

***Driv***ing Innovation in Crisis Management for ***E***uropean ***R***esilience

**ALBANIA**
Policy, Legislation, Organisation, Procedures & Capabilities (PLOPC) in crisis management and disaster response



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Scope and limitations

This study serves as supporting information for further work within DRIVER.

Only limited time and budget has been available for this first general survey, which needs to be considered in terms of scope and completeness of the respective studies.

The author/s of this study is/are responsible for its content and quality.

This report was revised at the end of 2015, reviewed internally by EOS and amended according to reviewer's comments and recommendations upon the decision of the author/s.

# Overview

Albania has a total area of 28,748 km2. It shares a border with Montenegro to the northwest, with Kosovo to the northeast, with Macedonia to the north and east, and with Greece to the south and southeast. It has a coastline of approximately 476 km. Administratively, the country is divided into 12 regions (Albanian: qark or prefekturë), 36 districts, and 28 municipalities, which are the basic units of local self-government.

Albania is a one of the European countries particularly exposed to predominantly natural disasters. Its climate is shaped by the Mediterranean (Adriatic) sea to the East and the rugged mountainous landscape covering most of the territory to North, West and South. The main hazards are forest fires, floods, earthquakes and snowstorms. The high precipitation, combined with the high rate of seismic activity and anthropogenic factors (deforestation, urbanisation and a dam-burst risks) define floods and landslides as very likely and potentially devastating.

Crisis management is organised at three levels – national, regional and local. At national level, the Council of Ministers leads and governs the national system of civil emergency management in Alba­nia, with the main role played by the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies (logo on Figure 1) in the Ministry of Interior.



Figure 62: Symbol of the Albanian Civil Protection.

Prefects in the prefekturës (regions) are responsible for planning and coping with civil emergencies at prefekturë (regional) level. A Commission of Planning and Responding to Civil Emergencies is estab­lished in each prefekturë with the task to coordinate activities of the respective authorities and vol­unteer organisations for planning and coping with emergency. Accordingly, the mayor or the head of commune is responsible for planning and responding to civil emergencies in the respective munici­pality or commune (local) level. Under the chairmanship of the mayor or the head of commune, a Commission of Planning and Responding with Civil Emergencies is established, and its main task is to coordinate all activities of the local government unit and volunteer organisations, responsible for planning and responding to emergencies.

The principal operational forces or active structures in Albania are comprised of the Armed Forces; Directorate of Fire Protection and Rescue (PMNZZH); the Ambulance Service; the State Police and other Police units; Directorate of State Reserves; Units specialised in mines and technical response; Monitoring and operational supportive structures.

Human resources dedicated to crisis management (excluding Armed Forces’ personnel) include ap­proximately 450 civil protection personnel at prefekturë level (app. 50) and personnel employed in civil protection at municipal or district level. Involvement of private companies and volunteers is limited to approximately 500 active personnel.

Overall, Albania has limited capacity to prevent and capability to react to natural or anthropogenic disasters. With legacy shaped by the autarkic communist dictatorship of Enver Hoxha and civil un­rests in the 1990s, Albania has one of the lowest GDP per capita in Europe, despite the economic growth in the past several years.

The Albanian government has a clear understanding about the risk associated with natural or an­thropogenic disasters. It has developed the necessary legal framework. However it faces considera­ble challenges in mitigating disasters, primarily due to socio-economic factors and inadequate or­ganization. At the same time, the capacity for disaster response is also limited, due to financial con­straints and the poor condition of the country’s economy. In fact, any significant accident/ disaster would require international assistance.

# Table of Contents

[ALBANIA Policy, Legislation, Organisation, Procedures & Capabilities (PLOPC) in crisis management and disaster response 1649](#_Toc444260241)

[Overview 1650](#_Toc444260242)

[Table of Contents 1652](#_Toc444260243)

[List of Figures 1654](#_Toc444260244)

[List of Tables 1654](#_Toc444260245)

[List of Abbreviations 1655](#_Toc444260246)

[1 Policy 1657](#_Toc444260247)

[1.1 Risk Assessment 1657](#_Toc444260248)

[1.1.1 List of major hazards and risks in Albania  1660](#_Toc444260249)

[1.2 Policy and Governance 1662](#_Toc444260250)

[1.2.1 Strategy scope and focus 1664](#_Toc444260251)

[1.2.2 Monitoring and analytical support to policy making; R&D 1664](#_Toc444260252)

[1.2.3 Policy for Prevention 1666](#_Toc444260253)

[1.2.4 Policy for Preparedness 1668](#_Toc444260254)

[1.2.5 Policy for Response 1669](#_Toc444260255)

[1.2.6 Policy for Relief and Recovery 1670](#_Toc444260256)

[1.3 Financing 1670](#_Toc444260257)

[1.3.1 Investing in preparedness 1670](#_Toc444260258)

[1.3.2 Investing in consequence management 1671](#_Toc444260259)

[1.4 Policy review, Evaluation &Organisational Learning 1671](#_Toc444260260)

[1.4.1 Post-Disaster Assessment 1671](#_Toc444260261)

[1.4.2 Departmental Lessons Learned systems 1673](#_Toc444260262)

[1.4.3 Centralised (national) Lessons Learned system 1673](#_Toc444260263)

[1.4.4 International exchange for Lessons Learned 1673](#_Toc444260264)

[1.4.5 Regular policy reviews 1674](#_Toc444260265)

[1.5 Resilience 1675](#_Toc444260266)

[1.6 Information sharing and data protection 1675](#_Toc444260267)

[2 Legislation 1676](#_Toc444260268)

[2.1 Crisis (emergency, disaster) management concept 1676](#_Toc444260269)

[2.2 General crisis (emergency, disaster) management law 1677](#_Toc444260270)

[2.3 Emergency rule 1678](#_Toc444260271)

[2.4 Specific, department/agency-level legal arrangements and regulations on emergency and disaster management 1679](#_Toc444260272)

[2.5 Specific to the regional and local authorities legal arrangements and regulations on emergency and disaster management 1680](#_Toc444260273)

[2.6 Legal regulations on the involvement of volunteers and specialised NGOs 1682](#_Toc444260274)

[2.7 Legal regulations for international engagements of first responders and crisis managers 1682](#_Toc444260275)

[3 Organisation 1683](#_Toc444260276)

[3.1 Organisational chart 1683](#_Toc444260277)

[3.2 Organisational cooperation 1685](#_Toc444260278)

[4 Procedures 1689](#_Toc444260279)

[4.1 Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Guidelines 1689](#_Toc444260280)

[4.2 Operations planning 1689](#_Toc444260281)

[4.3 Logistics support in crises 1691](#_Toc444260282)

[4.4 Crisis communication to general public; Alert system; Public Information and Warnings 1691](#_Toc444260283)

[5 Capabilities 1693](#_Toc444260284)

[5.1 Human resources 1693](#_Toc444260285)

[5.2 Materiel (non-financial) resources 1693](#_Toc444260286)

[5.3 Training 1696](#_Toc444260287)

[5.4 Procurement 1697](#_Toc444260288)

[5.4.1 Procurement regulation 1697](#_Toc444260289)

[5.4.2 Procurement procedures 1697](#_Toc444260290)

[5.5 Niche capabilities 1698](#_Toc444260291)

[Resources 1699](#_Toc444260292)

[Legislative acts 1699](#_Toc444260293)

[Other normative acts 1699](#_Toc444260294)

[Official documents (white papers, strategies, etc.) 1700](#_Toc444260295)

[Online resources (e.g. websites of key CM organizations) 1700](#_Toc444260296)

[Publications 1701](#_Toc444260297)

## List of Figures

[Figure 1: Symbol of the Albanian Civil Protection. 1650](#_Toc444094155)

[Figure 2: Administrative Division of Albania. Source: IPA Beneficiary Needs Assessment Albania. 1663](#_Toc444094156)

[Figure 3: Organisational Chart of Civil Protection System in Albania. 1685](#_Toc444094157)

## List of Tables

[Table 1: Summarised Table of Natural Disasters in Albania from 1900 to 2014. 1658](#_Toc444094160)

[Table 2: Summarised Table of Technological Disasters in Albania from 1900 to 2014. 1659](#_Toc444094161)

[Table 3: Albanian institutions monitoring and assessing risks. 1665](#_Toc444094162)

## List of Abbreviations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| AAF | Albanian Army Forces  |
| AL-DRMAP | Albania Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project |
| ALL | Albanian Lek (the Albanian currency) |
| ALUIZNI | Agency for Legalization, Urbanization and Integration of Informal Constructions in the Republic of Albania |
| ARC | Albanian Red Cross |
| DCA | Danish Church Aid |
| DPPI | Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Response |
| EADRCC | Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center |
| EOD | Explosive Ordnance Disposal |
| EU-MIC | European Commission - Monitoring and Information Center |
| HAZMAT | Hazardous Material |
| HFA | Hyogo Framework for Action |
| IEWE | Institute of Energy, Water and Environment |
| IGEWE | Institute of Geoscience, Energy, Water and Environment  |
| IMC | Inter-Ministerial Committee |
| IOM | International Organization of Migration |
| IPA | [EU's] Instrument for Pre-Accession |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| ISDR | International Strategy for Disaster Reduction |
| ISDR | [UN] International Strategy for Disaster Reduction |
| MSNATA | Meteorological Service under National Air Traffic Agency |
| NCEP | National Civil Emergency Plan |
| NCESS | National Civil Emergency Service System |
| NICP | National Inspectorate of Civil Protection |
| NMHS | National Meteorological and Hydro meteorological Service |
| NOCCE | National Operation Centre for Civil Emergencies |
| SAR | Search and rescue |
| SEE | South Eastern Europe |
| SEEDRMAP | South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme |
| SEEDRMI | South East Europe Disaster Risk Management Initiative |
| UNDAC | United Nations Disaster Assessment Coordination |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNDP | United National Development Programme  |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNFCCC | UN Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNHCR | United Nations Humanitarians Committee of Refugees |
| UNISDR | UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction |
| UNMAS | United System Mine Action Service |
| UXO | Unexploded Ordnance |
| WMO | World Meteorological Organization |

# Policy

## Risk Assessment

The draft version of National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil Protection 2014-2018 [[1]](#footnote-1) contains a risk assessment based mainly on the UNDP Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Assessment Report for Albania.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The four main hazards affecting Albania are forest fires, floods, earthquakes and snowstorms. Among other hazards available assessments make reference to landslides, drought, epidemics, avalanches, tsunami, technological hazards, dam burst and storms.

While information on risk of natural hazards in Albania remains a challenge, available data shows that the risk level is increasing and is comparatively higher in Albania than in neighboring countries.[[3]](#footnote-3) Albania ranks 41st in the world in terms of vulnerability to landslides, 43rd in terms of earthquakes and 58th in terms of drought risks.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Risk of natural hazards is primarily driven by economic, social and environmental factors, as well as institutional and political context. Factors affecting earthquake risk are anchored in the application of building code and standards, the awareness and knowledge of engineers and builders, as well as in the incentives to ensure that non-engineered constructions are built to appropriate norms. A level of earthquake risk has accumulated over many years in Albania. This risk needs to be quantified and factored into emergency plans and future development policies and plans such as efforts to retrofit key buildings.

Other factors are driving the risk levels related to floods and forest fires, such as rapid deforestation, poor watershed management, low levels of preparedness of local population, insufficient monitoring and warning capacity and the need for better coordination between dam control and emergency flood managers.

A certain amount of risk will not be reducible in Albania and alternative mechanisms are required to offset the economic and social impact, such as catastrophic risk insurance schemes.

Climate change is a further compounding factor, as Albania’s rain and snow fall occurrence has one of the highest levels of variability in Europe. Climate change is projected to further increase the vari­ability and will result, for example, in a higher incidence of heat waves according to the Intergovern­mental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).[[5]](#footnote-5) These factors may already be influencing the occurrence and intensity of floods and forest fires in Albania; and, both floods and forest fires are projected to occur more frequently in the future. Albania’s National Communication under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) identifies Albania’s coastal zones, as well as water re­sources, ecosystems, agriculture, energy and tourism sectors as the most vulnerable to climate change.

From a statistical point of view, the most frequent natural disasters in Albania are floods and earth­quakes, with the former also causing significant financial damage (see Table 1).

Examples of recent impacts include the forest fires of the summer of 2007. The fires affected 30,856 hectares of forests and 7,139 hectares of pastures. The floods of December 2010 in the Lower Drini-Buna River Basin cost the Albanian economy ALL 2.5 billion (EUR 18 mln), rising to ALL 4.4 billion (EUR 37 mln) when indirect losses were accounted. A report, produced in 2012, estimates the cost of reducing the risk in the lower Drini-Buna River Basin to an acceptable risk of 50 year return period at ALL 7 973 mln, equivalent to EUR 57 mln. Recently, in February 2015 the Albanian Government de-

Table 38: Summarised Table of Natural Disasters in Albania from 1900 to 2014.[[6]](#footnote-6)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |   | # of Events | Killed | Total Affected | Damage (000 US$) |
| Drought | Drought | 1 | - | 3200000 | - |
|   | ave. per event |  | - | 3200000 | - |
| Earthquake | Ground movement | 6 | 47 | 8429 | - |
|   | ave. per event |  | 7.8 | 1404.8 | - |
| Epidemic | Unspecified | 1 | - | 226 | - |
|   | ave. per event |  | - | 226 | - |
|   | Viral disease | 1 | 7 | 66 | - |
|   | ave. per event |  | 7 | 66 | - |
| Extreme temperature | Heat wave | 2 | 3 | 150 | - |
|   | ave. per event |  | 1.5 | 75 | - |
|   | Severe winter cold | 2 | 73 | 237085 | - |
|   | ave. per event |  | 36.5 | 118542.5 | - |
| Flood | Unspecified | 1 | 4 | 1500 | - |
|   | ave. per event |  | 4 | 1500 | - |
|   | Coastal flood | 1 | - | 8000 | - |
|   | ave. per event |  | - | 8000 | - |
|   | Flash flood | 1 | 11 | 35000 | 7000 |
|   | ave. per event |  | 11 | 35000 | 7000 |
|   | Riverine flood | 6 | 4 | 92484 | 17673 |
|   | ave. per event |  | 0.7 | 15414 | 2945.5 |
| Landslide | Landslide | 1 | 57 | 26 | - |
|   | ave. per event |  | 57 | 26 | - |
| Storm | Convective storm | 2 | 8 | 525000 | - |
|   | ave. per event |  | 4 | 262500 | - |
| Wildfire | Forest fire | 1 | - | 75 | - |
|   | ave. per event |  | - | 75 | - |
|   |   |  |  |   |   |

clared a state of emergency and asked assistance from NATO, due to floods affecting most severely the districts of Vlora and Fieri.[[7]](#footnote-7)

Very conservative estimates of economic losses due to floods, landslides and forest fires that oc­curred since 2002, put the direct cost to the national economy at ALL 13 bln (EUR 94 mln).[[8]](#footnote-8) If indirect costs were factored in and the projected losses due to earthquakes were accounted for, the pro­jected costs of disaster to the national economy will be considerably higher.

