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EU Support to Flood Prevention
and Forest Fires Risk Management
in the Western Balkans and Turkey



European Civil Protection

PRESS RELEASE

IPA Floods and Fires Program Launch event in Kosovo* 17 March 2021

On 17 March, the fourth national launch event of the European Union funded program IPA Floods and Fires (IPA FF) took place, in Kosovo, following events in North-Macedonia, Montenegro, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. IPA FF is a new 3-year initiative for floods and forest fires risk management in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

The launch event gathered representatives from the national authorities in charge of civil protection, representatives from the European Commission Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), the EU Office in Kosovo, the IPA FF Consortium partners and the embassies of the IPA FF consortium partners in the country.

The IPA FF program represents an important follow-up to previous EU-funded initiatives aimed at strengthening capacities for disaster risk prevention and preparedness in the region and in Kosovo. *“The continuation of the country's efforts in building and developing capacities for prevention and preparedness in the face of disasters, supported by the European Commission is a preamble to the mission field of the Emergency Management Agency”*, said Mr. Fadil Kodra, General Director, from the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) of Kosovo.

The programme represents also another step towards fostering regional cooperation, the sharing of best practices, and further alignment of partner countries' systems with the EU legislation in civil protection. Teodora Andreeva, Program Manager from the EU office in Kosovo, emphasized the importance of sustainable planning and reminded of several EU funded projects aiming at improvement of emergency prevention and response. *“The Program will assist the partner countries to foster regional cooperation and share the positive experience in variety of EU member states in civil protection. We encourage all the stakeholders to participate actively in the project since only if we truly work together for a common cause, we could reach the expected result”*.

The IPA FF Consortium is established by the Italian Civil Protection Department as coordinator jointly with the civil protection agencies of Sweden, Slovenia, Romania, the Fire and Rescue Brigade of the Moravian-Silesian Region of the Czech Republic, the Romanian National Centre for Disaster Management Foundation and the Italian CIMA Foundation.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this event, as well as the first phase of the programme, was organised in a virtual mode turning emergency into opportunity and guaranteeing the implementation of activities for a better risk prevention and response in the region.

Annex: IPA-FF fact sheet

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.



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