

# **BUILDING AN ARK**

**EUROPEAN FORUM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**Rome, 08-09 March 2011**

**Macedonian Chairmanship 2011**



**Ljupco RISTOVSKI**

**State Counsellor**

**Macedonian Government**

- **1. Make Disaster Risk Reduction a Priority**
  - Ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
- **2. Know the Risks and Take Action**
  - Identify, assess, monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning
- **3. Build Understanding and Awareness**
  - Use knowledge, innovation, and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
- **4. Reduce Risk**
  - Reduce the underlying risk factors
- **5. Be Prepared and Ready to Act**
  - Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

# European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction

- **Formally established in London 2009**
- **Representatives from European National Platforms and HFA Focal Points**
- **Supported by UNISDR, Council of Europe, European Commission and DPPI**
- **1st annual meeting of the EFDRR – Gothenburg, Sweden (6-8 October 2010)**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the EFDRR - Skopje, Macedonia (October 2011)**

# **European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction**

## **- General Goals & Overall Objectives**

- **Contribute to the implementation of the HFA**
- **Forum for exchanging information and knowledge in the field of DRR and HFA**
- **Provide advocacy for effective action to reduce disasters**
- **Promote and support creation of new National Platforms**
- **Create a safer Europe by reducing the impact of natural hazards to reduce vulnerability and by increasing the ability to minimize consequences of disasters**

# EFDRR Priorities

- **Support the development of national platforms as multi-stakeholder structures**
- **Support the implementation of the HFA**
- **Facilitate the link between climate change adaptation (CCA) and DRR**
- **Share good practices and lessons learnt from European countries, sub-regions and local level**
- **Enhance information sharing and exchange between existing national platforms and focal points**
- **Promote exchange of experiences and dialogue between regions**
- **Share information about the activities of other international/regional organizations and EU in the field of DRR**
- **Prepare for the Global Platform sessions**

## **Focus areas and activities identified by NPs and HFA Focal Points**

- **Adaptation to Climate Change and extreme weather events**
- **Critical infrastructures (such as hospitals and schools)**
- **Local level / Community level approach**
- **Safety level standards**
- **Harmonize risk mapping and assessments including data collection**

## How the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction works...

- **Bottom-up and participatory approach**
- **Building on existing institutions/ organizations**
- **Avoid the creation of bureaucratic layers and rigid structures**
- **Meet on an annual basis**
- **Not act as a political forum and the forum can not speak for the interests of the member countries**

# European Forum for DRR: National Platforms and Focal Points

- **16 European countries with established platforms & focal point for HFA: Bulgaria, Croatia\*, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia\*, Monaco\*, Poland, Russian Federation\*, Switzerland\*, Spain, Sweden and UK**
- **20 European countries with focal points for HFA: Albania\*, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia Herzegovina\*, Cyprus, Denmark, Georgia, Greece, Iceland\*, Malta, Moldova\*, Montenegro\*, Norway\*, Portugal, Romania, Serbia\*, Slovenia, Turkey\* and Ukraine\*.**
- **Total 36**

**\*Not EU members**

**List updated October 2010**



# Organisation 2011

- **Chair and Co-Chair**
- **Steering group (Chair, Co-Chair, UNISDR, Council of Europe)**
- **“Friends of Chairs group” (Chair, Co-Chair, UNISDR, Council of Europe, DPPI, EU Commission, France, Germany, UK, Sweden)**
- **Open to National Platforms and HFA Focal Points in Europe and regional/sub regional partners**
- **UNISDR provides secretariat**
- **Working groups for identified areas and for preparing the annual meetings**

# Main question: How to achieve all these?

An old British wisdom:

An ounce prevention = pound medicine

- **First** – wise prevention
- **Second** – steady preparedness
- **Third** – timely response
- **Forth** – properly managed recovery