Extreme temperature events have had severe impacts in the country, which is indicated by a large number of deaths per events. Landslides and earthquakes are the next most severe hazardous events in the country in terms of people killed.

The most severe technological accident recorded to date in Albania is the explosion which occurred at a munitions decommissioning facility on 15 March 2008, affecting more than 10 000 people. The accident caused 26 deaths, injuries to over 300 people, and the destruction of 2,300 buildings and displacement of 4,000 people (see also Table 2).

Some conclusions mentioned in *IPA Beneficiary Needs Assessment* (UNDP, 2011), are not included in risk assessment section of the *Strategy*, i.e. the conclusions emphasising the tendency that the less developed regions and social groups are the most vulnerable.

The South East European Climate Change Framework Action Plan for Adaptation acknowledges that the entire region of South East Europe will have to face increased annual mean temperatures, de­creased annual number of precipitation days and increased magnitudes and frequencies of climatic extremes. The majority of SEE countries also share similar vulnerable groups: low-income groups in drought-prone areas with poor infrastructure and market distribution systems, low to medium-in­come groups in flood-prone areas due to the possible loss of stored food or assets and farmers who may have their land damaged or submerged by increased floods. The first impacts of climate change will likely be felt in the agricultural production, the availability of water resources, forestry and en­ergy (since SEE countries are heavily dependent on hydropower).[[9]](#footnote-9)

The vulnerability of Albania’s citizens and the impact of disasters in the country are significantly compounded by a relatively high degree of poverty, lack of infrastructure maintenance, unsafe build-

Table 39: Summarised Table of Technological Disasters in Albania from 1900 to 2014.[[10]](#footnote-10)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |   | # of Events | Killed | Total Affected |
| Industrial accidents  | Fire | 1 | 60 | - |
| ave. per event |  | 60 | - |
| Miscellaneous   | Explosion | 1 | 22 | 10300 |
| ave. per event |  | 22 | 10300 |
| Transport accidents    | Road | 3 | 42 | 57 |
| ave. per event |  | 14 | 19 |
| Water | 1 | 16 | - |
| ave. per event |  | 16 | - |

ing and land use practices linked to rapid urbanisation, exploitation of natural resources (over­grazing of pasture, overexploitation of forests and riverbeds, etc.) as well as by the various conse­quences of the transition from a state-controlled to a free-market economy.[[11]](#footnote-11) Nearly 47 percent of Albanians live below the poverty line. Socio-economically fragile groups being often disproportion­ately exposed to hazards, the effects of a disaster would negatively affect the prospects for long-term develop­ment.

Part of Albania’s structural vulnerability stems from the obsolescence of some installations such as dyke systems, drainage channels, high water collection or flood-control facilities and pumping sta­tions. Many of these have not been improved in recent times and their deterioration may easily ag­gravate the consequences of river flooding. During the winter 2009-2010, severe flooding created a critical situation at the River Drini hydro-power plants and water-reservoirs as well as downstream, in the area between Vau, Dejes and the Adriatic Sea. Albania’s flooding potential is further increased by the proliferation of high earth dams constructed on rugged terrain that is subject to landslides and earthquakes. The 2003 Risk Assessment Study of Natural Disasters established that the greatest de­mand placed on the national civil emergency system would result from earthquakes occurring in Durres, Elbasan, Berat or Vlora. In these regions, only a few hospitals and school structures are de­signed appropriately and the safety of residential buildings is generally poor.

### List of major hazards and risks in Albania [[12]](#footnote-12)

*Seismic risk*

Albania is characterised by a high rate of seismicity. Albania, together with Greece, Montenegro, Macedonia, southern Bulgaria and western Turkey (all located in the same region), experience al­most annual occurrences of at least one earthquake of magnitude ≥ 6.5. Albania is characterised by intense micro (1.0<M≤3.0), small (3.0<M≤5.0) and medium-sized (5.0<M≤7.0) earthquake activity, and rarely by large (M>7.0) earthquake events. Tirana accounts for more than one quarter of the urban seismic risk, perhaps considerably more if the official population figure is underestimated. The seven largest cities at risk in Albania account for more than 75 percent of the urban risk.[[13]](#footnote-13) Earth­quake risk reduction is crucial as most strong earthquakes have been accompanied by extensive land instability (such as liquefaction, ground subsidence, surface cracks, landslides and rock slides) and can, at times, be held accountable for small tsunamis.

*Flood risk*

The Albanian river system poses the highest risk of flooding to the country, generally of pluvial origin. The hydrographic basin encompasses an area of 43,305 km2, of which 14,557 km2 belong to the wa­tersheds of the Drini and Vjosa rivers, which encompass parts of Greece, Macedonia and Kosovo. The eight main rivers in Albania are grouped into six watersheds that transverse the country from east to west. Their main annual discharge is 1,308 m3/sec, which corresponds to the discharge of 30 m3/sec/km2. Floods are more frequent during the November–March period, when the country receives about 80–85 percent of its annual precipitation. Due to topographic patterns, these floods occur rapidly after water has run through the main river hydrographic network for around 8–10 hours.

DRR primarily has to deal with preventive, preparative and reparative measures aimed at flooding of the Buna, Drini and Semani river basins. In these areas the expected number of flooded buildings (100 year returned period) ranges from 15,500 to 24,000 (± 10 percent), which would cause demands for shelter and/or other forms of assistance for an estimated 84,000 to 172,000 (± 10 percent) peo­ple. The implications of disaster related to other river basins are considerably lower, ranging from about 4,000–8,000 (± 10 percent) affected buildings corresponding shelter and/or other forms of assistance for 25,000 to 50,000 (± 10 percent) people.[[14]](#footnote-14) The 100 year return period of West Plain Flooding would adversely affect 20 Districts (out of 36), 341 villages (out of 2,962), 110 Communes (out of 308), about 85,500 buildings covering 7,900,000 m2 and 565,000 people.

*Risks of Landslide*

Albania is characterized by land instability caused by natural factors (e.g. mechanical action of sur­face and underground water, precipitation, seismic action, physical and chemical conveyance) and anthropogenic factors (e.g. engineering interventions on slopes, the construction of dams, large wa­ter retention reservoirs, roads, tunnels and other related infrastructure facilities). The Albanian terri­tory is divided into three zones of natural slope stability – stable, relatively stable and unstable, cor­responding respectively to 56.6 percent, 33.6 percent and 9.8 percent of the total territory of the country. Land instability in Albania occurs primarily after massive torrential rain or snowfall. Various types of landslide (rock falls, topples or torrent deposits) are often recorded along disturbed slopes on national and regional transportation routes, in the irrigation water usage or other engineering works.

In addition, hydro-technical works either interrupt the weak equilibrium of geological formations or accelerate existing landslides. Consequently, the largest landslides have developed in the basins of the main hydropower plants of Fierza (the Porava landslide), Vau i Dejes (the Ragami landslide) and Banja (the Banja landslide).

*Dam-burst risks*

Dams and reservoirs in Albania are primarily constructed for: agricultural and irrigation needs, flood control, hydropower and recreation. Presently there are 630 dam reservoir systems in the country, 307of which are recognized as either high dams (height ≥ 15 m) or large dam reservoir systems.[[15]](#footnote-15) Among the 82 ICOLD members, Albania ranks first in number of dams per 10,000 inhabitants. The height of the majority of dams ranges from 10–30 m (524 dams) to 30–60 m (77 dams). Six dams are higher than 60 m, of which two are higher than 100 m (the Koman Dam, 115 m and the Fierza Dam, 167 m). At a height of 167 m the Fierza Dam is the highest dam of this type in Europe. All high dams in Albania are earth-filled.

Migration and urban expansion have led to increased concentrations of populations and material property in such downstream areas. In the event of dam bursts: 246 (57 percent) could affect a pop­ulation larger than 100; 56 (36 percent) could impact areas with more than 500 inhabitants; and any of the other 57 would affect areas with a population in excess of 2,500. Burst of eight out of those 57 dams could affect the entire towns of Elbasan (population over 100 thousand), Lushnje (population over 37,829) and Divjake (more than 10,000 inhabitants). Albania is planning to build new small hy­dropower plants; currently only 40 percent of country hydroelectric potential is exploited. Therefore this risk is expected to increase in the near future.

*Snowfall risk*

Snowfall risk occurs mainly during the period from November to March, and in the mountainous northern, north-eastern, central and southern parts of the country. Typical high snow hazards are road blockage (due to the lack of maintenance and poor conditions of roads) and avalanches. The population residing in these areas (at least 30 cm snow-depth) ranges from 11.6 percent (355,000 ± 10 percent) to 31.3 percent (1 million ± 10 percent). Disaster preparedness planning is needed for such situations that last longer than 30 days (taking into consideration conditions like household food reserve levels or seriously ill patients).

*Wild/Forest Fire risk*

Forests occupy roughly 29 percent of Albania. Most of the forestland (77 percent) consists of low productivity degraded forests like oak forests (31.8 percent) and scrubland [[16]](#footnote-16) (25.6 percent). Forest areas can be divided into two basic functional categories: productive forests (some 900,000 ha or 86 percent of the total area); and protected and recreational forests (some 140,000 ha or 14 percent). The forests of Albania are prone to fire, especially at the end of spring and during dry summers.

Among Mediterranean countries, Albania is one of the most affected by forest fires. The total area burnt during 2007 reached 127,000 ha, whereas the figure in 2008 was significantly lower at 19,254 ha (11,389 ha burnt in forest or wooded land and 2,080 ha of agricultural land). Fire causes are of both anthropogenic origin (human negligence, pasture burning and, to a lesser extent, arson) and natural origin (lightning). Human misuse of fire, accompanied with deforestation and grazing prac­tices, are among the key reasons for the forest destruction. For DRR management, more training of fire-fighting personnel is considered necessary.

*Technological risks*

The main technological hazards for Albania are industrial pollution, toxic wastes, transport accidents, factory explosions and chemical spills. Although the country is well endowed with natural resources, such as oil, natural gas, coal, chromium, copper, nickel and timber, technological risks do not pose a significant threat to the population (except in the case of accidents) due to a low level of industrial activity. However, as hazardous materials, substances and products remain in stock in different parts of the country, DRR preparedness and response are still deemed necessary to properly manage the risk of technological disasters.

## Policy and Governance

According to the Albanian disaster risk response legislation [[17]](#footnote-17) the national crisis management frame­work consist of three levels – national, regional and local.

At national level, the Council of Ministers leads and governs the national system of civil emergency management in Albania. This includes endorsing strategies, policies, programmes that aim to pre­vent, mitigate, prepare and respond to civil emergency situations.

Each line ministry is responsible for planning and handling civil emergencies according to their area of expertise. To be effective, this requires coordinated inputs from a number of line ministries. The Inter-Ministerial Committee of Civil Emergencies coordinates the appropriate actions of all con­cerned institutions through all the phases of response to civil emergency situations. A *General Direc­torate of Civil Emergencies* [[18]](#footnote-18) was established in the Ministry of Interior.

Prefects in the prefekturës (regions) are responsible for planning and coping with civil emergencies at prefekturë (regional) level. Under the chairmanship of the prefect, a Commission of Planning and Responding to Civil Emergencies is established whose task is coordination of activities of the prefekturë authorities and volunteer organisations for planning and coping with emergencies. The 12 prefekturës of Albania have one full-time civil emergency officer.

The mayor or the head of commune is responsible for planning and responding to civil emergencies in the respective municipality or commune (local) level. Under the chairmanship of the mayor or the head of commune, a Commission of Planning and Responding with Civil Emergencies is established, and its main task is to coordinate all activities of the local government unit and volunteer organisa­tions, responsible for planning and responding to emergencies.

The main non-governmental organisation that provides volunteer services for local risk and capacity assessments, public education and community-level disaster planning is the Albanian Red Cross (ARC).



Figure 63: Administrative Division of Albania. Source: IPA Beneficiary Needs Assessment Albania.

When describing the Albanian DRR Institutional Framework, the authors of Albania’s Needs Assess­ment report [[19]](#footnote-19) concluded that:

*Although there are powers and responsibilities assigned to the regional and local gov­ernments in DRR, the system in Albania remains highly centralised. Regional and local governments do not receive sufficient funding and in practice are excluded from deci­sion-making. Moreover, legislation does not yet specifically encourage community par­ticipation in disaster risk reduction.*

### Strategy scope and focus

The draft version of *National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil Protection 2014-2018* in­troduces a comprehensive approach toward DRR and DRM including prevention, preparedness, re­sponse and recovery. The document contains a conclusion that “*The main challenge is increasing the level of understanding of disaster risk reduction concepts – in order to shift perception of disaster risk reduction from “disaster response” towards “risk reduction” this needs to be addressed within long-term development plans.*”[[20]](#footnote-20) However, it seems that the scope of ‘Prevention’ is the monitoring of hazards and the early warning. It is hard to find a true “risk reduction” through, for example, re­quirements and/or actions addressing respective infrastructure, urban and rural development.

