

Minutes of meetings

Title: National Consultation Meetings

Moderator: Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić, Cener21

MoM prepared by: Sanita Džino and Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić, Cener21

Date: 11 October 2021

Date and time:

National consultation meetings were held in six countries of the Western Balkans (WB) in the period from September 28, 2021 to October 6, 2021; according to the following schedule:

Country	Date	Time
Bosnia and Herzegovina	28 September 2021	10:00-11:45
Serbia	30 September 2021	11:00-12:45
Montenegro	01 October 2021	11:00-12:45
Albania	04 October 2021	11:00-12:45
Kosovo*	05 October 2021	10:00-11:45
North Macedonia	06 October 2021	11:00-12:45

Aim of meetings:

- Mobilizing stakeholders and introducing stakeholders to the Project and respective National Consultant, with an aim to obtain relevant information for development of the Regional strategy on climate proofing of infrastructures, with a focus on roads and highways.

Agenda / points of discussion:

Content wise, all Consultation meetings were conceptualized in the same manner and held according to the following agenda:

1. Introduction
2. Presentation of the Project (background, goals, scope, activities, results and outcomes)
3. Climate change, adaptation and proofing in each of the participating countries - current situation (efforts invested so far: existing regulatory framework, incentives, projects implemented, etc.)
4. Next steps
5. Q&A

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

Course of meetings:

In the introductory part of the meeting, the participants were welcomed to the meeting by Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić, project manager on behalf of CENER21, and National Consultant for the relevant country and provided with core information about the Project, its financier and implementer.

This was followed by a more detailed presentation of the Project: its background, scope, previous components and the accompanying outputs, with particular emphasis on Component 3 of the Project and the corresponding planned activities, deadlines, results and outcomes. The presentation also covered the Project team structure within Component 3 and position of Deltares as the International Consultant for the ClimaProof Project (that will contribute to the organisation and delivery of Project activities and outputs) as well as importance of involvement of the relevant stakeholders and expectations from stakeholders in terms of collaboration with their National Consultant in reaching the strategic goals of the Project.

The presentation of the Project, common to all 6 meetings, was followed by tailor-made presentations held by National Consultants covering the overview of current state of climate change adaptation, resilience and proofing in their respective countries (efforts invested so far: existing regulatory framework, incentives, projects implemented, etc.).

The Next steps item encompassed details on the following Project activities to be implemented in the period October – December 2021.

The Q&A session was held at the end of each meeting.

At the National consultation meeting for Albania, Ms. Mirela Kamberi, Leader of the climate change team on behalf of UNDP, congratulated the whole team, including ADA and UNEP for this project. She pointed out that Albania has prepared many documents, as Mr. Besim Islami explained, related to CC area in general and adaptation in particular; and that the UNDP is currently working on the 4th National communications whereas this project will be reflected there as one of the efforts Albania is making in the area of CC. She asked which institution in Albania is the main counterpart for the project (such as Ministry of Transport or Environment). Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić explained that the term counterpart includes a variety of national authorities across the sectors relevant to CC and adaptation of transport networks (such as road authorities, ministries, etc.). The list of stakeholders is rather extensive in order to be able to cover both the technical and the financing and economic aspect of the CC adaptation and proofing within the project. There is not one governmental institution in particular that would act as a focal point or counterpart for the project as the Component 3 is envisioned as a continuous cooperation between relevant sectors and stakeholders/institutions within sectors. However, particular involvement and cooperation is expected from institutions such as Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Road Transport Authority, National Agency of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agencies, etc. She also explained that the project is organized around 6 countries and 6 national consultants and for Albania, Mr. Besim Islami is the counterpart to stakeholders in terms of communication and relevant exchange of information.

Ms. Mirela Kamberi also wanted to know whether the Action Plan within the Regional Strategy will be linked to other country policy documents already in place for Albania; in other words, will the Albanian part be related to any of the existing action plans in Albania. She also expressed concerns in relation to the implementation of the Strategy and monitoring indicators. Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić explained that in terms of implementation and monitoring there is no legal basis for the development of the Strategy as an official policy document, but the Strategy will serve as a roadmap towards reaching the strategic national and regional goals in the development of the climate resilient infrastructure. To that end, the Strategy and the Action Plan will take into account the existing policy documents and measures in place and will build on those to produce the best recommendations for each of the countries involved. She also noted that the involvement of stakeholders is crucial to this part of the Strategy. Mr. Besim Islami also pointed out that the economic aspect will be analysed and examples and methodologies used for power sector may also be used also for road transport adaptation measures. In addition,

these financial models already prepared in Albania (for power sector to take into account adaptation measures) will be useful for creating future analysis of road transport infrastructure projects.

