Dear reader,

In the third edition of our newsletter we have the pleasure to inform you about the development of Climate Vulnerability Analyses (CVA) that have been elaborated in Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia within the project SEE Forum on Climate Change Adaptation. Read more about the first findings of these analysis, regional staff meetings, national advocacy trainings and local news from CSO network activities in Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. We tell you how the South East European region was affected by severe weather conditions, so the Red Cross societies activated their full capacities to deliver humanitarian aid. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. For more detailed information on our project, please visit www.seeclimateforum.org.

Over the past six months, experts in each of the four network countries have been working hard on the national CVA reports, highlighting areas and sectors vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather, and proposing recommendations to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and help build capacity to prepare for and respond to climate-related disasters.

Each report draws on the personal expertise of the report writers, with input from other national experts and support from National Red Cross Societies and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre.

A key component of the national CVAs involves identifying the current capabilities of CSOs in each country and developing recommendations for the future activities of the network. Over the next few weeks, each network member organization will be invited to provide feedback on the report (including providing input in any area of special expertise), and to help develop recommendations for CSOs in their country for the best ways to respond to climate change.

As the national CVAs are being completed, the regional synthesis report will also be taking shape, drawing on research from the national reports. This report will include an analysis of climate vulnerability in all four countries, and propose recommendations for policymakers and CSOs in the SEE region. Developed with the assistance of the national report teams, it will be presented at a conference in Sutomore, Montenegro from 12-13 June and will hopefully be a useful document for lobbying purposes as well as providing concrete suggestions for the national networks to work to reduce vulnerability to the negative effects of climate change.

Goran Sekulic on the Development of the Climate Vulnerability Analysis in Serbia

The process of creating the Climate Vulnerability Analysis in Serbia has started in December 2011. Goran Sekulic, assistant in the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia is the chief expert in this process. The Serbian network “Climate Forum” decided to provide a very detailed and efficient analysis, so three more experts also work on this task.

In this issue:
- Climate Vulnerability Analyses
- National Communication Trainings
- National Network News

CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ANALYSES

Goran Sekulic on the Development of the Climate Vulnerability Analysis in Serbia

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Goran Sekulic was ready to give a short interview on the development of the CVA in Serbia.

Mr. Sekulic, what are the main areas covered in the analysis?

The general structure of the analysis was developed jointly with other project writers and forum members. Besides the general information about climate change on the global level, the analysis focuses on country specific aspects. It tries to assess expected effects of climate change in Serbia and to estimate vulnerability as well as adaptive capacity in general, on a country level. Special attention was paid to disaster risk and expected increased incidence of natural disasters in future.

The second part of the analysis focuses on sectors which are recognized as particularly vulnerable. Those are water management, agriculture, energy, public health and natural ecosystems. The sector analysis consists of a general overview, expected climate change effects and recommendations for adaptation measures on the five sectors mentioned above.

In the final chapters the analysis brings a general overview of relevant documents and organizational structures in Serbia. The analysis ends with general recommendations for policy makers and CSOs in the field of climate change adaptation (CCA).

What was the methodology used for compiling the Analysis? What were your major resources and difficulties?

We started with screening of all existing documents such as strategies, plans, programs, laws etc. A very important document in the start was the First national communication on climate change which was developed in 2010. Of course relevant international documents were also considered.

One of the main resources was the Republic Hydro-meteorological Institute and its National climate change centre. It is obvious that this institution considerably improved their resources in the aspect of climate change and they will play a crucial role in the climate change adaptation process on the national level.

There are also some scientific institutions in Serbia like the Faculty of Sciences and the Faculty of Agriculture from the University of Novi Sad which started to comprehensively deal with climate change and adaptation. Another very useful resource was ADAGIO project (Adaptation of Agriculture in European Region at Environmental Risk under Climate Change) and its results.

In general, data availability on climate change is still very limited especially in the aspect of climate change adaptation, particularly in some sectors like public health.

What are the main findings of the Serbian Climate Vulnerability Analysis?

Serbia is vulnerable to climate change. A big portion of economic activities depends on climate conditions and for sure they will be affected by climate change. The problem is that climate change effects will amplify the already existing problems like under-development of some regions, depopulation in rural areas and depression in agriculture. Therefore climate change adaptation should be considered as an integral part of the general national policy.
Climate change effects will be regionally specific, which means that different regions will be differently affected. Not just because of climate characteristics but also because of their economic and social characteristics and potentials. CCA policy should consider those specifics and special attention should be given to increasing adaptive capacity in highly vulnerable regions or highly vulnerable groups of people.