### Monitoring and analytical support to policy making; R&D

According to the Strategy,[[21]](#footnote-21) the Institute of Geoscience, Energy, Water and Environment (IGEWE) is the institution in Albania for national monitoring and warning structure for natural hazards of mete­orological origin, including floods, wildfires and earthquakes. IGEWE is endorsed by the World Mete­orological Organization as the National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Service for Albania.

According to IPA Beneficiary Needs Assessment,[[22]](#footnote-22) Albania monitors and assesses its risks from natu­ral hazards through several relevant institutions (see Table 3).

However, the DRR Capacity Assessment Report [[23]](#footnote-23) states that:

Table 40: Albanian institutions monitoring and assessing risks.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Seismic risks | Department of Seismology within the Institute of Geo-sciences (Tirana Polytechnic University) |
| Floods, avalanches, heavy snow | Primarily by the Institute of Water, Environment and Energy (Tirana Polytechnic University) |
| Landslides | Institute of Geo-sciences (Tirana Polytechnic University) |
| Forest fire | Department of Forests and Pastures (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection) |
| Epidemics | Institute of Public Health (Ministry of Health) |

*At University level there is no faculty that supports the education of seismic or hydrology ex­perts. Seismologists and hydrologists are usually drawn from the faculties of mathematics, civil engineer, physics and geophysics and are then trained in seismology or hydrology. A project of the Institute of Geoscience to collaborate with IIZIS (based in Macedonia) and other university institutes in the region, for providing postgraduate education in seismology, has not yet been implemented due to a lack of funds.*

Under the Albania Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project (AL-DRMAP)[[24]](#footnote-24) project three main activities were financed. One of them was the complete digitalisation of Hydrometeorological data. 20 years of hydrological data and 10 years (2001-2011) of meteorological data have been digitised. The data was undergone quality analysis and has been published on the IGEWE (Institute of GeoSci­ences, Energy, Water and Environment) website for user access. 40 hydrometeorological observing stations have been installed, and the real-time data from the majority of these stations are now flowing. 3-day and 7-day bulletins are published and posted on the website for user access. Forest Fires Warning Bulletin during the summer and a Meteorological Warning Bulletin during the wet seasons are issued.

Under the Program for Prediction, Prevention and Mitigation of Forest Fire and Flood risk in Albania an advanced system for hydro-meteorological monitoring, DEWETRA,[[25]](#footnote-25) was donated by the Italian Civil Protection Department and the CIMA foundation. The system was implemented in 2010-2012. Out of this program, CIMA also supported the development of disaster loss database in Albania and Serbia, using the Disaster Inventory System (DesInventar)[[26]](#footnote-26).

### Policy for Prevention

As noted in the *National Civil Emergency Plan* of Albania [[27]](#footnote-27) the Prevention and mitigation for existing structures, facilities and environmental areas in Albania is a shared responsibility, requiring:

a) *Information*. Essential information includes:

* Seismological, hydrological and meteorological data;
* Technical information on the conditions of maintenance, repair and safety of: housing and transport infrastructure, and essential installations including dams, mines, public and private sector land and marine industrial installations, complexes and stores;
* Technical information regarding the state of environmental areas, such as drainage basins and watersheds, including forests, rivers, primary, secondary and tertiary channels, unstable slopes, wetlands and reclaimed areas;
* The level of pollution, hygiene and epidemiological data as well as level of civic order.

b) *Observing and Applying Standards*. Developing, resourcing and implementing appropriate schedules and standards include:

* Regular agreed maintenance schedules;
* Agreed forecast repair schedules;
* Attaining and maintaining minimum agreed national standards of safety installations and inter­nal and external inspection procedures.

c) *Improvements*. Planning and resourcing improvements include:

* Repair, upgrading, improving and retro-fitting up to or above original minimum standards of use;
* Taking into account new hazards and risks posed to or by the structure or facility;
* Aiming towards European Community approved standards.

d) *Emergency Prevention Plans*. Developing specific emergency prevention plans from relevant sectors for existing structures, facilities and environmental areas, comprising:

* Identified personnel roles and responsibilities;
* Establishing a monitoring and information system;
* Making clear and known early warning steps and procedures;
* Agreeing on clear public information procedures;
* Developing and testing emergency checklists, key emergency contacts and simulation exer­cises.

e) *Training*. Investing in appropriate training of identified emergency situation personnel and joint training with related partners in civil emergency matters.

f) *Investment*. Actively soliciting investment in prevention and mitigation through new and exist­ing partnerships, coherent planning and attainment of industry and EU norms.

The Plan also envisages additional general measures for prevention and mitigation, related to:

* New structures, facilities and developing environmental areas;
* Review and enforcement of legislation;
* Inspectorates, Secretariats and Diverse Polices; and
* Responsibilities and planning at various levels.

More specifically, the National Civil Emergency Plan (p. 25) states that it is necessary to establish of an efficient structure for civil emergency prevention – National Inspectorate of Civil Protection (NICP). As part of prevention and mitigation structures, NICP will be present in planning, projects implementation and providing licenses. With a structure at both central and prefekturë level, this inspectorate will take the role for monitoring and reporting on the progress in monitoring all the territory. The National Inspectorate of Civil Protection will have monitoring, controlling and reporting roles through supervising the work in progress of all structures relevant to civil emergencies. The NCIP will control the work for planning and implementation of prevention measures for civil emer­gencies of all state and private subjects. NICP will also control the status, i.e. the level of manning, equipment and the level of preparedness of the operational forces to respond to civil emergencies.

In its work, the NCIP will pursue competences and responsibilities foreseen in legal and sublegal doc­uments/acts such as for undertaking measures against the institutions, structures and subjects which have not correctly implemented rules, regulations, standards and legal bases for prevention, prepar­edness and response to civil emergencies, as well as the activities for recovery and development of the affected area.

By now such an Inspectorate has not been established. In fact, there is no single authority coordi­nating the disaster prevention policy. The draft of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil Protection 2014-2018 (p.10) states that the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies needs to be promoted to an Agency, functioning under the Prime Minister’s Office.

According to Annex 2 of the Draft Strategy, there are 15 Key Institutions with responsibility in civil emergencies. These are 13 Ministries, the Albanian Academy of Science and the Albanian Red Cross. Five ministries have responsibilities for the policy for prevention.

The leading *Ministry is that of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection*. It has a wide range of pre­vention responsibilities, including for flood, landslide, dam-burst, epidemic, and wild/forest fire risk reduction. The *Ministry of Public Works and Transportation* is the principal structure that shoulders core problems as maintenance, repairing and construction of highway and railroad infrastructures, ensures support and organises assessments of damages and resistance of structures in residential and public facilities, water-supply facilities, and channels. The *Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy* is responsible for collecting information in relation to emergency needs to determine intervention in public investments of critical infrastructure. The *Ministry of Health*, the *Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities* and the *Ministry of Finance* also have some limited responsibilities.

Under the already cited AL-DRMAP project, an National plan of revisions of building code has been developed. A special decree has been issued by MOPWT (Ministry of Public Works and Transport) to integrate Eurocode 8, 0-3 into national legislation based on the national plan. Key sections of the Eurocode 8 for earthquake resistance were prepared with project funds and Eurocodes 0, 1, 2, and 3 were transferred with MOPWT budget.

As part of IPA (Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance) Adriatic Cross-border Programme – Under this EU program (2007-2013) Albania participated in two projects – ADRIARadNet and HAZADR.[[28]](#footnote-28) The HAZADR project – Strengthening common reaction capacity to fight sea pollution of oil, toxic and hazardous substances in Adriatic Sea, was about the common training of personnel. The main goal of the project was the setting up of a training and research centre for combating oil spills, and spills of hazardous and noxious substances – with the task of training personnel, especially response teams, involved in the implementation of contingency plans. The total budget was over 3M Euro, of which over 217 thousand for Albania.

### Policy for Preparedness

The National Civil Emergency Plan defines preparedness as “undertaking of any measures to prepare people and property to withstand as effectively as possible, the effects of an identified potential threat or hazard.”

The policy for preparedness is based on several pillars:

* Institutions and Civil Emergency Plans
* Sectorial and Contingency Plans
* Identifying Hazard and Risk
* Awareness of Risk
* Monitoring and Trigger Mechanisms
* Early Warning
* Emergency Public Works and Other Measures
* Seasonal Preparedness and Protection Measures
* Clear roles and responsibilities at National, Prefekturë and Municipality levels
* Developing Preparedness and Protection Priorities for Albania

*Plans*

Departments and organisations with responsibilities for civil emergency issues are obliged to draw up their own civil emergency plans to meet their responsibilities and obligations under NCEP.

In addition to that, specific problems, which may be of national, regional or local importance are treated by Sectoral Plans. The disaster management structure at the central, regional and local level is responsible for developing Contingency Plans for specific disasters. There are also specific plans developed to cover important Installations and facilities pertaining to private or public juridical or physical subject.

*Early warning*

Under this platform is enabled the Early warning System for Floods and Early Warning System for Wildfire and daily bulletins on the related risks for all territory are produced by IGEWE and dissemi­nated to all stakeholders.

Most of the international assistance programs in which Albania participated were focused of DRR preparedness.

Under the AL-DRMAP project, the CRIF (Catastrophic Risk Insurance) Facility has been established and catastrophic insurance infrastructure and regulatory framework are in place. More than half of the existing private insurance companies in Albania have already registered with the Europe Re. A regional arrangement, especially operationalization of the Europe Re (the reinsurance company un­der SEE-CRIF), has also been completed as of the end of March 2014. Comprehensive earthquake and flood insurance packages have been fully developed with view to provide homeowners and SME’s with high credit quality coverage. An innovative underwriting platform and consumer education website on disaster risk and disaster risk insurance have been developed and is made available to the government and the public.

Under The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) initiative, managed by the World Bank, 40 automated hydro-meteorological stations in Albania were modernized.[[29]](#footnote-29)

As part of IPA (Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance) Adriatic Cross-border Programme – Under this EU program (2007-2013) Albania participated in the project ADRIARadNet [[30]](#footnote-30) - ADRIAtic integrated RADar-based and web-oriented information processing system NETwork to support hydro-meteoro­logical monitoring and civil protection decision. The total budget was over 2,8M Euros, of which over 350 thousand for Albania.

With the financing of the EU under UNESCO, Albania was included in IncREO Project - EarthObserva­tion (EO)-based map for disaster risk reduction (floods)[[31]](#footnote-31). The goal of the project is to increase disas­ter mitigation and response preparedness trough simulations[[32]](#footnote-32).

### Policy for Response

The NCEP defines response as “actions of forces and means for rescuing people’s lives, livestock and property in a territory stricken by a disaster, as well as providing the basic living conditions for the population affected by disaster.”[[33]](#footnote-33)

The plan distinguishes between four stages of the response phase, namely:

* Stage 1: Alert. All measures on first notification or information on an emergency situation and serves as a signal to increase readiness.
* Stage 2: Standby. Readiness of all post notification measures or information that an emer­gency situation or disaster is imminent or has started.
* Stage 3: Activate. Activation arises when an emergency situation has occurred.
* Stage 4: Stand Down. Stand Down represents the closure of the Response Phase, irrespective of how many previous stages have actually occurred.

Albania has a National Operations Centre for Civil Emergencies (NOCCE), under the General Direc­torate of Civil Emergencies to which all new information relating to a real or potential civil emer­gency situation must be addressed, where it will be collected and analysed.

NOCCE inform the Director of the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies who informs the Minister of Interior each emergency situation or possibility for occurrence, and depending on the situation issue the activation of the National Civil Emergency Service System (NCESS).

NCESS comprises structures, human and material resources, governmental and nongovernmental, which are involved in the response to civil emergencies. NCESS is composed of both permanent and temporary structures, depending on the activation of the capacities to respond to emergencies. The activation of the NCESS ensures an appropriate and immediate response to all the types of potential emergency situations, whether or not the Alert stage has occurred.[[34]](#footnote-34)

Roles and responsibilities in the response phase are listed by the NCEP. At Regional or local level, the Civil Emergency Officer, Prefect or designated official will commence similar stages of activation to support and complement the NCESS. Public information will be provided by the NOCCE. Any requests for international assistance are made when it is decided that the level of needs cannot be met from national resources and capacities. International Appeal is prepared by Inter-Ministerial Committee of Civil Emergencies.

The NCEP details financial considerations in the response phase (immediate, secondary and tertiary financial implications), as well as four series of standard assessment tools for the purposes of analysis and reporting. These include: First Notification Form (Prepared at Prefect Level); First Disaster Infor­mation Report (Prepared by Joint Assessment Team); Disaster Situation Report to OCHA; Request for Line Ministries in Case of Emergencies.

### Policy for Relief and Recovery

All the line Ministries and agencies have duties and responsibilities during the recovery phase. It starts with a declaration that the civil emergency situation is over and that the affected public and organisations can start to return to their normal situation.

The NCEP envisages the following steps to be taken in the recovery phase:

* Removal or Reduced Force of Primary Hazard
* Stabilization of Risk of Secondary Hazards
* Procedures for Safe Return or Resumption of Normal Access
* Restoring Essential Public Utilities
* Activities related to Destroyed and Damaged Structures.

## Financing

### Investing in preparedness

*National financing*

The Law on Civil Emergency Services defines (Art.32) that the state budget is the primary financial resource for civil emergency planning and crisis management, as well as that ministries are to be allocated an annual budget for civil emergency planning and response within their respective field of activity.