At the National consultation meeting for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Mr. Bakir Krajinović from the Federal Hydrometeorological Institute of BiH was interested in the results from the activities carried out by BOKU-Met¹ (Gap Analysis Report). Ms Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić answered that CENER21 will undertake the necessary measures to obtain the GAP analysis as soon as possible, and has referred all participants to the project website climaproof.net. Mr. Senad Smajlović then took the floor and noted that “JP Ceste Federacije”, together with the company from Sweden, made a study of the impact of CC on road infrastructure, which are the competencies of „JP Ceste Federacije“ and that they have already initiated certain activities on the given subject. Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić suggested that, in cooperation with National Consultant for BiH, a comparative analysis of results can be made to facilitate the BIH contribution to the Regional Strategy

At the National consultation meeting for Kosovo*, Mr. Male Lokaj, Director of Department for Roads Management (Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure) had no questions to ask, but greeted the participants and acknowledged the need for climate proofing of road infrastructure thereby adding that Kosovo* should, as soon as possible, include CC aspects in the phase of road design and construction, as this would enable faster prevention and mitigation of negative impacts at source. Also Ms. Letafete Latifi, Director of Hydrometeorological Institute of Kosovo*, added that Kosovo*, apart from the establishment of the National Committee for Climate Change, also has a Technical Secretariat established to support and facilitate the work of the Committee. Beside this, Ms. Letafete Latifi raised the issue of the development of the CC scenarios for Kosovo*, and Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić responded that the previous two components of the project resulted in the CC projections for the area of the WB and that these will be available to Kosovo* as outputs of the previous project components.

At the National consultation meeting for Montenegro, Mr. Nikola Arnaut, on behalf of the Transport Administration of Montenegro, asked whether the Regional Strategy brings within an indicative value of the level of investment in road infrastructure in relation to increasing resilience to CC. Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić answered that the Regional Strategy should contain concrete measures, as well as an Action Plan for the implementation of these measures and recommendations according to EU best practices, including recommendations of participants and stakeholders. As for the economic aspect, the Strategy will treat investments in resilient infrastructure on a wider scale, however, no particular cost-benefit analyses per countries will be made in that respect. However, it is recommended that stakeholders engage and invest their efforts in the development of the Strategy, in cooperation with their National Consultant, as the Strategy may serve as a firm basis for development of further national policy documents. Representatives of the Railway Infrastructure of Montenegro were interested in their role within the Project, given that the Project is about CC of road infrastructure. Ms Hadžić-Kurtagić explained that, although the Regional Strategy will not cover railway infrastructure exclusively, as a separate part of expertise, the Railway Infrastructure of Montenegro can both benefit from the Strategy and provide very important information related to the transport infrastructure, which will be addressed by this Strategy. In addition, these tools can be useful for creating future strategies that would relate exclusively to railway infrastructure.

Within the discussion with participants at the National consultation meeting for North Macedonia, Ms. Sandra Andovska asked for a separate meeting between UNDP, MoEPP and the National Consultant where the ongoing activities for the presentation of the National Adaptation Plan will be presented. Ms. Pavlina Zdraveva from UNDP thanked the organizer for the presentation and the possibilities to get familiar with the achieved results

¹ Austrian Institute of Meteorology and Climatology (BOKU-Met) (<https://boku.ac.at/en/wau/met>).

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of the ClimaProof project and planned activities within Component 3. She said that, within the framework of their portfolio, UNDP implements activities that are complementary with the ClimaProof project activities i.e. the Macedonian 4th National Communication on Climate Change which is currently being prepared and it is expected to be finished and adopted by the Government by the end of 2021. Furthermore, the UNDP prepared Report on CC projections and changes in climate extremes for the Republic of North Macedonia alongside case studies for the Skopje, Strumica and Polog regions. Ongoing is the activity for preparation of an assessment of the potential and benefits of climate-resilient infrastructure in North Macedonia, including identification of specific policy and regulatory measures to increase the resilience of Macedonian infrastructure, to support the adaptation of the infrastructure to the expected CC, as well as the implementation of the Macedonian enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution targets. In parallel, UNDP is organizing professional training and education of the key personnel, awareness-raising and has launched a website for dissemination of information. Accordingly, it will be good to have a separate meeting with the National Consultant during which a more detailed presentation of the achieved results and ongoing projects will be conducted. In addition, she asked for clarification of the green infrastructure term and asked whether it is better to adopt a separate national strategy on climate proofing of infrastructure or the objectives and actions can be integrated into the existing relevant documents. Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić thanked her for her presentation of the UNDP portfolio and replied to the questions asked. Implementation of the activities of both projects is like a two-lane street where they can be input for the documents and strategies of both partners. Under the green infrastructure notion, the focus is on the identification and implementation of elements of green infrastructure that can be used in road infrastructure with the aim of strengthening the resilience of these infrastructure systems. Adequate parameters shall be included within the Action Plan with measures and activities for the achievement of the strategic and prioritized objectives in each country of the WB region. This process will be based upon a comprehensive analysis and application of local experiences and best practices. Mr. Vasko Popovski stated that in his opinion is better to have a separate strategic document that will be based on the Regional Strategy and customized for the North Macedonian needs and priorities. He also mentioned that in parallel there is an initiative by the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub for preparation of the guidance notes for resilience-building of the critical infrastructure with recommendations and technical checklists for the identified key sectors including the road infrastructure. Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić concluded the discussion by stating that there is a good basis for further cooperation and policy development, integration of existing findings and results, a synergy of project activities through the National Consultant.