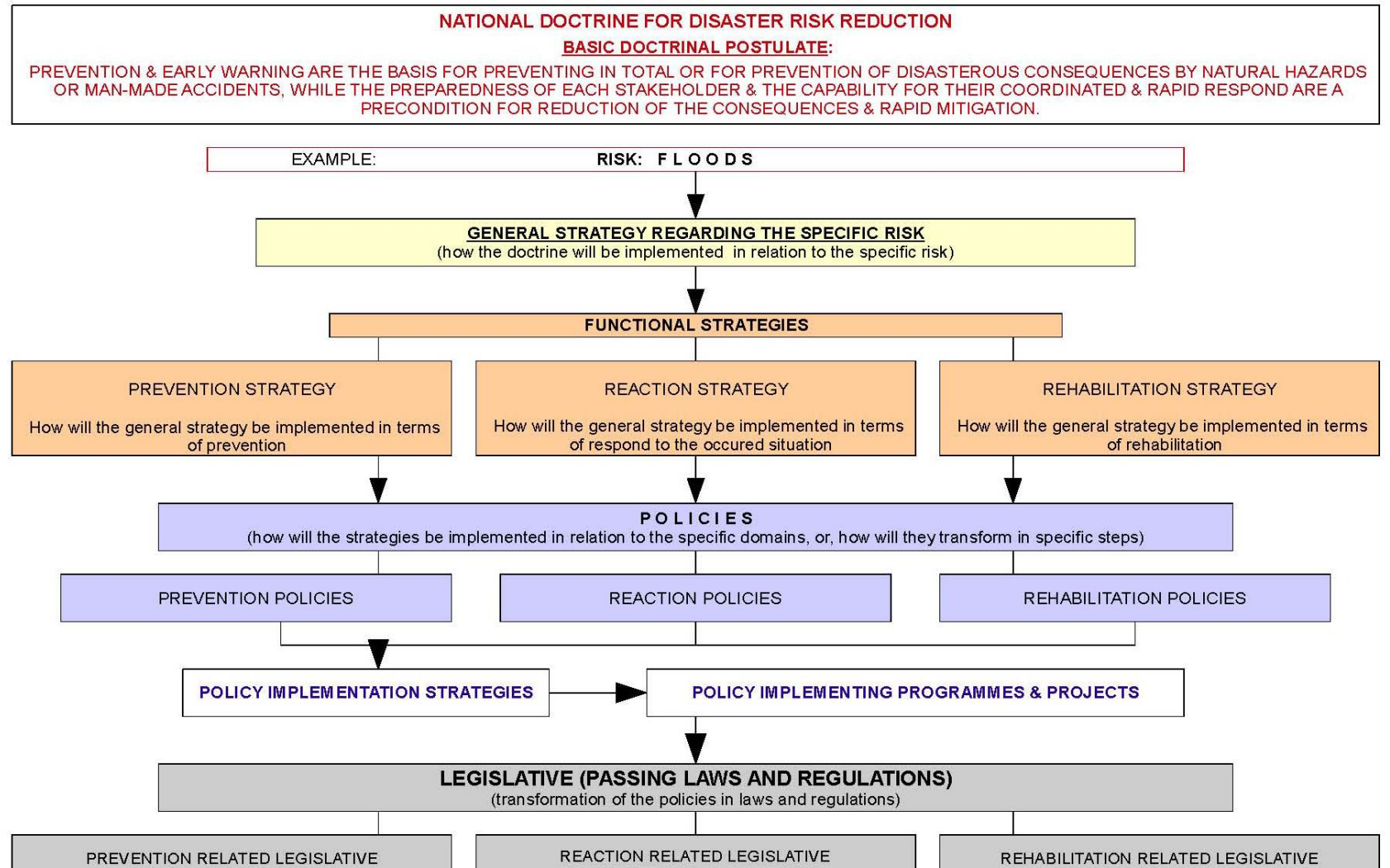
# Question still remains...

- **System approach on all levels and among them:**
  - **Local**
  - **National**
  - **Regional**
  - **Global**
  
- **Central point of each system are institutions**
  
- **The foundation of institutions is knowledge that should be based on values, valid principles, strong attitudes, and firm and steady commitment**
  
- **UNISDR & EFDRR – for more knowledge and better understanding of risk**
  
- **If something is not happening at the moment does not mean that do not exist as a threat.**