Specifically, four types of budgetary provisions are available: the civil emergency budget of the Minis­try of Interior, the emergency budgets of local government, reallocated budgets of line ministries and the Council of Ministers Reserve Fund. [[35]](#footnote-35)

The Civil Emergency item (within the Ministry of Interior’s budget) in the State Budget for 2014 amounts to ALL 788.8 mln, app. EUR 5.62 mln.[[36]](#footnote-36)

Most of the funds are allocated for disaster preparedness and post-disaster recovery. These budgets are primarily intended for emergency situations, although there are training and development budg­ets within line ministries. However, the funding for disaster preparedness and response in Albania is limited, particularly at the local level.[[37]](#footnote-37)

With respect to personal obligations, the NCEP makes note that the lack of buildings insurance in Albania means that the home, security and livelihood of a previously self-reliant household can be instantly destroyed by a civil emergency event, leaving them destitute and dependant on state and humanitarian assistance.[[38]](#footnote-38)

*International assistance*

Due to the limited national financing, most of the investments in DRR are funded by international projects (programs).

The international assistance and cooperation could be divided into two groups:

1. Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness programs/ Regional coordination and cooperation
2. Disaster response assistance

Albania has been a beneficiary of several disaster mitigation/ preparedness projects[[39]](#footnote-39). These are: AL-DRMAP project, GFDRR initiative, Program for Prediction, Prevention and Mitigation of Forest Fire and Flood risk in Albania, DesInventar, IPA (Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance) Adriatic Cross-border Programme – (ADRIARadNet and HAZADR projects) and the IncREO Project (with the financ­ing of EU, under UNESCO).

At least important as these projects is the Disaster Response assistance received by NATO and EU countries.[[40]](#footnote-40)

### Investing in consequence management

The Law on the State Budget allocates a yearly reserve fund. The Council of Ministers is entitled to use this fund in the event of a civil emergency situation, as well as for disaster reduction measures. In Albania, the fund amounted to app. USD 17 mln in 2006, which, according to ISDR estimates, could cover only 0.3% of damages from an earthquake with a return period of 250 years.[[41]](#footnote-41)

Within the AL-DRMAP project, Albania’s Albania’s membership in SEE Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility was secured. Operationalisation of Europe Re was completed as of the end of March 2014. As a result, comprehensive earthquake and flood insurance packages were developed with view to pro­vide homeowners and SMEs with high credit quality coverage.

## Policy review, Evaluation &Organisational Learning

### Post-Disaster Assessment

In Albania, the institutions responsible for ensuring thorough review following a major emergency situation are the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies, the Prefekturë Commission for Civil Emergency Planning and Response, the Local Commission for Civil Emergencies and the Civil Emer­gencies Commissions in the line Ministries. Following operational debriefings to be performed as soon as possible after the end of the crisis situation, a review process is launched, which normally involves inputs from all stakeholders including the affected population and organisations. The re­view should be documented and shared with stakeholder agencies in a round table meeting. Such review is an essential aspect as it can accurately highlight issues that could be incorporated in future planning.

The review’s aim is to provide clear action points to be taken by stakeholders in order to prevent and to mitigate future crisis events, as well as to improve preparedness and protection. The format of the review has to be as comprehensive as possible and to take into account the following:

* The status of prevention and mitigation plans before the event, and impact of any preven­tion and mitigation measures used;
* The effectiveness of preparedness, protection and response plans during the event;
* Effectiveness of communications procedures;
* Implementation of the National Civil Emergency Service System;
* Effectiveness of early warning and public information procedures;
* Effectiveness of national and local level civil emergency coordination arrangements, includ­ing acquisition and analysis of information, decision making and provision and dissemination of information to concerned agencies and to the public;
* Effective undertaking of roles and responsibilities by identified stakeholders;
* Effective drawing on national capacities and their use in response;
* Information flow and effectiveness of coordination at National and local levels;
* Speed and effectiveness of combined responses for: Search and rescue (SAR), Mass Casualty Management, evacuation, providing safe access, clearing roads and transport access, making safe and restoring essential services.
* Effectiveness of arrangements for emergency health, safe shelter, food and non-food assis­tance;
* Use and effectiveness of international assistance arrangements and relationships with inter­na­tional organisations;
* Impact and value of training programmes in strengthening response;
* Effective provision of information and resources for recovery;
* Special additional factors presented by this civil emergency situation;
* Conclusions and action points to be followed by identified responsible stakeholders;
* Presentation of the review to the Technical Consultative Commission.[[42]](#footnote-42)

The IPA Beneficiary Needs Assessment study on Albania reveals that:

*The current legislative system does not have any law that defines a possible disaster recovery process or how to conduct a post disaster needs assessment. After each event, institutions in charge realize systematic reports for their field of operation but no detailed analysis of socio-economic and environmental impacts and losses is con­ducted. The first efforts to prepare standard post event reports are underway, but capacity is presently lacking to conduct more detailed analyses of this nature.*

*In order to unify the various reports on disaster situations prepared by various insti­tutions, the Ministry of Interior has developed a series of standard assessment tools to be applied: a First Notification Form (prepared at the Prefect level), the First Dis­aster Information Report (prepared by a Joint Assessment Team), a Disaster Situa­tion Report to OCHA, and Request for Line Ministries in Case of Emergencies.*

*The Rapid Needs Assessment Reports are practical tools presented in the Civil Emer­gency Manual that have to be completed by the respective authorities to help them get immediate information on the level of damage and the needs.*

*In the case of a large-scale civil emergency situation, a Joint Assessment Team un­dertakes a Rapid Needs Assessment. However, prior to this, any contribution should be made by the NOCCE, the Qark Civil Emergency officer or Prefect and communal and municipal authorities using the same format. In extreme situations, initial inter­ventions (mass medical care and other priority activities such as evacuation, search and rescue) can be conducted before or during the Rapid Needs Assessment. Succes­sive follow-up assessments will be made using the same approach, but with greater detail as information becomes available and the situation stabilizes.[[43]](#footnote-43)*

### Departmental Lessons Learned systems

There is no information about a departmental lesson learned system. Although, the fact is that Alba­nian DRR organizations have gained experience in the last years and their coordination (both inter-agency and internationally) had been improved.

### Centralised (national) Lessons Learned system

The action-points or recommendations that have been agreed in the evaluation review are used to create follow up steps. It is the responsibility of the Department for Civil Emergency Planning and Response to pursue the implementation of these action points and recommendations, which should be reported back to the Technical Consultative Committee.

The follow up steps may include:

* Amendments, revision or updating of the National Civil Emergency Plan;
* Amendments to existing measures and new measure to be introduced in:
* Prevention and Mitigation
* Preparedness and Protection
* Response
* Recovery
* Changes to the operational structure of the Civil Emergency System;
* Revision of specific issues within civil emergency management, such as; early warning, public awareness, primary roles and responsibilities, coordination mechanisms, links with interna­tional response mechanisms and training initiatives;
* Specific factors to feed into local and national development plans, including those with inter­national support.[[44]](#footnote-44)

### International exchange for Lessons Learned

A number of international projects provide (policy) recommendations concerning the whole Albanian crisis management system or elements of it.

Back in 2008, the United Nations Disaster Assessment & Coordination (UNDAC) issued an Assessment and recommendations following the Gerdec Explosions. The recommendations concerned immediate actions to be undertaken to mitigate the consequences of the blast (such as Immediate clearing of UXOs in the three identified zones), as well as such with a long term effect, e.g. update of the Na­tional Civil Emergency Plan.[[45]](#footnote-45)

Importantly, a series of reports within SEEDRMAP provide important recommendations with respect to the crisis management system in Albania. For example, a report on “The Structure, Role and Man­date of Civil Protection in Disaster Risk Reduction for South Eastern Europe” concludes that the ca­pacity of Albania to respond to major events is burdened with procedural operations which could be detrimental to effective emergency responses.”[[46]](#footnote-46) Further on, the report expressed doubts as to the effectiveness of the chain of command, and notes that significant capacity gaps exist in terms of quantity and quality of resources.

In 2010, a capacity assessment mission for Albania was implemented at the request of the regional project for South-East Europe and Turkey on disaster risk management. Similar missions were also conducted for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Turkey, Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro out of eight of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) beneficiaries of the project. The assess­ment was meant to complement the needs assessments conducted in all eight IPA beneficiaries of the project conducted in 2010 by both a regional and local consultant in each location.[[47]](#footnote-47) The purpose of the capacity assessment was to identify capacity gaps related to risk reduction, understand de­sired capacities and propose recommendations on how these capacities can be achieved.

The regional cooperation, including exchange of lessons learned is one of main goals of international projects of which Albania is a beneficiary. The most important of these projects is under *IPA (Instru­ment of Pre-accession Assistance) Adriatic Cross-border Programme* – HAZADR [[48]](#footnote-48) – Strengthening common reaction capacity to fight sea pollution of oil, toxic and hazardous substances in Adriatic Sea. The main goal of the project is the setting up of a training and research centre for combating oil spills, and spills of hazardous and noxious substances - with the task of training personnel, especially response teams, involved in the implementation of contingency plans. The total budget was over 3M Euro, of which over 217 thousand for Albania. The focus of the projects is namely the facilitation and development of regional Lessons learned network.

### Regular policy reviews

Albania has not yet established a tradition of regular policy reviews. There isn`t such procedure in the legislation. The National Civil Emergency Plan hasn`t been reviewed since 2004, despite the fact that the intensity of natural disasters increased and the country became a member of NATO.

## Resilience

The term resilience is not used in relevant legislation in Albania.

However, the country has been part of international projects aimed, among other goals, to strengthen particular elements.

## Information sharing and data protection

No information was identified during the timeframe of the study to support research in this respect.

# Legislation

The constitution of the Republic of Albania provides as the main judicial starting point in civil emer­gencies and the main principles for organising civil emergencies are stated. Part sixteen – “extraordi­nary measures”, Articles 170 and 174 of the Constitution of Albania addresses issues related to emergency and disasters, the acts issued and the measures taken under these circumstances.[[49]](#footnote-49)

In general, the civil emergency planning is established under Albanian Law 8756 on Civil Emergency Services of 26 March 2001 and governed by the Albanian National Civil Emergency Plan of December 2004.

The Law 8756 focuses primarily on response rather than on prevention and risk reduction, while the National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) covers in detail all stages of the disaster cycle, including pre­vention, mitigation and preparedness. The NCEP does not feature individual sectoral plans, but is nonetheless linked to sectoral strategies and contingency plans such as the National Environmental Action Plan, the Strategy related to Forest Fires, the Contingency Plan related to Radioactivity or the Initiative on Land Use and Watershed Management.

Other laws include the Law on Fire Protection and the Law on Local Government, which are com­pleted by legal provisions dealing with environmental protection, environmental impact assess­ments, protection and development of forests and pasture, agriculture and rural area development, safety of dams and dykes, public health protection, urban planning and construction, etc. With re­gard to forest fires, the Government has issued extensive legislation that defines compulsory preven­tion measures for the protection of forests, such as the construction of fire prevention barriers, bio­logical measures, construction of forest monitoring towers, the strengthening of the seasonal forest patrol system, prohibition of igniting fires in forests, etc.[[50]](#footnote-50)

## Crisis (emergency, disaster) management concept

The National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil Protection 2014-2018 of the Republic of Albania aims at fulfilling five Strategic Components and priority activities:

* Strengthen national, prefect and local institutions and their regulatory frames;
* Compile and organize risk information and strengthen early warning systems;
* Increase national awareness, knowledge and facilitate the exchange of information on disas­ter risk reduction and civil protection;
* Increase preparedness, emergency services and recovery capacities;
* Increase financial protection.

The Strategy includes recommendation regarding the required financing and highlights the im­portance of regional and international cooperation. The Strategy contains a Results Table with the priority investments, responsible agencies for each activity and timeframes for their implementa­tion.[[51]](#footnote-51)

The Strategy provides the basis for enhanced coordination between national institutions, sustained resourcing and even behavioral change, in particular, regarding the need to address disaster risk in national development and integration plans, the work of line Ministries, regions (Prefekturës), com­munes and cities. The Strategy builds on and strengthens already existing plans, institutions and reg­ulatory frames in Albania and further recognizes the role of the private sector and civil society.[[52]](#footnote-52)

The Strategy allows Albania to align its disaster risk reduction work with, and to posi­tion itself at the forefront of, regional and international agreements such as the Hyogo Framework for Action 2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. The norms and standards to be elaborated under the Strategy for Albania, such as building codes and standard centralized emergency numbers, will also contrib­ute to Albania’s accession discussions with the European Union.*[[53]](#footnote-53)*

## General crisis (emergency, disaster) management law

The Civil Protection system and the structure of civil emergency planning are established under Alba­nian Law 8756 dated 26 March 2001 and governed by NCEP of 3 December 2004.

Law 8756 on Civil Emergency Services aims to prevent, mitigate and remedy any damage inflicted on people, animals, property, cultural heritage and environment by emergencies; to provide conditions for public institutions, economic entities and the population for the transfer from ordinary living and working conditions to an emergency situation with the smallest possible losses, for the keeping of order and preservation of human lives against the effects of an emergency; to guarantee the use of available state resources in order to ensure public security, maintain the continuation of the national economy, localise the emergency areas and alleviate the effects thereof.[[54]](#footnote-54)

The NCEP is the most important document regarding civil emergencies. It aims at improving the civil emergency structure of Albania, clarifying the division of responsibilities, and planning the best use of limited state resources to identify gaps and avoid duplication, in accordance with the established legal base.[[55]](#footnote-55)

The aim and objective of the Plan is to be an instrument which supports the Law on Civil Emergency Services. The National Civil Emergency Plan draws together and clarifies the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. This aims to channel the flow of relevant information, to strengthen decision making, and through coordination, to reinforce the capacity to respond through all phases of the disaster cycle. The National Plan is essentially a coordination tool.[[56]](#footnote-56)

The National Civil Emergency Plan is an overarching initiative bringing together all Albanian and in­ternational stakeholders. Many ministries, directorates, and institutions have developed and main­tain their own specific disaster preparedness plans.[[57]](#footnote-57)

## Emergency rule

Decision No 664 regarding Criteria and Procedures of Proclamation of the Civil Emergency Situation, dated 18 February 2002 states that civil emergency situation can be announced in a part of the terri­tory of the country, or in the whole territory of the country.

