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Sub-regional Workshop on Disaster Management for Moldova, Romania and Ukraine



Between 23-25 June, Tincabesti Telecommunication Training Centre hosted the Sub Regional Workshop on Disaster Management in Eastern Europe. The aim of the Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP) is to strengthen and support the initiatives of the Stability Pact's Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) in the region. The programme aims at creating a learning platform addressing crises, emergencies and disaster for UN Member States. It is funded by the United Nations Development Programme through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Since its establishment in 1990, 70 training workshops have been held throughout the world with over 6,000 participants.

The 20 participants from Moldova, Ukraine and Romania, represented key players in disaster management (Civil Protection, Ministries of Interior, Environment, Industry, Food and Agriculture, Health, NGOs and UN Agencies). The three-day workshop was led by four international trainers: Mr. Dusan Zupka, UN-OCHA, Ms. Patricia Charleboi, UN - OCHA/United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), Ms. Maria-Olga Gonzales, UNDP/DMTP, and Ms. Petra Demarin, UNDP/DMTP. UNDP Romania and Romanian Civil Protection Command co-organised the event

Mr. Zupka chaired the opening ceremony and keynote addresses were given by Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UNDP Resident Representative and Mr. Liviu-Viorel Nemes, Head of Civil Protection Command. The speakers highlighted the importance of this training programme, underlying the importance of developing a regional platform for cooperation in solving environmental crises such as flooding or accidental spillages.

During the three-day highly interactive programme, participants gave country presentations and profiles, and presented the lessons learnt from past disaster events, case studies and practical exercises. The aims of the programme are to increase coordination and information exchange between the participants at national and regional levels, and to identify opportunities and needs for regional cooperation in order to improve the response capacity in case of natural or accidental disasters. These aims were achieved by the input sessions given by the trainers as well as the networking opportunities the course provided participants.

One of the areas stressed on the course was the important role the media plays during a crisis. A group of journalists were invited to discuss this with the participants and this resulted in a lively debate on the media's role of empowering people with accurate information through objective reporting.



From left: Dusan Zupka (UN-OCHA), Soknan Han Jung, UNDP Resident Representative, Liviu-Viorel Nemes, Head of the Romanian Civil Protection.

For further info, please visit the DMTP website at <http://undmtp.org> or contact UNDP Romania: roxana.suciu@undp.ro