# What is the Macedonian Government doing...?

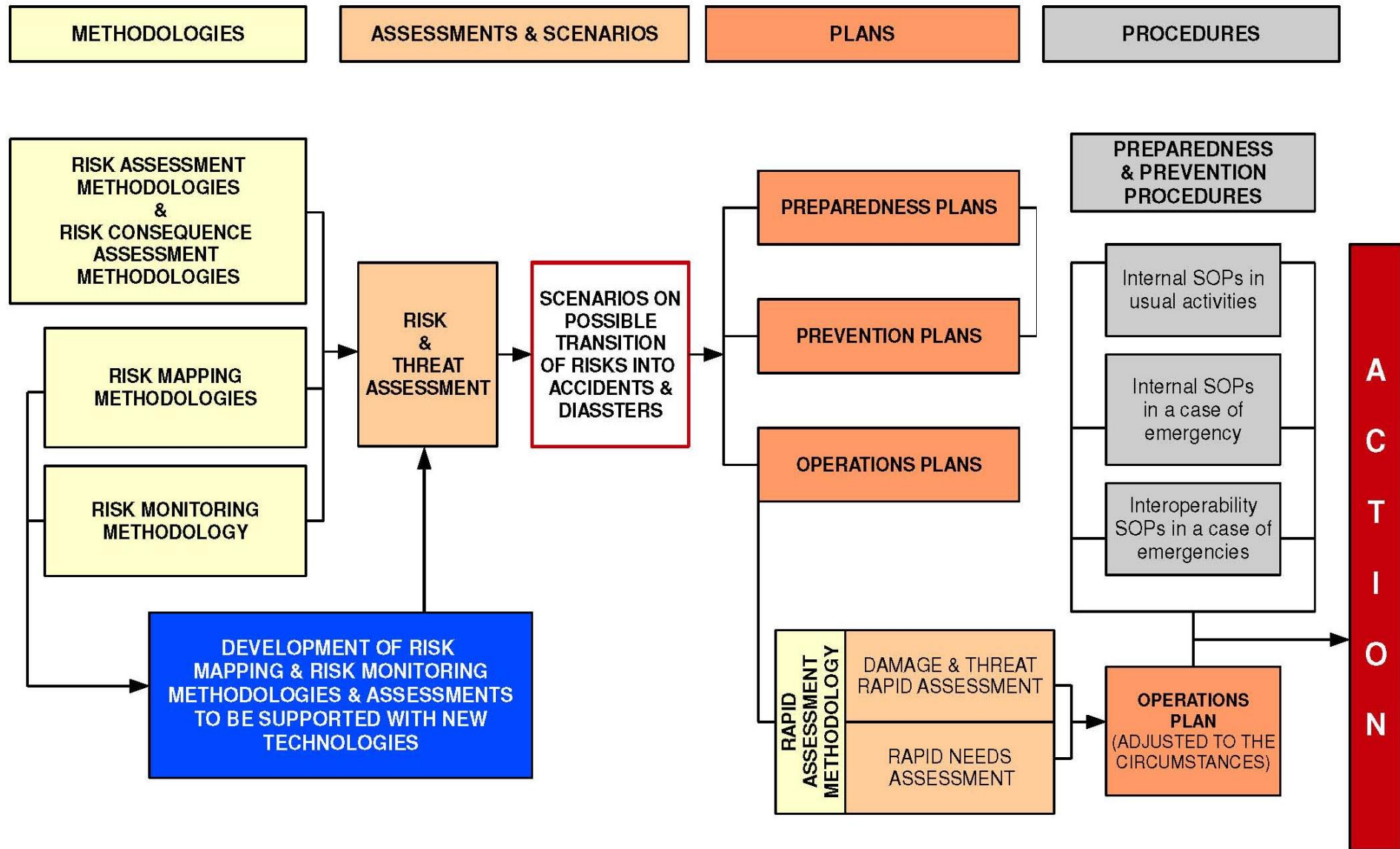
- **Accompanying all international DRR&CCA efforts from the very beginning fully aware of the seriousness of the moment**
- **Accompanied the HFA 2015**
- **Appointed National HFA focal point**
- **Involved in the UNISDR & EFDRR activities from the very beginning**
- **Adopted the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Republic of Macedonia**
- **Introduced in the system position National coordinator for the implementation of the National platform**

# Macedonian national DRR concept



# DISASTER RISK REDUCTION – METHODOLOGIES, ASSESSMENTS, SCENARIOS, PLANS & S.O.P

(IN THE CONTEXT OF EACH OF THE SPECIALIZED PLATFORMS)



# **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting of the EFDRR in Macedonia**

**Date: 05 – 07 October 2011**

**Place: Skopje, Republic of Macedonia**

## **■ Topics:**

- Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation**
- Information sharing and exchange & using financial instruments**
- Local level implementation of HFA or Risk assessment methodology (TBC/to be confirmed)**
- Global platform & Global assessment report outcomes**
- Update of the activities of other international/regional organizations in the DRR field**

# What are our advantages and what do we lack?

## Advantage is:

- To be open both to new ideas and old experiences
  - To make system works both on paper and in real life
  - To be aware on risks and personal responsibility
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## Challenges to face:

- Limited resources (human, technical, financial) for response and recovery
- Institutional coordination and management of available resources
- Public awareness (in general) and understanding by politicians and media (in particular)



# Macedonian step forward...

## In favor of pro-active DRR approach:

**All Macedonian religious leaders, Christian, Muslim and Jewish, signing a document supporting Macedonia's National Platform for DRR.**



# Holy books as a reminder...

## **Lessons from Biblical times that should be learnt\* (BE PRO-ACTIVE, BE DECISIVE, DO NOT HESITATE)**

- **Noah case** (Message: You better believe God's signs!)
- **Lot case** (Message: "Do not argue with God – You better listen His voice!")
- **Jonah case** (Message: "God loves the people as His creation and He has sorrow even for a single soul!")
- **Joseph case** (Message: "God has a plan - We better trust that plan!")

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**\*All these cases are mentioned in similar ways in the Bible, in the Koran and in the Torah.**

**DRR & CCA efforts might be considered as our joint respond as pro-active approach to that God's providence for our joint future.**

**WE SHOULD SIMPLY DO OUR BEST AND GOD WILL DO THE REST!**