The civil emergency situation is proclaimed when the possibilities and resources possessed in normal conditions cannot respond to the consequences deriving from the disaster. For proclamation of the emergency situation, the following data is necessary:

* The territorial extension of the damaged zone;
* Impact of the damages on distortion of the community normal life balance;
* Scientific data from the respective institutions on the concrete case of the disaster.

There are specific procedures that are set out in the document, for proclaiming civil emergency situa­tion in case of an earthquake and floods. The procedures followed for proclamation of the civil emer­gency situation in cases of earthquakes are:

* The seismologic institute, within two hours, submits to the General Directorate of Civil Emer­gencies the preliminary registered data, and updates the data on a periodical basis, until termination of the seismic strikes;
* Civil Emergency Planning and Response Department presents the respective report to the Minis­ter of Local Government and Decentralization after receiving the data the preliminary assessment of the damages caused from the seismologic institute, commune/municipality and the region;
* After collecting the necessary data, the Council of Ministers, decides on the proclamation of the emergency situation in the respective zones.

In cases of floods, the civil emergency situation can be proclaimed in the following situations: the water level reaches critical points in some measured zones; one or more rivers that run through the area have run out of the river beds, causing dangerous situations; reservoir dikes and lake dams are heavily damaged; the life of the civil population, of the livestock and of the property is seriously damaged.

The main criteria for proclamation of civil emergency on disasters caused by people, epidemics, in­dustrial accidents and radio-active radiations, etc. are defined case by case according to the effects that will be produced in the stricken zone, and on the basis of existing possibilities for disaster re­sponse in the local government units’.

The proposal for proclamation of the civil emergency in these cases is undertaken by line ministries, according to the specifics of the occurring event and depending on the competencies and functions covered, in cooperation with the respective institutions and local government bodies affected by the disaster.[[58]](#footnote-58)

## Specific, department/agency-level legal arrangements and regulations on emergency and disaster management

Decision No 532 on Liabilities and Tasks of the Civil Emergency Planning and Response Department, dated 1 August 2003 defines the specific responsibilities of the General Directorate of Civil Emergen­cies. They include:

* Cooperating with the other institutions for drafting and updating of the national plan on the civil emergency response;
* Drafting plans for completion and updating of reserves of civil emergencies in compliance with the national plan of civil emergencies;
* Management of the civil protection system and coordination of state and non-state struc­tures connected with it;
* Preparation, pursuance and implementation of sub-statutory acts on planning and response against the civil emergencies;
* Organization of international bilateral and multilateral co-operation relations on civil emer­gency issues, fire protection and humanitarian aid.

The specific tasks of the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies include:

* Implementation, together with other institutions, policies of the Council of Ministers in the field of civil emergencies planning for response, fire protection and rescue and helps in crea­tion, use, and distribution of reserve emergency goods, including food, material and mone­tary goods;
* Cooperation with domestic institutions and public enterprises to assess the emergency situa­tions on the basis of the national plan of civil emergencies, and organisation of the work for updating the plan on a periodical basis;
* Monitors continuously the situation of protection from fire and the civil emergency situation all over the territory of the country, in the region and wider, and plans preventive measures;
* Plans funds for studies from the public enterprises for the civil emergency prevention and re­sponse;
* Prepares every six months a report for the overall situation of civil emergency planning and re­sponse;
* Provides all the necessary data on threatening risks and emergency situations to the Inter-minis­terial Committee of Civil Emergencies, and provides possibilities for material support of operations for civil emergency response;
* Plans and defines the rules according to which the financial and material sources are used in the cases of civil emergencies;
* Coordinates the work of central institutions with units of the local government on the civil emergency response;
* Coordinates the organization and equipment of the active and supportive structures of the civil emergency service;
* Requests data regarding the civil emergency response, communicating directly with the stand­ing and temporary structures of civil emergency service in the central government level, in a regional and municipality/commune level;
* Organizes, implements and monitors the data system in a national level on the civil emer­gency situations;
* Enters into contracts with associations and bodies that offer assistance for realization of the tasks given in the plan on civil emergency response and on creation of reserves;
* Organizes and leads conferences, seminars and workshops for the national, regional and lo­cal civil emergency staffs;
* Processes the public education programs and of training of state and non-state structures in the field of civil defence;
* Guides the responsible structures on the way of realization of the public opinion awareness and sensitization on civil emergencies and fire fighting;
* Coordinates the work for assessment of the caused damages and rehabilitation from natural disasters or other disasters in compliance with the respective legal and by-law acts;
* Controls application of the protective and preventive measures from state and non-state sub­jects all over the territory of the country for civil emergency responses and fire fighting;
* Controls the way how the material and financial sources allocated by the state budget, or by other state bodies in the case of civil emergencies for the central and local bodies are used;
* Controls distribution and way the reserve emergency goods are used, making sure that distribu­tion and usage is made in compliance with the National Plan on Civil Emergencies and with the legal and sub-statutory acts in power;
* Organizes inter-ministerial monitoring groups on management of the civil emergency sys­tem.[[59]](#footnote-59)

## Specific to the regional and local authorities legal arrangements and regula­tions on emergency and disaster management

Law 8756 on Civil Emergency Services sets out the specific responsibilities of the Inter-Ministerial Committee of Civil Emergencies, the Ministry of Interior,[[60]](#footnote-60) the Department for Civil Emergency Plan­ning and Response, the technical consultative Commission, other public institutions and ministries, and defines the organisation of civil emergency planning and response on prefekturë (regional), mu­nicipality and at commune level.[[61]](#footnote-61)

Further, the National Civil Emergency Plan specifies the organization of the National System of Man­agement of Civil Emergencies in Albania at national, prefekturë and at municipal and commune lev­els.

It is the responsibility of authorities at prefekturë, commune and municipal levels to develop contin­gency plans of their own, which all feed into the National Civil Emergency Plan, and the procedures, roles and responsibilities which it describes.

Municipalities and communes have responsibility for preparedness, planning and undertaking civil emergency response for situations developing in their territories. Every municipality and commune, establish and maintain a system of:

* Early warning and notification of key structures,
* Alarm and evacuation of population,
* Squads and other active structures prepared to prevent, mitigate and respond to civil emer­gency situations,
* Undertaking and administering rehabilitation activities for affected area.[[62]](#footnote-62)

According to the Law, the Council of Minister calls for the creation of the Inter-Ministerial Committee of Civil Emergencies and appoints the appropriate staff for it. The Committee is responsible for coor­dinating the work of all other civil emergency services, decides on the usage of state resources to overcome the situation and in case of a national civil emergency appoints the leadership to manage the coordination.

The Ministry of Interior is responsible for a range of managerial and planning duties in cases of an emergency including the development and implementation of the national plan on civil emergencies. The Ministry also monitors, on a national level, the information system on civil emergencies and re­ports to the Council of Ministers every 6 months regarding the level of civil emergency preparedness of structures throughout the country. Many of the aforementioned duties of the Ministry are shared, if not regulated, by the Department for Civil Emergency Planning and Response , which is an organ established within the Ministry. The Department plays an important coordination role in the crisis management system and ensures the coordination between national, prefecture, commune and municipal level civil emergency structures.

The Department’s role is supported by the Council of Minister’s Decision No. 532 on the “Responsi­bilities and Duties of the Department of Planning for and Overcoming Civil Emergencies” adopted in August 2003.

The Director of the Department has the authority to call the Technical Advisory Commission of Civil Emergencies which includes specialists from ministries, various institutions and operational forces throughout the country. The Technical Advisory Commission has another source of legal basis, namely the Council of Minister’s Decision No. 663, the “Constitution, Functioning and Responsibilities of the Technical-Advisory Commission of Emergency Specialists”, adopted in December 2002.[[63]](#footnote-63)

## Legal regulations on the involvement of volunteers and specialised NGOs

Decision 533, dated 1 August 2003, on Citizen Involvement on Civil Emergency Prevention and Re­sponse defines the involvement of citizens in crisis situations. It specifies that in case of civil emer­gencies, the head of the operation at central/regional level, requests the region’s prefecture the en­gagement of the capable citizens, according to the needs scale. The Prefect, in cooperation with the mayor/commune head, orders activization of citizens and plans their involvement in the operational structures, functioning for civil emergency prevention and response in the region’s territory.

The Regional Prefect, through the civil registration offices in municipalities and communes, ensures data and keeps records on the citizens living in the territory of the region, aged 18 to 55 for the women and 18 to 60 for men.[[64]](#footnote-64)

According to article 24 of the Law 8756 on Civil Emergency Services, the service of volunteers is or­ganised for responding to emergencies. Volunteers may be any Albanian citizens over 18 years old who have received basic training in responding to emergency situations and accept to participate. During emergency situations foreign citizens can also be admitted to participate as volunteers.

Persons who volunteer to participate in rescue operations have the rights for the period they are active in the rescue operation to keep their job, to receive full payment from their employers and to insurance in case of an accident.[[65]](#footnote-65)

Economic entities and institutions, which in the pursuance of their activities use, produce, transport or store hazardous substances are obliged to plan, organise and implement, on their own expenses, services for responding to emergencies within their area of activity.

In addition they have to develop plans for emergency situations and implement preventive measures within their area of activity; to notify their personnel as well as the respective municipal or commune authority about an imminent risk; to organise, when necessary, evacuation of their employees, set up their own organisation for responding to an emergency situation within their area of activity; and to provide training to their employees. The Council of Ministers determines in subordinate legal act what constitutes hazardous substances, which create threat of emergency situations.[[66]](#footnote-66)

## Legal regulations for international engagements of first responders and crisis managers

The Council of Ministers has the overall responsibility for civil emergency planning and response in the Republic of Albania. Furthermore, it is responsible for arranging and specifying the procedures for international assistance in the event of emergencies.[[67]](#footnote-67)

The Directorate for Civil Emergency Planning and Response can request the assistance of national and international organisations, nongovernmental organisations and private volunteer organisations to deal with civil emergencies.[[68]](#footnote-68)

# Organisation

## Organisational chart

The crisis management system in Albania consists of permanent and temporary structures at central level, prefekturë (county) and local level. Through these structures, each ministry, department or institution, has specific responsibilities for all the stages of the emergency management cycle.

At national level the Council of Ministers chairs the national management system of civil emergen­cies in Albania. It approves the strategies, policies and programs which aim at prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response to civil emergency situations. The Council of Ministers pronounces the state of civil emergency in a given area or all over the country. After the pronouncing of the state of civil emergency, the Council of Ministers establishes the Inter-Ministerial Committee of Civil Emer­gencies. The Inter-Ministerial Committee of Civil Emergencies coordinates the activities of all the institutions involved in all the stages of the response to the state of civil emergency. The Inter-Minis­terial Committee involves key ministers (i.e., the Minister of Interior, Minister of Defence, Minister of Environment and Minister of Health) and usually acts for a period of 10 days.

The Ministry of Interior implements the policies of the Council of Ministers in the fields of planning and dealing with civil emergencies. The Department of Civil Emergency, Planning and Response is the key institution for disaster management. Through this permanent structure the Ministry monitors the state of the emergency in the entire territory of Albania, whereas in calm situations and in case of low scale emergencies cooperates with central institutions and structures, involved in the issues of civil emergencies. This Department has three subordinate units: Directorate for Civil Emergency Planning and Response, Directorate of Fire-fighting and Rescue and the National Operations Centre for Civil Emergency.[[69]](#footnote-69)

At prefekturë or regional level, the regional prefect is responsible for planning and dealing with civil emergencies. Under the chairmanship of the prefect, the Commission of Planning and Responding to Civil Emergencies is established with the task of coordination of the activities of the regional authori­ties and volunteer organisations for planning and dealing with the emergency situation. At each of the 12 prefekturës in Albania, a civil emergency officer is appointed.

At local, municipality and commune level, the mayor or the head of commune is responsible for planning and responding to civil emergencies in the respective municipality or commune. Under the chairmanship of the mayor or the head of commune, the Commission of Planning and Responding with Civil Emergencies is established, and its main task is to coordinate all activities of the local gov­ernment unit and volunteer organisations, responsible for planning and responding to emergencies.[[70]](#footnote-70) Every municipality and commune in Albania has a designated official with responsibility for civil emergency matters, who benefits from instruction in the standardised training curriculum, and through the frequent necessity for early warning, standby and response in many areas.[[71]](#footnote-71)

Each Ministry is responsible for the planning and management of civil emergencies according to their scope of activity. Their activities are incorporated in all the stages of the emergency management cycle and as appropriate they play a leading or supporting part, depending on the nature of the emergency.

The principal operational forces or active structures in Albania are comprised of the Armed Forces; Directorate of Fire Protection and Rescue (PMNZZH); The Ambulance Service; The State Police and other Police units; Directorate of State Reserves; Units specialised in mines and technical response; Monitoring and operational supportive structures.

These structures have specific roles, tasks and responsibilities for all the phases of the civil emer­gency management cycle, and it is essential that they cooperate closely with each other to provide the most effective response possible (Figure 3).[[72]](#footnote-72)

The National Operations Centre for Civil Emergencies is at the very centre of civil emergency man­agement in Albania. It plays an active role through all four stages of civil emergency management.

The Albanian Red Cross is the main non-government organisation dealing with emergencies and cri­ses. It is a voluntary organisation, which operates in all the Albanian territory with its Head Quarters



Figure 64: Organisational Chart of Civil Protection System in Albania.[[73]](#footnote-73)

based in Tirana, has 12 branches and 40 sub-branches at Prefekturë, Commune and Municipality and District levels.

