatial planning, science, economic and social development planning, education and social welfare = **COMPREHENSIVE PLATFORM** - *as such it can only be an open panel for the exchange of experience, or too strong connections would substitute the government and all its ministries!!*



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Define form and type of NP- whether it is:

1. A single strategy subject to annual review and periodical upbuilding (e.g. every 3-5 years)
2. A set of initial conclusions from various fields subject to more frequent reviews (on half-year or year basis)
3. Basic framework with a national committee directing actors and defining various short- or long-term tasks (e.g. strengthening education, development of anti-flood systems, strengthening the role of DRR in spatial planning and similar)



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Second step:

- Have a founding meeting for NP, set up a committee and working bodies (secretariat) - this can be a special group or the function of the secretariat can be performed by a national authority (e.g. CP)
- Prepare the first meeting of the national platform, discuss the initial document and reach appropriate conclusions on the establishment of NP and its future activities
- Establish the dynamics for regular NP Committee meetings and activities to be taken between (half-annual and annual) meetings, manner of follow-up of the participants and of presenting the achievements to experts and the general public



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- National Protection and Rescue Directorate (DUZS) prepared the basic document for the Croatian Platform - contents:
 1. Reasons for its adoption
 2. Concept - forum for the exchange of proposals, information and achievements from all areas of science, economy and society
 3. Proposal:
 - Set up the Croatian Platform Committee
 - Convene regular annual Croatian Platform conferences
 - Include all achievements through papers, discussions and conclusions
 - The Committee directs, encourages and monitors activities during the period between conferences



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- At DUZS' proposal the RC Government brought forth the decision founding Croatian Platform in March 2009
- The decision established the Croatian Platform Committee and invited participants to nominate its members
- The Committee was set up in June 2009
- It is chaired by the RC Government representative, i.e. the deputy prime minister in charge of security issues



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- Committee members from governmental organisations:
 - DUZS
 - Ministry of Interior
 - Ministry of Defense
 - Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration
 - Ministry of Economy, Labor and Entrepreneurship
 - Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
 - Ministry of Science, Education and Sports
 - Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure
 - Ministry of Culture
 - Ministry of Finance
 - Ministry Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management



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- Committee members from:
 - Science
 - Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts
 - Universities of Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Osijek, University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica,
 - National Meteorological and Hydrological Service,
 - NGOs:
 - Croatian Red Cross
 - Croatian Mountain Rescue Service
 - Croatian Firefighting Organization
 - Croatian Caritas



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Croatian Platform for disaster risk reduction

- Permanent forum for the exchange and provision of opinions, proposals and achievements contributing to disaster risk reduction in all areas of human activities with a view to making the disaster risk reduction both a national priority and a priority of the local communities
- With a strong institutional basics for its application, as defined in the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Croatia of 10 March 2009. *The date marked the beginning of the process establishing the Croatian Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.*



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Two conferences have been held so far.

- First Conference was held in November 2010 and attended by around 180 representatives of the authorities, academia, economy and NGOs. 51 papers were presented and conclusions adopted which proved the Platform to be an important tool in disaster risk reduction
- First Conference Proceedings Book was published in spring 2011



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- **Second Croatian Platform Conference was held in October 2010 with 150 participants and 45 papers**
 - The work was divided in five sections for the first time, resulting in better discussion of the proposed topics
 - Conclusions of the Second Conference are a basis for short- and long-term work on disaster risk reduction
 - The work was especially directed toward more significant inclusion of disaster risk reduction in national curricula
 - The Conference called for support to be provided to scientific projects concerning disaster risk reduction
 - All central state administration bodies have been tasked with paying special attention to disaster risk reduction in their line of work
 - The conclusion was to invite representatives of local self-government units to attend the Third Conference
 - Possibility was considered to define greater powers of the Croatian Platform Committee in order for the Platform to have stronger influence over activities of all participants in disaster risk reduction



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Future outlook/ Plans/ Issues

Participants in the Croatian Platform have recognized their task in the development of capacities for activities and management in disasters at political, technical and institutional levels.

A future progress should be ensured by fostering dialog, establishing coordination and exchange of information between crisis managers and development sectors, as well as through regional and local approach to disaster response focusing on risk reduction.