Of course, there are possible benefits of climate change and CCA policy has to focus on them also. For example, according to some projections there will be some positive effects in agricultural production, in specific crops, but we have to adapt in order to fully yield those benefits.

How would you describe the collaboration with the civil society organizations?

Collaboration with CSOs was very good but I must say that their capacities in the field of climate change adaptation are still relatively low. Of course, that is expected since the situation in the governmental sector is not much better. It is important to create networks of CSOs in order to improve their capacities and visibility and influence in society. Therefore I like the idea of the regional CCA forum and I hope that it will continue its activities in the future.

What are your lessons learned from this process and do you have any recommendations?

CCA is a very challenging process which demands a multidisciplinary approach. For adequate CCA policy we will need good coordination on the national level but also strong involvement of the civil society sector. In that process we have to deal with uncertainty and in order to achieve that we have to work on scientific capacities but also to have comprehensive consultative processes in policy making.

Development of the CVA Report in Macedonia

Macedonian Red Cross in cooperation with Mr Aleksandar Glavinov, of the Military Academy Military Academy “General Mihailo Apostolski” and University “Goce Delcev”, and with the Climate Response network members has been working on the development of the Climate Vulnerability Report for past five months. This document will give the CSOs and the governmental institutions a clear view and an assessment regarding the climate change issues on the national level. In order to achieve high quality of the report, professional support was provided by Mr Glavinov who gave guidelines for vulnerability to climate change in Macedonia.

During this period of time the document was sent to the network members in order to get their opinions and remarks regarding the content of the report. Those comments were included in the draft version of CVA report and last stages of the report development have been reached. The final version preparation is now under way and it will include some concretization and implementation of advice received at the network meeting.
Communication Trainings to strengthen network members in presenting their Climate Vulnerability Analysis

In April 2012 four national CSO networks on will receive trainings in communication skills with the main aim to strengthen network members in presenting their national Climate Vulnerability Assessments to governmental stakeholders and the wider public. The trainings will be delivered by experienced local trainers of the Institute for Economic Promotion of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber and will focus on network members needs, such as presentation techniques, design of position papers and specific rhetoric. The use of various communication instruments should facilitate the broad distribution of advocacy messages to different stakeholders. This workshop is aimed at enhancing the success of communication by providing participants with practical skills, knowledge and tools needed by communicators within a CSO.

SEE Forum on CCA Foundation
12-13 June, Sutomore, Montenegro

One of the most important events this season will be held in Sutomore this June: two days full of events to combine theory and action to shape the future of CCA in the SEE region. Montenegro Red Cross invites all interested partners to meet near the shores of the Adriatic Sea to participate in the “Forum Foundation Day”, followed by a one day “EU acquis communautaire” training.

First of all, high-ranking national and international experts will join us to plan together the future of the forum and CCA strategies. As another highlight, the presentation of the “Regional Climate Vulnerability Assessment Report” will take place at this event.

Bringing together the expertise of all the report writers, the findings of the national CVA reports will be combined into one report that will outline the facts and needs of CCA in the SEE region. In connection with the long awaited report, the operational procedures of the SEE Forum on CCA will be made official through an agreement signed by all the partners. Finally, a training organized by the WWF on related “EU acquis communautaire” areas is offered on the second day and will provide the participants with key knowledge for their work. For more information contact us via our website www.seeclimateforum.org!

Project Team of the SEE Forum on CCA applying for a Follow-up Project

In January 2012 the European Commission launched an IPA multi-beneficiary call for proposals on Civil Society Facility Partnership Programmes for CSOs supporting regional thematic networks. The programme purpose is to achieve a more dynamic civil society actively participating in public debate on democracy, human rights, social inclusion and the rule of law with capacity to influence policy and decision making processes. The project staff of the SEE Forum on CCA decided to jointly develop an application in view of further increasing capacities and participation of established CSO networks in Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia in policy dialogue and awareness-raising on CCA. After a first planning meeting in Zagreb, the team gathered in Vienna on 21 March 2012 in order to discuss and finalize jointly envisaged activities and respective responsibilities.

**Planning meeting in Vienna**
Project Staff Meetings on the Development of Climate Vulnerability Analysis

The team of the project SEE Forum on Climate Change Adaptation met in Zagreb, Croatia from 28 February to 1 March 2012 in order to discuss the development of Climate Vulnerability Analysis and to conduct an internal self-evaluation of the project.