## Organisational cooperation

*Inter-ministerial cooperation*

The NCEP outlines the roles and responsibilities of line ministries and inter-ministerial bodies in the crisis management cycle.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee of Civil Emergencies coordinates the actions of all involved institu­tions through all the phases of response to civil emergency situations. The Inter-Ministerial Commit­tee undertakes, among others, the following tasks:

* Prepares an appeal for international relief;
* Coordinates the actions and activities of national and local government institutions, the Alba­nian Red Cross, various volunteers and donors;
* Plans, and requests their engagement;
* Requests from the Council of Ministers to draw upon the State Reserves;
* Supervises the process of calculating and estimating the damage incurred by the disaster situa­tion and identifies the potential means for the rehabilitation of the disaster-affected area, and propose possible solutions to the Council of Ministers;
* Appoints the Head of Operations, who shall be responsible for the administration and imple­mentation of the civil emergency operation.

The Head of Operations is the leader of the response activities, and coordinates the management of the civil emergency operation in the affected area. The Head of Operations has the responsibility to:

* Supervises all the active operational and supporting structures necessary for responding to the civil emergency situation
* Is assisted by the Civil Emergency Management Team -task force that functions near the Na­tional Operations Centre for Civil Emergencies in managing the civil emergency operation
* Consults with heads of active operational structures, heads of monitoring structures and sup­porting operational structures, as well as other managers and specialists employed in the in­stitutions involved in the National Civil Emergency Plan
* Follows the involvement of international relief teams and implement all necessary measures and requests to facilitate their intervention and achieve maximum results in civil emergency response
* Issue appropriate orders and directions for the management of operations of response to the civil emergency situation
* Briefs the Inter-Ministerial Committee and performs the tasks assigned by it
* Arranges the involvement of operational forces and other groups and individuals that are will­ing to contribute with their efforts to overcome the situation
* Cooperates with and coordinates the actions of other operations leaders at different levels and those of local government.[[74]](#footnote-74)

Upon a decision that the crisis response needs cannot be met by national resources and capacities, international assistance to Albania is requested. The international appeal is prepared by Inter-Minis­terial Committee and procedures are implemented by the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence. International assistance can be solicited, or offered, as financial con­tributions, in kind donations (food, tents, blankets, medical supplies etc.), or specialist services (Search and Rescue Teams, logistics handling teams etc.). The Head of Operations, Inter Ministerial Committee, closely supported by the General Director of Civil Emergency will determine the re­quirements for international assistance.

In case relief assistance arrives in the country unsolicited, it will be managed in the same way as re­quested assistance. Non-acceptance of unsuitable or unnecessary national and international assis­tance is the responsibility of Inter-Ministerial Committee/ Ministry of Interior advised by the Head of Operations and the Department of Civil Emergency.

The effective coordination of international assistance is challenging for the national response system. It is expected that United Nations Agencies, EU structures, NATO or individual countries will provide the necessary support to the coordination of relief efforts.

The Head of Operations is responsible for providing information on expected donor assistance to the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Services to facilitate this process at entry points. In case of an emergency in neighbouring countries, involving displaced people crossing border, customs, immigra­tion as well as quarantine must be prepared to facilitate the appropriate measures of the State.[[75]](#footnote-75)

*International cooperation*

Albania has signed numerous cross-border and international agreements for bilateral cooperation in regards to civil emergency support with Austria, Croatia, Greece, Italy and Turkey and also agree­ments are under discussion with Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Additionally, agreement for Cooperation in the Forecasting, Prevention, and Mitigation of Natural and Technological Disasters between the Governments of Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, and Slovenia, was signed on 18 June 1992, to which Albania acceded later. Albania is also a member of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI), launched by the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

Other multinational agreements in the area of civil protection, to which Albania is a party, include:

* Declaration on cooperation in disaster preparedness and prevention in south Eastern Europe singed 5 June 2002;
* Memorandum of Understanding on the Institutional Framework of the Disaster Prepared­ness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe, signed 24 September 2007;
* Council of Europe: Resolution 87(2): Open Partial Agreement on the Prevention of, Protec­tion against, and Organisation of Relief in Major Natural and Technological Disasters, Albania signed the accession on the 15 May 1993;
* United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Regional Seas Programme: Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution. (The Barcelona Convention) Bar­celona, 16 February 1976;
* Protocol concerning cooperation in combating pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency;
* United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE): Convention on the Trans bound­ary Effects of Industrial Accidents, signed on 18 March 1992, ratified 05 January 1994.[[76]](#footnote-76)

On the civil-military cooperation side, EU and Albania signed a framework agreement for the partici­pation of Albania in EU crisis management operations. On 5 June 2012 the European External Action Service and the Government of Albania inked an agreement, making Albania a partner in the area of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy. The agreement set out a legal framework for possible future Albanian participation in the full range of EU-led military operations and civilian missions, and was a step towards more structured cooperation between the EU and Albania in the security field.

The World Bank is actively contributing to DRR goals in Albania, not only through the Albanian Disas­ter Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project (under the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduc­tion (UN ISDR) supported by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery), but also through the Land Administration and Management Project and the Energy Community of South East Europe APL Programme (Albanian Dam Safety).

# Procedures

## Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Guidelines

The National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) details seven procedures concerning the flow of infor­mation and notification in case of natural or man-made disasters. These concern the following cases:

1. Earthquakes;
2. Industrial Incident;
3. HAZMAT Transportation incident;
4. Sea incident;
5. Air incident;
6. Terrorist Attack;
7. Dam or Dyke collapse/

The NCEP contains [[77]](#footnote-77) a detailed description (checklists) of the National Civil Emergency Service Sys­tem (NCESS) activation procedures during its different stages – Alert, Standby, Activate and Stand down. The responsibilities of the different elements of the national civil emergency system during the most critical phase of DRR – Response – are very strictly determined.[[78]](#footnote-78)

The specific example of the ammunition blast of 15 March2008 shows how the Albanian crisis man­agement system works in practice (see the box below).

## Operations planning

NCEP stipulate that all departments and organisations, public, private sector and NGOs should have an emergency or contingency plan for protecting their property and assets in case of an emergency situation, as well as to provide the best possible service during the emergency situation, and the most rapid recovery afterwards. The outline and content of civil emergency, contingency and secto­rial plans are provided in the Civil Emergency Manuals, which are part of the National Civil Emer­gency Curricula. [[79]](#footnote-79)

These plans could be:

* Sectorial Plans, covering specific problems, which may be of national, regional or local im­portance.
* Contingency Plans, designed by the disaster management structure of central, regional and lo­cal level for specific disasters, which may happen in the near future. Usually, contingency plans are used for transitory periods until the Emergency Plans are prepared. Contingency plans may be developed for seasonal or new risks/hazards or emergency that not covered by the main plan.
* Emergency Plans are specific plans developed to cover important Installations and facilities per­taining to private or public juridical or physical subject. These provide protection

|  |
| --- |
| Disaster response in the 2008 ammunition blast. On 15 March2008, a blast occurred in a factory located in the village of Gerdec, approximately 15 km west of Tirana. On site, there was an ongoing programme to dispose old military ordnance. The explosion sent artillery and mortar shells over nearby residential neighbourhoods destroying houses and shattering windows across the city of Vore and several villages. Many secondary explo­sions continued through the night until the early hours of the next day.The Government declared the zone a “Disaster Area” and advised that inhabitants would not be allowed to return until the area was deemed safe. The Durres-Tirana highway was also closed to traffic whilst authorities assessed the situation. It was later reopened on the next day. Three risk zones (High, Medium and Low) were defined.In accordance with the NCEP, an Inter-Ministerial Committee activated soon after the incident, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. The Albanian Armed Forces (AAF) and civil authorities cor­doned off the area and started the search for victims as soon as it was relatively safe to access zone. Surface clearing in zone two and three is being carried out in cooperation by the AAF and Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) teams/specialists from DanChurchAid, Italy and Sweden.Approximately 600 evacuees from the affected areas are housed in three facilities in Durres – two owned by MoI and MoD and a privately owned hotel. The remaining affected population is staying with friends or relatives in the area of Vore according to the authorities and the Albanian Red Cross.Through the Albanian Red Cross and local authorities, food and non-food items were made available. Furthermore, trauma counselling, teaching for primary school students and social activi­ties for children were provided. Secondary school students as well as evacuees who had jobs were transported from the government facilities in Durres to and from Vore and Tirana on a daily basis.The Albanian Red Cross engaged in a campaign for solidarity with the persons affected in Ger­dec. 25 groups of volunteers were sent to help the persons injured, and their families, in the Mili­tary Hospital and the Hospital of Durres.In addition to that, United Nations Disaster Assessment & Coordination (UNDAC) was deployed to Albania on 20 March to support the IMC.The UNDAC team received the following mission objectives:* to assess the overall situation with a focus on the needs;
* to evaluate the environmental impact of the explosion and provide analysis of samples of soil and ground water;
* to provide coordination support to the government of Albania;
* to provide the international community, UN and the government with short-mid- and long term recommendations.[[80]](#footnote-80)

The government carried out an initial damage assessment for all affected structures, refurbish­ing and livestock. The findings were forwarded the National Authority of Housing for economic evaluation. The evaluation was based on market prices. Discussions between the authorities and the affected population concluded that the affected population preferred to receive a cash grant for reconstruction rather than state-organized rebuilding. Between USD 600 and USD 2500 were made available per family. Further financial assistance was to be provided for domestic supplies. A special financial contribution was made to families who lost one or more of their members. A total of 156 mln Albanian lek had been provided by the government to the affected families as of 28 March 2008. |

measures for human life and property and foresee activities to overcome civil emergencies through available capacities and provision of assistance from outside, if necessary.[[81]](#footnote-81)

## Logistics support in crises

The logistic support is noted in the NCEP as essential to the successful disaster response operation[[82]](#footnote-82). One of the four Civil Emergency Management Team sections on national and local level is the Logistic Section (the others are Information, Planning and Operations).[[83]](#footnote-83) Under “logistic” the Albanian Govern­ment considers mainly “mobility”; the condition (if necessary – the repair) of the road system and the availability of vehicles and fuel. Such logistic capabilities assessment should be done periodi­cally on regional and national level.[[84]](#footnote-84) As noted in Section 5 Capabilities in this document (p.50), the specialized engineer vehicles and the condition (usability) of the road system is a serious issue for the Albanian government. The reason is the already mentioned poor condition of the road system and its vulnerability to natural disasters.

Other elements, related to logistics are stockpiles (food, clots, tents etc.) and healthcare. The stock­piles are provided by governmental reserves, private companies (the authorities have to assess peri­odically the available quantities) and international assistance. The healthcare is provided by the standing facilities and the “crisis” assets of the Armed Forces and the Red Cross.

## Crisis communication to general public; Alert system; Public Information and Warnings

In Albania three separate organisations provide national weather forecasting: the Institute of Envi­ronment, Water and Energy (IEWE), the Military Meteorological Service (MMS) under Albanian Min­istry of Defence and the Meteorological Service under National Air Traffic Agency (MSNATA). Besides them, there is also one private company performing weather forecast.[[85]](#footnote-85)

Institute of Energy, Water and Environment (IEWE) produces general forecast for 24 hours, 3 and 5 days and 10 days outlooks. IEWE`s operational forecasting is based on use of printed analysis and forecast products from international forecasting centers and from the Montenegrin NMHS. The IEWE forecasters do not have access to any real-time data. IEWE has 2 duty forecasters and it does not have capacity to operate 24/7 weather forecasting services.

In addition, the IEWE does not produce special marine forecasts. Further, there is no capacity to download numerical weather prediction model products to be used for national weather forecasts, or to run any numerical weather prediction models. MMS maintains cooperation with the Italian meteorological service for the use for weather forecasting. On the other hand, the IEWE produces special forecasts for the agriculture and aviation sectors.

However, the IEWE does not produce any public warnings. It has a governmental role to produce updated maps and forecasts to the authorities. Hydrological studies for flood warnings have been developed for different basins, while flood forecasting is prepared for different river basins using meteorological forecasts and by monitoring water levels. MMS gives occasionally warnings in con­nection to its daily TV weather forecasts. Warnings to the aviation sector only are produced by the MSNATA.

Moreover, IEWE disseminates hazard monitoring data, forecasts and early warning to the Head of the National Committee for Disaster Reduction and other partners. The limited weather warnings produced are disseminated to the public via media. The MMS provides warnings through TV presen­tations and by disseminating advice to the media, in order to edit their own weather forecasts and warnings. Currently there are no specific procedures for interrupting TV or radio programs, or to the have a continuous warning stripe on the TV screen in the case of emergency. Method to send warn­ings directly via SMSs to mobile phones located at site of danger is not in use in Albania. Sectors like Ministry of Health or NGOs like the Albanian Red Cross are not on the direct contact list of warnings of hydrological or meteorological hazards. Further, Albania is not member of the EUMETNET METEOALARM systems.[[86]](#footnote-86)

International cooperation is key part for the successful operation of event forecast and warning. Weather forecasts and forecasting of natural hazards are based on products from global and regional scale state-of-the art numerical weather prediction models, use of satellite data and sharing of data from conventional and modern remote sensing systems.[[87]](#footnote-87)

# Capabilities

## Human resources

Earlier data show that in normal times the human resources dedicated to crisis management include the following: app. 450 personnel, including the employed in civil protection at prefekturë level (app. 50) and personnel employed in civil protection at commune or district level (app. 400).[[88]](#footnote-88)

There are thirteen people, comprising the General Director and the managers of the directorates, compose Albanian Civil Protection at central level in the General Directorate of Civil Emergency. Each prefekturë dispose of some permanent staff, incl. a set of technicians and a Civil Emergency Officer. Each municipality and commune has a designated officer with responsibility for civil emergency mat­ters.

In times of crisis, the human resources engaged also comprises the fire brigade (app. 480), private companies contracted by the authorities (app. 400) plus forest service personnel (app. 100).

