Study of the institutional capacities and practices for the communication of flood risks in the Dniester river basin

The project’s aim: To reduce risks from climate change, and specifically from floods, by improving the adaptive capacity of two riparian countries - Ukraine and Moldova. Along with this task, the project aims to further strengthen cooperative management of the Dniester River for coping with the current and future floods, taking into account climate variability, and assessing its long-term impacts on water resources and flood intensity.

The flood communication component is one of the project’s components.

The flood communication component’s aim: to assess the existing capacities, practices and information flows related to flood management in the Dniester basin at the national, the local and the cross-border levels.

The flood communication study’s objectives:
- to analyze and discuss the available experience and potential in Moldova and Ukraine with reference to information exchange on flood risks and timely warning issues to the population in the basin
- to provide direct inputs to the agenda and content of the international workshop on flood communication
- to develop the flood risk communication and flood warning plans at the local level
- to fragmentally implement the local plans on flood communication and flood warning

The approaches of the study implementation:
- provide the interviews with the key organization’s representatives in the basin
- preparation of the report on the basis of interviews, existing materials and experience of international organizations dealing with flood communication and management
- organization an international workshop for discussion of the institutional background and practice for flood communication as well as learning an international experience in the field
- discussion and elaboration of the local implementation plans for the selected areas
- implementation of the prioritized plans on flood communication and flood warning measures

The achievements of the study implementation:
- a series of interviews on flood alerts and flood communication with national and local representatives of responsible organizations took place in the basin
- the overview/report on flood communication and information exchange in the basin was prepared
- the organization of the international workshop is under preparation

International workshop on flood communication:
- it will take place on May 27-28, 2013 in Lviv, Ukraine
50-60 representatives of all key organizations from Ukraine and Moldova, international organizations and external experts will be invited

the wide diversity of participants will be provided: representatives of hydrometeorological, water, emergency, environmental agencies at the national, basin, oblast and local levels from both countries; as well as representatives of oblast and local authorities

Content of the international workshop on flood communication:
- discussion of the existing institutional capacities and practices for the communication of flood risks
- prioritization of the flood communication and flood warning measures for the basin
- discussion and further elaboration of the local implementation plans in selected areas

Expectations from Ukraine’s and Moldova’s participants:
- presentation of the main issues of the flood-related communication and information exchange in the framework of their institutions’ competency
- presentation and discussion of the role of their organization in the process of flood-related activities
- presentation of the their own experience in flood communication and information exchange on the practice
- definition and discussion of the most vulnerable/affected places and issues concerning information exchange
- preparation of the recommendations and measures on improving the situation on flood communication and flood warning at the local, the oblast and the basin levels

Contribution of the international experts:
- share her/his experience (as positive and negative) on flood communication and interaction with local population for flood warning, particularly regarding some of the issues bellow:
  - the hydro-meteorological data flows
  - channels of information distribution
  - different means of flood warning to local community
  - early warning systems
  - flood preventive measures in the context of communication and flood warning
  - the roles and actions of the emergency services and local authorities before, during and after floods
  - educational and training courses for local population as well as for local emergency entities, lectures at schools, other measures for raising public awareness on floods etc.
- provide the recommendations for elaboration of the local implementation plans

More information about the project is available at:
http://www1.unece.org/ehlm/platform/pages/viewpage.action?pageld=22741054

http://dniester.org/materials/navodneniya-i-izmenenie-klimata/