During the discussion at the national meeting for Serbia, Mr. Vladimir Đurđević, on behalf of the Faculty of Physics in Belgrade, asked about potential requirements from Chinese and Middle Eastern banks regarding the assessment and quantification of CC impacts on projects that these banks finance. The National Consultant, Mr. Aleksandar Simić, and Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić shared their experience and knowledge when it comes to requirements of Chinese banks and banks from the Middle East regarding the financing of infrastructure projects. Also, experiences regarding EBRD and EIB financing were exchanged. Mr. Vladimir Đurđević suggested that the Regional Strategy puts particular emphasis on the adaptation to CC, given that this aspect is generally neglected in national documents. Mr Dušan Stokić, on behalf of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, made a proposal to connect Strategy with a number of relevant standards from ISO 14000 series.

After the Q&A session, Ms Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić informed participants about the next project activities and once again pointed the importance of their participation in the implementation of ClimaProof Project.

At the end of the meetings, Ms Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić asked the participants for a contribution to the development of a set of CC indicators relevant to climate proofing of investments in the infrastructure sector by fulfilling an on-line survey: Meteorological processes influencing infrastructure development and maintenance. This survey aims to identify those climatological and meteorological processes that are relevant

for the local experts from the WB region working in the fields of CC and infrastructure planning, development and maintenance as well as impact assessment. Based on the results of the survey, BOKU-Met will identify relevant meteorological and climatological indicators for the entire region.

At the end of each meeting, the National Consultant and Ms Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić thanked the present parties for their participation and time invested and expresses hope in constructive collaboration in future.

Participants response:

The average number of stakeholders attending the meetings was 10 per country. The Attendee reports, generated by the platform provider, from each of the countries is provided in Annex 1 of these Minutes.

Annex 1: Attendee Report

Albania

Name and surname	Institution/Position	Job title	Gender	Age	Contact
Elvis Jorgji	National Agency of the Natural Resources		Male	40-49	e.jorgji@akbn.gov.al
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Besim Islami		National consultant for Albania	Male		besimgosa@gmail.com

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Name and surname	Institution/Position	Job title	Gender	Age	Contact
Senad Smajlović	PE "Ceste FBiH"	Head of department	Male	40-49	ssenad@jpcfbih.ba
Bakir Krajnović	Federal Hydrometeorological Institute of the FBiH	Expert Advisor	Male	30-39	bakir.krajnovic@fhmzbih.gov.ba
Edin Honić	PE "Autoceste FBiH"	Construction engineer	Male	40-49	h.edin@jpautoceste.ba
Emina Mezet	PE "Autoceste FBiH"	Senior Expert - Study documentation	Female	30-39	m.emina@jpautoceste.ba
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Vasko Popovski	Independent consultant	National consultant for North Macedonia	Male	40-49	vasko.popovski.vp@gmail.com
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Kosovo*