Albanian Red Cross is the main non-governmental stakeholder with 80 000 members, 2 000 volun­teers and 39 branches. Founded in the 1920s, its current activities are based on Law No. 7864 on the Albanian Red Cross. According to the National Plan for Civil Emergencies the Albanian Red Cross has an important role in disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. The Albanian Red Cross has developed its own disaster plans and its structure for responding to disasters is organised in two levels: central, which manages the main human and material resources; and local/district, where 39 disaster-trained volunteer teams comprising between 25 and 30 people have been estab­lished throughout Albania. In 2002 a partnership agreement was signed between the Ministry of Interior, the Albanian Red Cross and UNDP Albania.[[89]](#footnote-89)

## Materiel (non-financial) resources

According to the National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP), the key civil emergency response capacities in Albania include:

Albanian Special Forces Teams:

* Civil Protection Base, MoD, Tirana – Earthquake Search and rescue (SAR) 2 teams; Flood SAR 2 teams; Firefighting/SAR 2 teams; Chemical Pollution/SAR 2 teams; Mountain SAR 2 teams; Road clearance from snow and landslide 3 teams;
* Air Force Search and Rescue Service, MoD - National airborne SAR Service: 56 persons and 6 Helicopters;
* Special Commando Battalion, MoD, Tirana - Air and Marine accident SAR team 1 team;
* NBC Battalion, MoD - Chemical, bacteriological, ecological hazard rescue team 1 team 25 spe­cialists;
* National Military Hospital, Tirana - Emergency Surgical Teams (each of Surgeon, trauma­tology­ist, anaesthetist, 3 support staff) 2 teams;

Specialist Technical Services

* Ministry of Industry and Energy - Mines Inspectorate, mines SAR team 52 Specialists; Envi­ron­mental Protection and Rehabilitation 55 Specialists; Electrical Sector Emergency Response 60 Specialists (KESH);

Transport Capacities and Specialist Equipment

* Ministry of Tourism and Territory Regulation - Tankers 5 water tankers, 5 sewage tankers, Welding/cutting equipment 5 units, Bulldozer 1 unit, Transport Capacity (people) 16 vehicles (total 469 people);
* Transport Capacity (Freight) 29 Trucks (total 166 mt), Tipper Trucks 8 units (total of 100 mt),
* Earthmoving Equipment/Bulldozers 11 units (total of 450 m3), Snow Clearing Equipment 3 Units, Motor Boats 8 units (total of 80 persons), 14 units for freight, Fire Trucks 2 Units at 5 mt each, Civil.
* Protection Base, MoD - Generators 8 units (total 396 kw);
* Military Engineers Brigade, MoD - Specialists: 50 Specialists, Tipper trucks 5 units, Earthmov­ing Equipment/Bulldozers 10 units excavators, 5 units, tracked bullodozers; Crane 1 unit at 15 mt; Medium capacity vehicles 8 units.
* NBC Battalion, MoD - Decontamination 6 vehicle units and 25 specialists;
* State Reserves - Transport 20 light vehicles of 9 mt
* Albanian Red Cross - Transport 4 heavy trucks, light vehicles in 12 branches in 12 prefekturës.

Assistance Services

* Civil Protection Base, MoD - Operational Forces 170 persons, Field Hospital I unit 50 beds, 4 treatment rooms, Potable Water 7 Tankers (total 67 mt) and 11, pumps (total 12 m3/hour), Water Purification 2 units (total 6,000 l/hour), Bakery units 2 units (total 2,400 kg/day), Mo­bile kitchens 12 units (total 3,000 rations/day), and 1 kitchen truck 300, rations/day, Shelter Tents for 17,000 people, Shower Trucks 2 units (total 200 persons/day),
* State Reserves - Temporary shelter 28,000 m2 for 6,000 people in warehouses, Tents for 30,000 people, Warehouse storage Total of 43,000 m2 for goods, Fuel storage for 14 mt
* Albanian Red Cross - Food Rations 8,000 people for 1 month, Shelter and Non-Food Items 8,000 people, Family links Tracing service linked to ICRC international tracing system.[[90]](#footnote-90)

However, in the case of a wildfire, service personnel attend the scene but are active during the oper­ational phase only as observers or technical advisors. At present, the Service has no vehicles suitably equipped to cope with wildfire. The present fire-fighting capacity of local and national forces in Alba­nia is not sufficient to tackle large wildfires, especially in the presence of multiple simultaneous events. The only way of tackling such emergencies is to address a request for assistance to the Moni­toring and Information Centre (MIC, now Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) or to the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) of NATO.[[91]](#footnote-91)

The general conclusion of most of the UN reports about Albania are very similar, stating that the Government has limited capabilities and the DRR system is relatively poor organized.

A series of reports within SEEDRMAP provide important recommendations with respect to the crisis management system in Albania. For example, a report on “The Structure, Role and Mandate of Civil Protection in Disaster Risk Reduction for South Eastern Europe”[[92]](#footnote-92) concludes (р.152) that „*the capac­ity of Albania to respond to major events is burdened with procedural operations which could be det­rimental to effective emergency responses.*” Further on, the report expressed doubts as to the effec­tiveness of the chain of command, and notes that significant capacity gaps exist in terms of quantity and quality of resources.

In 2012, the World Meteorological Organization published a report on “Strengthening Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Risk Assessment in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Assessment of Ca­pacities, Gaps and Needs.”[[93]](#footnote-93) The report assesses (p.9) that the

Albanian hydro-meteorological sector is more or less disordered and does not have the tech­nical, human and financial resources to meet the needs for hydro-meteorological services in order to provide expected information and products to the Government, the socio-economic communities, to protection of human life, and to improve human and environmental safety. It neither has the capability to properly fill the international commitments of producing hy­dro-meteorological data to promote regional and global cooperation in production of better hydro-meteorological modelling and services to promote the human safety and well-being.

The conclusions of the UNDAC report Assessment and recommendations following the Gerdec Explo­sions Albania (20 March – 3 April 2008)[[94]](#footnote-94) are similar:

The institutional structure for disaster management needs strengthening at the national, re­gional and municipal levels. National disaster funds are very small compared to the potential economic and fiscal damages that may be caused by large disaster events in Albania. …

Since previous initiatives and recommendations have not been operationalised, an imple­menting body must be identified, established and made sustainable at the highest possible level to deal with the issue.

Due to the fact that Albania has “inadequate”[[95]](#footnote-95) disaster response capabilities, the government very often has to rely on such provided by its allies. Even before the membership in NATO (2008), the Alliance was a very important element of the Albania DRR system. Since 2002, [[96]](#footnote-96) the NATO assistance has been requested by Albania 7 times (more than assistance requests by any other country): 2002 –Floods, 2007 – Forest fires, 2008 – Massive explosion in ammunition storage site, 2010 – in January and in December – Floods, 2012 – Snow storms, 2015 – Snowfall and Floods. Albania has needed most of all First Aid materials – l food, medicaments and other supplies (tents, sleeping bags, clots, boots etc.) and Equipment/Machinery. For example, during the floods in 2002 Albanian Government requested such vehicles as bulldozers, boats, cranes, fire trucks etc. In general the NATO allies (and some other countries) are providing first aid supplies and materials, but limited quantity of heavy machinery. In several cases SAR, MedEvac and Fire Fighting aircrafts and helicopters were provided, together with specialist teams – medical staff, SAR teams, Firefighters. Usually most of the countries are providing materials and some of them – financing – USD 20-50 thousand. There are some excep­tions, however. During the 2002 floods Italy provided between 1.5 and 2 mln. EUR for emergency rehabilitation of the electric network.

The best example to understand how much dependant of foreign aid is Albania is the 2015 flood. The initial request was for almost EUR 63.5 mln. . Slightly over 912 thousand Euro of them were for First Aid – food, sleeping bags, tents, pumps, coats etc. The rest of over EUR 62 mln. was for Equipment/ Vehicles, including EUR 30 mln. for the reconstruction of 300 km of roads. NATO countries provided almost all of the requested first aid and some equipment. Additional over USD 1.5 mln. were donated by the UAE, the USA, the Dutch Red Cross and the European Commission, some smaller transfers not included.

## Training

According to the Law on Civil Emergencies the Ministry of Interior is tasked to elaborate educational and training programmes in the area of protection against natural and other disasters. In fulfilling these requirements the Ministry of Interior has designed and implemented the National Civil Emer­gency Training Curriculum, comprised of eight training manuals containing national and international civil emergency standards and guidelines, undertaken training activities and organised conferences at the national and regional level. Institutions responsible for designing and conducting training and simulation activities on specific issues relevant to civil emergency management, are obliged to inform and coordinate their activities with the Civil Emergency System Service.

The Directorate for Civil Emergencies has established a national training centre, the Albanian Red Cross actively cooperates through its four training centres for volunteers and the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies regularly conducts training courses for fire brigades at the Fire Brigade Training Centre in Tirana. Through the Training of Trainers initiative, Albania has established a core group of civil emergency trainers. They have increased the capacities related to the design and organisation of training activities for different target groups at both national and local level.[[97]](#footnote-97)

Tabletop Exercises, Functional Exercises, and Full-scale Exercises are carried out.

Albania’s Department of Seismology of the Geo-sciences Institute is participating in the project *Har­monization of seismic hazard maps for the Western Balkan Countries* launched in 2007 in the frame­work of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe with the support of the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme. The main aim of the project is to prepare the ground for joint preparedness and prevention activities in disaster man­agement among the countries of the region. The process of harmonization of the earthquake termi­nology and of the seismic risk maps targets improvement of scientific collaboration between the project partners and enhancing the cooperation and coordination in the field of seismic hazard man­agement.

Moreover, bilateral activities have been organised between relevant Albanian institutions and coun­terparts in neighbouring countries. Albania has established bilateral cooperation with the Italian Government, particularly in respect to disaster risk reduction training activities. Additional memo­randum of understanding was agreed with Greece, FYROM, Turkey, Croatia and Austria, especially regarding support in case of large scale disaster response operations.[[98]](#footnote-98)

Albania has participated in several regional and local exercises with structures of line ministries, local power structures, foreign agencies and volunteers. These include table top exercises, such as main planning conference, (CMEP), Tirana, 2006; Table top exercise, (CMEP), Durrës, 2006; and Intergov­ernmental table top exercise, (with support US Army), Tirana, 2009.[[99]](#footnote-99)

## Procurement

### Procurement regulation

Public procurement in Albania is governed by Law No. 9643 dated 20 November 2006 as amended (PPL). The PPL defines the Public Procurement Agency (PPA) as the central body responsible for pub­lic procurement. The PPA operates as a regulatory authority and manages the national procurement system.

The PPL applies to all contracts for supplies, services or works awarded by contracting authorities, unless explicitly exempted.

Art. 5 of the PPL deals specifically with defence procurement, stating that the PPL “shall apply to all public contracts awarded in the field of defense, subject to para 2 of this Article.” The PPL shall not apply in the cases of “(a) when CA (Contracting Authority) shall be obliged to supply information whose disclosure is contrary to the essential interests of national security; (b) for the purchase of arms, munitions and war material, or related services. This exception shall not adversely affect the conditions of competition regarding products not specifically intended for military purposes; (c) in specific circumstances caused by natural disasters, armed conflicts, war operations, military training and participation in military missions outside the country.”[[100]](#footnote-100)

### Procurement procedures

The PPL provides for two levels of thresholds: low and high. Furthermore, the PPL provides that the level of each threshold will be adjusted on a two-year basis. The high thresholds are approximately EUR 8 mln for works and EUR 1.3 mln for goods and services. The low-value thresholds are app. EUR 80,000 for works and EUR 50,000 for goods and services.

For contracts above the low value thresholds, contracting authorities shall use open procedures, restricted procedures, design contests. Negotiated procedures may be used only in the specific cir­cumstances set forth in Art. 32 and 33 of the PPL.

For contracts of a value lower than the low value thresholds, contracting authorities may use negoti­ated procedures with or without prior publication and requests for proposals in accordance with the conditions provided in the law.

The contracts are advertised on the website of the PPA and are fully accessible to any bidder, wher­ever it is located, and the time limits are a minimum of30 days from publication on the website (for open procedures).

## Niche capabilities

Albania is a relatively small country with limited capabilities. It is hard to find any specialization (niche) in its DRR capabilities. But if we analyse its defence capabilities as a whole, we can assume that the DRR is one of the area of specialization of Albanian Armed forces, together with the asym­metric warfare.[[101]](#footnote-101)

# Resources

## Legislative acts

Law No. 7623, dated October 13, 1992 on “Forests and Forestry Police Services.”

Law No. 7664, dated January 21, 1993 on the “Protection of Environment.”

Law No. 7761, dated October 19, 1993 on “Prevention and Fighting of Contagious Diseases.”

Law No. 7864, dated September 29, 1994 on the “Albanian Red Cross.”

Law No. 7978, dated July 26, 1995 on Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, amended.

Law No. 8093, dated March 21, 1996, on “Water Reserves.”

Law No. 8408, dated September 25, 1998 on the “Construction Police.”

Law No. 8553, dated November 25, 1999 on the “State Police.”

Law No.8671, dated October 26, 2000, on “Powers and Authorities of the Armed Forces of the Re­public of Albania.”

Law No. 8681, dated November 2, 2000 on “Designing, Construction, Exploitation and Maintenance of Dams and Dikes.”

Law No. 8736, dated February 12, 2001 on “Security of Pressure Equipment in Operation.”

Law No. 8756, dated March 26, 2001 on the “Civil Emergency Services.”

Law No. 8766, dated April 5, 2001, on “Fire Protection and Rescue.”

Law No. 8897 dated May 16, 2002 on “Protection of air from pollution.”

Law No. 8934, dated September 5, 2002 on the “Protection of Environment.”

Law No. 9106, dated July 17, 2003 on “On Hospital Service in the Republic of Albania.”

Law No. 9126, dated July 29, 2003 on the “Civil Use of Explosive Substances.”