The first day of the meeting was dedicated to the discussion of the Climate Vulnerability Analyses, which are being prepared in Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Experts who worked on these analyses presented their work, challenges they faced and exchanged experiences. On the second day, the first phase of the project mid-term evaluation was presented, followed by a discussion on the mobilization and sustainability of national CSO networks and capacity building effects achieved. Finally, the project team also discussed a possible follow-up project that shall further support networks to advocate for climate change adaptation and strengthen capacities of national CSO network members in policy dialogue.

Climate Change in the Educational System

As a part of the advocacy and lobbying campaign, Macedonian Red Cross managed to place the climate change adaptation in the extracurricular educational programme as a subject named Risk assessment, vulnerability of climate change and standard operating procedures (SOP). This course is a part of the study programme Crisis Management, Protection and Rescue in Department of Safety, Crisis Management, Protection and Rescue in the Military Academy “General Mihailo Apostolski” – Skopje which is the part of the University of Goce Delcev Stip. The Macedonian network together with the Red Cross will continue lobbying in the educational institutions in order to promote climate change and adaptation issues among the university professors and students.

Climate Response and Local Red Cross Branches

Even though the Macedonian network is coordinated by the national Red Cross society, the involvement of the Red Cross is not only limited to the national or regional level.
Local branches of the Macedonian Red Cross have joined in the network activities and included other members in the DRR and health actions. In June 2011, Macedonian Red Cross branch Bitola organized a regional summer camp for disaster preparedness and response to which the volunteers from the environmental CSO Molika were invited. Here the volunteers and participants had the opportunity to learn how to build a camp for settlement of refugees and injured population as a result of environmental disasters such as earthquakes and floods.

The first project aims at supporting the development of the Second National Communication, at fulfilling the obligations arising from the Convention, strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of Montenegro in climate change as well as supporting the integration of these issues in different sectors and national development priorities. The purpose of this project is to develop, produce and distribute the Second National Communication document (SNC) which will update and boost contents which refers to the circumstances in the country, the greenhouse gas emission register, adaptation to climate change, sensitivity to climate change and the steps that should be taken accordingly. It will update the information about public awareness, education, training, systemic research and observations and technology transfer. The project will also increase the capacity for drafting next national communications and serve as a basis for defining program policies in Montenegro.

In the framework of the project several working groups will be established. The Agency for Environmental Protection will lead the group responsible for producing inventory of greenhouse effect gasses. The UNDP office in Montenegro will be tasked to identify mitigation measures and work on public education about climate change, while the Hydro-meteorological Institute will be the head of the working group tasked for developing the part of SNC dedicated to climate vulnerability assessment.

Montenegro Red Cross was recognized by the Institutions as an organization which may give active contribution in Disaster Risk Reduction as well as in humanitarian consequences of the climate change and in accordance with that it will participate in the working group which will work on sensitivity to climate change.

The Second National Communication on Climate Change of Montenegro

Montenegro Red Cross, together with other members of the national CSO network Climate Response, received an invitation to participate in the Initial workshop for projects: "Preparation of the Second National Communication on Climate Change of Montenegro to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) “ and "Strengthening institutional capacities in integrating international obligations in decision-making processes on development and investment decisions". The workshop was held in Podgorica, on 3 February 2012 and it was organized by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and UNDP Office in Montenegro.
The Second project aims to help Montenegro in establishing an Information System for managing environmental issues, as well as to strengthen national capacities in the gathering and analysing data and information, their comparison with the national and global environmental indicators and integrating them in the decision-making process in field of environmental protection and sustainable development.

These projects will be implemented by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism in co-operation with the UNDP Office in Montenegro. Civil Society organizations are invited to take part in this process. Montenegro Red Cross was asked to take active role in resolving socio-humanitarian issues of the SNC.

**Severe Weather in the SEE Region**

February has brought very low temperatures and snow storms to the entire Europe, as climate change accounts for more extreme weather events. Heavy snow paralyzed towns while communal services struggled to clear major roads. The bad weather accounted for the difficulties in supplying food and basic commodities to many places, and the electricity consumption reached record levels. In the SEE region a few dozens of people died as a result of freezing. After a few days of this severe weather and difficulties that some municipalities had in dealing with it, the national governments declared the emergency situation. Red Cross organizations in Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia have activated all of their capacities to help those in need. Municipal organizations have been providing food, hygiene packages, blankets, warm clothing and shoes. Emergency medical assistance is given and day care centres and soup kitchens provide shelter and hot meals for the vulnerable population.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies allocated funds in addition to National Societies’ aid efforts to support the most vulnerable people, especially homeless and elderly people. Emergency funds are being directed to Red Cross societies in Belarus, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia to distribute warm clothes, stoves, food parcels and warm drinks, while hundreds of volunteers have been mobilised to help get aid to remote villages and temporary shelters. Volunteers are also taking part in rescue operations, and evacuating elderly or injured persons to receive medical care.