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Montenegro

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Vesna Novaković	Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro	Independent advisor I for monitoring soil pollution and the impact of waste on the environment	Female	40-49	vesna.novakovic@epa.org.me
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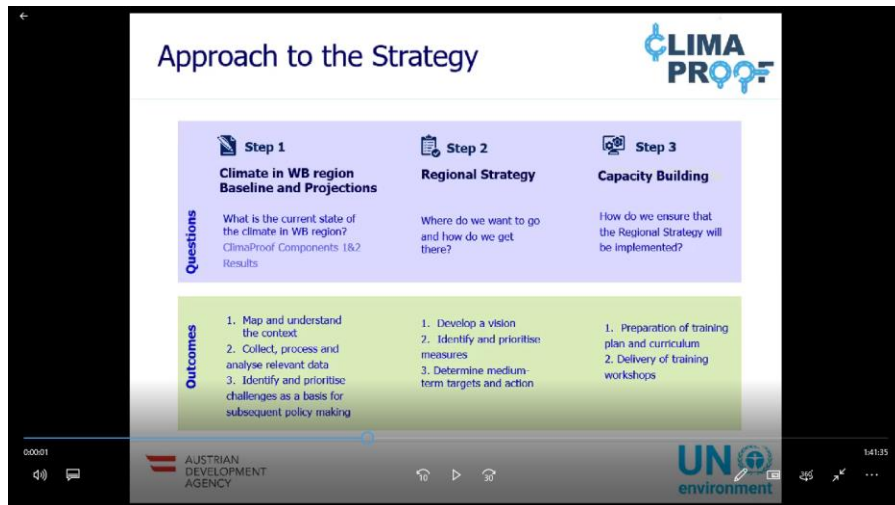
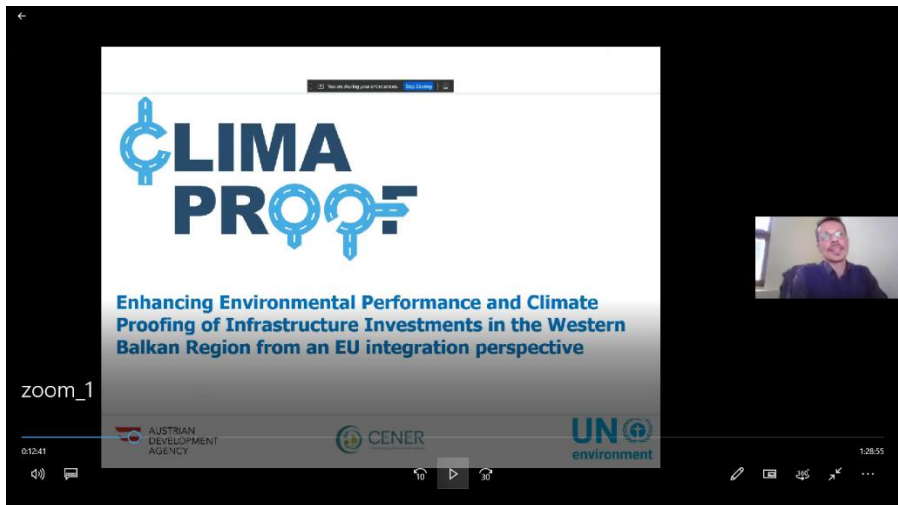
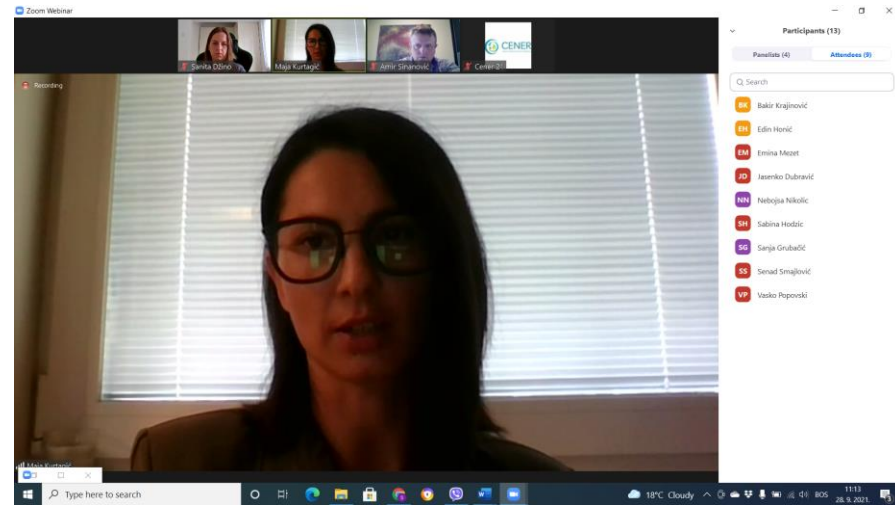
North Macedonia

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Serbia

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Annex 2: Photo material



CLIMA PROOF

July/Aug/Sep Oct/Nov Jan/Feb/March Apr/May/June

INCEPTION PHASE

- Task 1: Regional Strategy (Draft, Final)
- Task 2: Training modules
- Task 3: Guidelines
- Task 4: Development of a fund-raising mechanism and platform
- Task 5: Evaluation mechanism
- Task 6: Information-sharing platform

Meeting Conference Webinar Workshop Strategy Training Draft Guidelines

AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY UN environment

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Klimatske promene i klimatska otpornost u Srbiji

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AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY CENER UN environment

CLIMA PROOF

Questions & Answers Pyetje & Pergjilje

AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY UN environment

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Thank you

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