Law No. 9251, dated July 8, 2004 “Code of Seas of Republic of Albania.”

## Other normative acts

Decision No. 664, dated December 18, 2002 on the “Criteria and procedures dealing with proclama­tion of a state of civil emergency.”

Decision No. 654, dated December 18, 2002, on “Temporary application of taxes for private business vehicles by the government bodies in a situation of civil emergency.”

Decision No. 655, dated December 18, 2002, on “Establishment and functioning of the national sys­tem structure on civil emergency planning and response.”

Decision No.663, dated December 18, 2002 on the “Constitution, Functioning and Responsibilities of the Technical-Advisory Commission of Emergency Specialists.”

Decision No.664, dated December 18, 2002 on “Criteria and procedures of proclamation of the civil emergency situation.”

Decision No. 531, dated August 1, 2003, on the “Organization, Functioning, Duties and Responsibili­ties of Civil Emergency Service.”

Decision No. 532, dated August 1, 2003 on the “Responsibilities and Duties of the Department of Planning for and Overcoming Civil Emergencies.”

Decision No.533, dated August 1, 2003 on the “Involvement of Citizens in Prevention and Overcom­ing Civil Emergencies.”

Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 103 dated March 31, 2002 on “Monitoring of environment in Republic of Albania.”

Regulation of Operative Management of Emergencies for the State Police, No. 1604, dated 22 De­cember 2001.

## Official documents (white papers, strategies, etc.)

National Civil Emergency Plan, 2004.

National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil Protection 2014-2018, draft as of June 2014.

## Online resources (e.g. websites of key CM organizations)

Albanian Civil Protection, <http://www.mbrojtjacivile.al>

Ministry of Finance, <http://www.financa.gov.al/>

Ministry of Interior, <http://www.punetebrendshme.gov.al/>

Prime Minister’s Office, <http://www.kryeministria.al/en/>

DPPI SEE Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe, <http://www.dppi.info/>

Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System, <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/175774/joint-reaction-2015>

AL-DRMAP Project, <http://www.worldbank.org/projects/P110845/disaster-risk-mitigation-adaptation-project?lang=en>

GFDRR initiative, <https://www.gfdrr.org/area/Pillar3>

CIMA foundation – DEWETRA an DesInventar Systems, <http://www.cimafoundation.org/en/cima-foundation/dewetra/>

<http://www.cimafoundation.org/en/cima-foundation/desinventar/>

IPA (Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance) Adriatic Cross-border Programme **–** ADRIARadNet and HAZADR Projects, <http://www.adriaticipacbc.org/index.asp?page=interna&level=project_list>

IncREO Project, <http://www.increo-fp7.eu/project-overview/>

Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) – Operations, NATO, [www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\_117901.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_117901.htm).

## Publications

Study Reports

Albanian HFA Monitoring Report 2011-2013.

Duro F., Albania’s civil protection system and its related regional cooperation, IDM, 2014.

IPA Beneficiary Needs Assessment: Albania (UNDP and WMO, August 2011). Available at www.gripweb.org/gripweb/sites/default/files/Albania%20Needs%20Assessment%20-%202011-08-30.pdf (accessed 12 September 2014).

ISDR, WB, Mitigating the Adverse Financial Effects of Natural Hazards on the Economies of South Eastern Europe: a Study of Disaster Risk Financing Options, 2008. Available at http://www.preventionweb.net/files/1742\_SEEDRFinancing.pdf.

ISDR, WB, South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Initiative: Risk Assessment for South Eastern Europe, Desk Study Review, 2008. Available at http://www.unisdr.org/files/1741\_SouthEasternEuropeDRMitigation.pdf.

ISDR, WB, South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme, 2008. Available at http://www.unisdr.org/files/18136\_seedrmapevaluation.pdf.

ISDR, WB, The Structure, Role and Mandate of Civil Protection in Disaster Risk Reduction for South Eastern Europe, 2008. Available at http://www.unisdr.org/files/9346\_Europe.pdf.

ISDR, WB, WMO, Strengthening Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Risk Assessment in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Assessment of Capacities, Gaps and Needs, 2012. Available at http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/projects/SEE/documents/SEEPhase%20I%20-%20Final Report.pdf.

ISDR, WMO, WB, Strengthening the Hydrometeorological Services in South Eastern Europe: South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme, 2008. Available at http://www.unisdr.org/files/18136\_seedrmapevaluation.pdf.

Marchio R., “Operation Alba”: A European approach to Peace Support operations in the Balkans, USAWC, 2000.

The Military Balance. Routledge, annual editions. https://www.routledge.com/series/MB.

UNDAC, Assessment and recommendations following the Gerdec Explosions, 2008, available at http://www.unep.org/french/greenstar//publications/Report%20Ammunition%20Blast,%20Albania,%202008%5B2%5D.pdf.

UNDP, Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Assessment Report for Albania, 2011. Available at http://www.gripweb.org/gripweb/sites/default/files/Albania%20DRR%20Cap%20Ass%20Report%20Hachim%20Final.pdf.

UNISDR, Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2013. Available at http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/33013.

UNISDR, Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015. Available at http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2015/en/gar-pdf/GAR2015\_EN.pdf.

1. The draft is from 19 June 2014 and is available on http://www.mbrojtjacivile.al. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. UNDP, Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Assessment Report for Albania (2011). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Two reports outline the level of risk to natural hazards and capacities in disaster risk management in Albania (1) Disaster risk assessment in Albania, UNDP, 2003 and (2) Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Assessment Report for Albania, UNDP 2011. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR, 2013 & 2015 editions. Cf. http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2015/en/gar-pdf/GAR2015\_EN.pdf, p. 92. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. IPCC Special Report on Extreme Events (IPCC/SREX, 2011). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Extracted from The International Disaster Database (EM-DAT), maintained by the Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters at http://www.emdat.be/database. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. NATO, http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news\_117784.htm. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. For comparison, according to World Bank data the GDP of Albania grew from 3.687 billion US dollars in 2000 to 12.9 billion in 2013. See http://data.worldbank.org/country/albania. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. SEE CC Framework, Action Plan for Adaptation. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. See www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/86599/Albania.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. All data in this section is drawn from the Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Assessment Report for Albania (UNDP, 2011). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Probabilistic seismic hazard maps for Albania, 13th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, 2004. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Risk Assessment Study of Natural Disaster in Albania, 2003. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. ICOLD World Register of Dams, 1998. See also www.icold-cigb.org/GB/World\_register/world\_register.asp. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Or ‘shrubland.’ [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. To be reviewed at section 2 “Legislation.” [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. The original name of the structure was Department of Civil Emergency Planning and Response, and many documents and pieces of legislation consulted for the report’s drafting use that name. It could also be found as General Directorate of Civil Protection. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. IPA Beneficiary Needs Assessment, UNDP, 2011, p.10. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Draft version of National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil Protection 2014-2018, June 2014, quote on p. 12. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Draft version of National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil Protection 2014-2018, June 2014, quote on p. 11. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. UNDP, 2011, p.13. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Assessment Report, UNDP, 2011, p.15. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Albania Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project (under the World Bank Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project). The project was for over $9M for 2012-2014. The object is to strengthen institutional capacities (a) to reduce Albania's vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards; and (b) to limit human economic, and financial losses due to these disasters, www.worldbank.org/projects/P110845/disaster-risk-mitigation-adaptation-project?lang=en. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. The DEWETRA platform is a real-time integrated system for hydro-meteorological and wildfire risk forecasting, monitoring and prevention. The system is based on the rapid availability of different data which help establish up-to-date and reliable risk scenarios. Available at http://www.cimafoundation.org/en/cima-foundation/dewetra/. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. http://www.cimafoundation.org/en/cima-foundation/desinventar/. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Prepared by the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization and adopted by the Council of Ministers with Decree no. 835 (2004). [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. http://www.adriaticipacbc.org/index.asp?page=interna&level=project\_list. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. https://www.gfdrr.org/area/Pillar3. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. http://www.adriaticipacbc.org/index.asp?page=interna&level=project\_list. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. UNESCO Country Programming Document for Albania 2014-2017, Second edition - January 2015, p.33. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. http://www.increo-fp7.eu/project-overview/. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. National Civil Emergency Plan, p.31. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. National Civil Emergency Plan, pp.32-35. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. IPA Beneficiary Needs Assessment Albania, pp.10-11. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. Data is available in Albanian at www.financa.gov.al/al/legjislacioni/buxheti-thesari-borxhi/buxheti/buxheti-ne-vite/buxheti-2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. IPA Beneficiary Needs Assessment Albania, pp.10-11. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. National Civil Emergency Plan, p.45. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. Cited earlier in this report (pp. 18-22). [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. See Chapter 5 on capabilities in this report. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. Mitigating the Adverse Financial Effects of Natural Hazards on the Economies of South Eastern Europe. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. National Civil Emergency Plan, pp.49-50. [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. IPA Beneficiary Needs Assessment – Albania, p.12. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. National Civil Emergency Plan, p.50. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. Assessment and recommendations following the Gerdec Explosions. [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. The Structure, Role and Mandate of Civil Protection in Disaster Risk Reduction for South Eastern Europe, available at http://www.unisdr.org/files/9346\_Europe.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Assessment Report for Albania. [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. Already cited in this report. [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. Albanian HFA Monitoring Report 2011-2013, General Directorate of Civil Emergencies of Albania. [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. IPA Beneficiary Needs Assessment – Albania, pp. 8-9. [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil Protection 2014-2018, Republic of Albania, Draft for consultation – version 19 June 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. Ibid., p.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. Ibid., p.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. Law Nr. 8756 on Civil Emergency Services, dated 26/03/2001, art.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. National Civil Emergency Plan, p.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. National Civil Emergency Plan, p.6. [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. Vademecum Civil Protection – Country Profile – Albania. [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. Decision No 664 regarding Criteria and Procedures of Proclamation of the Civil Emergency Situation, dated 18 February 2002. [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. National Civil Emergency Plan, pp.10-11. [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. Previously Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. Law 8756 on Civil Emergency Services, Chapter II, Chapter III. [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. Vademecum Civil Protection - Country Profile – Albania. [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. Comparative Research of Emergency Response Legislation: Albania, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, p.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. Decision no 533, dated 1.8. 2003, on Citizen Involvement on Civil Emergency Prevention and Response. [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. Law 8756 on Civil Emergency Services, Chapter IV, art.24. [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. Law 8756 on Civil Emergency Services, Chapter V, art. 30. [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. Ibid., Chapter I, art. 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. Ibid., Chapter IV, art. 25. [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. National Civil Emergency Plan, p. 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. Albanian HFA Monitoring Report 2011-2013, General Directorate of Civil Emergencies of Albania, pp. 2-3. [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
71. International CEP Handbook 2009, pp. 12-13. [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
72. National Civil Emergency Plan, p.11. [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
73. Source: <http://www.mbrojtjacivile.al/?page_id=774> [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
74. National Civil Emergency Plan, p.12. [↑](#footnote-ref-74)
75. Vademecum Civil Protection - Country Profile - Albania [↑](#footnote-ref-75)
76. Vademecum Civil Protection – Country Profile – Albania. [↑](#footnote-ref-76)
77. pp.32-35. [↑](#footnote-ref-77)
78. pp.36-40. [↑](#footnote-ref-78)
79. NCEP, p. 27. [↑](#footnote-ref-79)
80. UNDAC MISSION REPORT Gerdec Explosions, Albania, 15 March 2008. [↑](#footnote-ref-80)
81. Ibid., pp. 26-27. [↑](#footnote-ref-81)
82. Ibid., p.60 and p. 75. [↑](#footnote-ref-82)
83. Ibid., p.13. [↑](#footnote-ref-83)
84. Ibid., p. 30. [↑](#footnote-ref-84)
85. Strengthening Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Risk Assessment in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Assessment of Capacities, Gaps and Needs, Chapter 2, p. 14. [↑](#footnote-ref-85)
86. Strengthening Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Risk Assessment in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Assessment of Capacities, Gaps and Needs, Chapter 2, pp. 21-22. [↑](#footnote-ref-86)
87. Ibid., p. 24. [↑](#footnote-ref-87)
88. The Structure, Role and Mandate of Civil Protection in Disaster Risk Reduction for South Eastern Europe. [↑](#footnote-ref-88)
89. IPA Beneficiary Needs Assessment Albania, p. 11. [↑](#footnote-ref-89)
90. National Information on Disaster Risk Reduction: Albania, Annex: Reference Guide for Preparation of Nation­al Information, pp. 11-12. [↑](#footnote-ref-90)
91. The Structure, Role and Mandate of Civil Protection in Disaster Risk Reduction for South Eastern Europe, *South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme*, p. 54. [↑](#footnote-ref-91)
92. The Structure, Role and Mandate of Civil Protection in Disaster Risk Reduction for South Eastern Europe, available at http://www.unisdr.org/files/9346\_Europe.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-92)
93. Available at http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/projects/SEE/documents/SEEPhase%20I%20-%20Final Report.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-93)
94. Available at http://www.unep.org/french/greenstar//publications/Report%20Ammunition%20Blast,%20 Albania,%202008[2].pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-94)
95. Duro F., Albania’s civil protection system and its related regional cooperation, IDM, 2014, p. 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-95)
96. The data available on http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\_117901.htm?selectedLocale=en is for requests after 2002. [↑](#footnote-ref-96)
97. IPA Beneficiary Needs Assessment Albania, p. 16. [↑](#footnote-ref-97)
98. IPA Beneficiary Needs Assessment Albania, pp. 19-20. [↑](#footnote-ref-98)
99. Vademecum Civil Protection – Country Profile – Albania. [↑](#footnote-ref-99)
100. Public Procurement Law, available at https://www.app.gov.al/ep/Legislation.aspx. [↑](#footnote-ref-100)
101. For an overall assessment of AAF capabilities –see the annual edition of Military Balance, published by Routledge, https://www.routledge.com/series/MB. [↑](#footnote-ref-101)