**Earth Hour 2012**

On March 31st 2012, from 20.30 to 21.30 local time the Earth Hour took place this year in over 6000 cities around the world. WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Danube-Carpathian programme office in Serbia held a press conference to announce this event and invite people to join the global initiative which happened for the fourth time in a row in this country. In 2012 more than 40 cities joined the Earth Hour in Serbia.
Earth Hour is a global event organized by WWF and is held on the last Saturday of March annually, asking households, cities, institutions, businesses and CSOs to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour to raise awareness towards the need to take action on climate change. It is one of the biggest environmental campaigns which aims to raise awareness and get people to do small things in their daily lives that together can have huge impacts.

“I Will If You Will” is the 2012 campaign, with the intention of engaging the growing global community to go beyond the hour. It is a simple promise and a challenge! Using a dedicated YouTube platform, it asks Earth Hour’s digital community to inspire people from all around the globe to take sustainability actions, and to share their commitment to the environment with their own social media networks.

**A Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Training Kit**

The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre has developed a training kit to support capacity building on climate risk management. The kit is designed to help trainers and facilitators within the Red Cross societies to create interactive trainings or workshops on climate risk management and climate change. The results of the test sessions during the of the current IPA project **SEE Forum on Climate Change Adaptation** are incorporated in the training kit.

A total of eleven Climate Training Kit (CTK) modules are developed to support capacity building activities within the Red Cross Red Crescent movement. An online website has been designed to make all products of the training kit easily accessible for practitioners. Many of the products have been tested in various training events and further improved and fine-tuned towards final products. A pre-launch of the Climate Training Kit is expected in mid 2012, which will be another opportunity to collect feedback from a number of expert colleagues around the world. We aim for this kit to become a widely used tool within the Red Cross Red Crescent, enabling National Societies and IFRC offices to improve their understanding of ‘climate-smart DRR’ and climate risk management. The complete package is designed to support national societies to engage more easily into policy dialogues, gain better access to climate information and finally to improve their decision making before a climate related disaster strikes by turning early warning information into effective early action.

**Rio+20**

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) will take place in Brazil on 20 – 22 June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. It is envisaged as a high-level Conference, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives. The Conference is expected to result in a focused political document and its objective is to secure political commitment for sustainable development, assess current progress and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new challenges. The Conference will deal with two topics, a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development.
**FUNDING POSSIBILITIES**

Local Publication for Call for Proposals – Civil Society Development in Montenegro

The Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro is seeking proposals for the implementation of the Civil Society Development Programme in Montenegro with financial assistance from the IPA 2011 Civil Society Facility. The Programme will support strengthening civil society organisations to participate in decision and policy making processes and will enhance their participation in the development and EU integration processes. It is also aimed at enforcing the role of CSOs in community development. The deadline for submission of proposals is 15th May 2012. The Information session on this Call for Proposals will be held on 5th April at the premises of the Delegation of the European Union. The full Guidelines for Applicants are available for consultation on the EU internet [site](#).

**PUBLICATIONS**

Public Awareness and Public Education for DRR: A Guide

This [guide](#) is designed to help Red Cross National Societies to plan and develop public awareness and education efforts for disaster risk reduction and it is related to four major areas of activity: public health, environmental management, earth science and geology, and the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (IFRC). The guide supports two key IFRC documents – Strategy 2020 and A Framework for Community Safety and Resilience in the Face of Disaster Risk. By providing specific operational guidance for promoting disaster risk reduction, this document will help to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action, a global blueprint for disaster risk reduction effort between 2005 and 2015.

Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into Development Planning: A Guide for Practitioners

The purpose of this guide is to provide practical, step-by-step guidance on how governments and other national actors can mainstream climate change adaptation into national development planning as part of broader mainstreaming efforts. The guide draws on substantial experience and lessons learned by the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative in working with governments to integrate environmental management for pro-poor economic growth and development into national development planning and decision-making. You can read the document [here](#).

Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation

The Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation (SRREN) of the IPCC Working Group III provides an assessment and thorough analysis of renewable energy technologies and their current and potential role in the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. The report combines information on technology specific studies with results of large-scale integrated models, and provides policy-relevant information to decision makers on the characteristics and technical potentials of different resources. The report is available on the [IPCC website](#).

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The next issue is coming up in June 2012!