







Minutes of Meetings

Title: National Consultation Workshops
Moderator: Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić, CENER 21
MoM prepared by: Merima Hrapović, Amina Begić and Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić, CENER 21
Date: 23 March 2022

Date and time:

National Consultation workshops were held in six economies of the Western Balkans (WB) in the period from February 24, 2022 to March 9, 2022; according to the following schedule:

Country	Date	Time
Bosnia and Herzegovina	24 February 2022	09:30-11:30
Albania	25 February 2022	10:00-12:00
Kosovo*	25 February 2022	13:00-15:00
Serbia	2 March 2022	09:30-11:30
Montenegro	3 March 2022	10:00-12:00
North Macedonia	9 March 2022	10:00-12:00

Aim of meetings:

• Introducing stakeholders to the Methodological Framework of the *Regional Strategy for Climate Resilient Infrastructure in the Western Balkans* and the draft *Evaluation mechanism for infrastructure project proposals* (the so called Checklist), with an aim to enhance the process of collection and integration of the data necessary for drafting of the Strategy, while, at the same time, fostering cooperation among relevant governmental bodies and institutions, private sector and national and international consultants.

Agenda/points of discussion:

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

1. Introduction

2. Presentation of the outline and Methodological Framework of the *Regional Strategy for Climate Resilient Infrastructure in the Western Balkans*

- 3. Overview of Evaluation mechanism for project proposals integrating climate-proofing and green infrastructure
- 4. Discussion
- 5. Conclusions/Next steps

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

Course of meetings:

In the introductory part of the meetings, the participants were welcomed to the meeting by Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić, Project Manager on behalf of CENER 21, who shared core information about the current project activities, work undertaken in cooperation with the international consultant Deltares, the aim of the workshop with focus on Strategy requirements and the draft Checklist and invited stakeholders to actively participate in the discourse.

This was followed by a presentation given by Deltares - Ms. Margreet van Marle (Deltares): *Methodological Framework for Climate Change Risks, Impacts and Adaptation and How to Deal With Uncertainties*. Throughout the presentation, Ms. Marle elaborated the goal of the Regional Strategy, consecutive steps from theory to practice in terms of Natural Hazard Resilience Assessments, key inputs for quantitative and qualitative approaches, and presented the general outline of the Regional Strategy. Therefore, Ms. Marle provided guidance on the type of data needed, how to collect/process these data and how to integrate them into specific chapters of the Strategy (*Introduction; Climate Change Projections; Road Infrastructure Vulnerability; Resilience Planning; Risk Assessment and Management;* and *Roadmap for Adaptation Planning*).

Upon the presentation, Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić (CENER 21) briefly discussed with National Consultants the potential obstacles in obtaining the necessary data for the needs of Strategy drafting. The general feedback received was mainly oriented towards difficulties relevant to limited cooperation with relevant institutions, slow exchange of necessary information, inconsistency in format and availability of the data, as well as a relatively short deadline for the development of the first Strategy draft (end of March – beginning of April 2022). However, the situation differs more or less from country to country, which was discussed more deeply towards the end of the workshop during the Q&A session (elaborated below).

The second part of the workshop included a brief introduction by Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić (CENER 21) relevant to the *Evaluation mechanism for infrastructure project proposals*, followed by the presentation given by Mr. Mike Woning (Deltares): *Checklist for Building Resilience for Transport Infrastructure*. Throughout the presentation, Mr. Woning presented an overview of the main steps in increasing the resilience of infrastructure networks, with a focus on the identification of hazards and collection of relevant data, vulnerability, cascading effects, risk assessment, and measures to achieve the desired level of resilience. Also, he clarified the process of data collection and collation related to roads, vulnerability curves and road stretches; as well as the difference between fully quantitative and semi-quantitative analyses. Finally, Mr. Woning stressed the importance of ambition in decision-making by relevant stakeholders (such as road authorities and governments), which need to cooperate among themselves and take the local practices into account. It is important to timely plan the measures for increasing resilience of infrastructure networks, however not all measures need to be taken immediately, but rather implemented naturally within regular workflow or by combining some of them where appropriate.

After the second presentation, Mr. Woning (Deltares) referred to the Table showcasing the overview of hazards and climate change, and kicked off the discussion between participants (stakeholders and the National Consultant). This part of the workshop generated some productive inputs and information exchange among attendees per each country, which will be useful for the collection of necessary data and drafting of the Strategy.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

At the National Consultation Workshop for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms. Sonja Gebert, Associate Programme Management Officer in UNEP, welcomed all participants on behalf of UNEP and expressed hope that the meeting would be fruitful and with constructive involvement of stakeholders in the discourse. In terms of the Strategy Framework, Ms. Gebert commented that it would be good to send the preliminary outline of the Strategy to relevant stakeholders per country (especially governments) for their comments and feedback at this early stage of the process of Strategy drafting.

Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić (CENER 21) thanked Ms. Gebert for the proposal and noted that CENER 21 had already shared the framework of the Strategy with National Consultants who will be distributing the document further to their relevant country stakeholders, upon the workshops held and once all stakeholders were familiarised with the scope and requirements of the Strategy through consultation workshops. Mr. Amir Sinanović, as National Consultant for B&H, will be coordinating further on the process of obtaining comments and feedback from relevant stakeholders on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Sinanović (National Consultant for BiH) noted that he will contact the competent authorities in any case, especially the Hydrometeorological Institute, which together with BOKU (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna) worked on the preparation of data for climate projections. Also, the Consultant will collect the data available from competent road authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, responsible for the management of different road levels (including highways, main roads and local roads), so the appropriate database can be made, in order to contribute as much as possible to the content of the Strategy to be produced. The rest of the communication will be defined as the Consultant goes through the process of Strategy drafting. In case some difficulties in obtaining the data appear, stakeholders will be timely notified and kindly asked to provide relevant support and guidance, as needed.

During the activity of filling the Table (*Overview of hazards and climate change*), Mr. Sinanović (National Consultant) noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina often experiences the problem of flooding that occurs as a result of heavy precipitation, stressing out that in this case the particularly vulnerable roads are the roads of lower rank. When observing the flood impacts on roads, around 70% of floods affect the roads of lower rank, 25% of floods affect main roads, while the impact on highways is negligible due to relatively recent construction and better quality of such roads. Roads of lower rank often get flooded and there are numerous cases of such events. In B&H, floods mostly occur due to rains of short-time precipitation, because the storm sewer systems are often in bad condition, and therefore systems do not have the capacity to leak all the water accumulated and get clogged, which causes larger floods that are remediated only after the precipitation stops. On other hand, the problems caused by long-term precipitation are less frequent because in these cases there is enough time to react and prevent damages on important roads. Mr. Sinanović also noted that in B&H stakeholders use different units in hydraulic and hydrometeorological calculations (such as l/sec per hectare). Additionally, he observed that there are many unstudied watercourses and basins, and therefore the issues of dimensioning objects on roads are being solved using certain regional analysis. Accordingly, consultants/designers often make models using the data available for similar locations or locations in close proximity.

Ms. Marle (Deltares) noted that these pieces of information are important and need to be emphasized and integrated into the Strategy as existing obstacles and difficulties for obtaining and processing the data, so the relevant authorities could identify these problems and accordingly work in the future to solve them out.

Regarding the data on the return period related to pluvial flooding, Mr. Sinanović (National Consultant) added that in B&H there are no official maps from which the IDF curves may be used. However, there are some analyses from previous periods and the Consultant will try to update these curves through the process of Strategy drafting so that stakeholders will be able to use them in the future period. Therefore, the Consultant will slowly start with the activities since there is a huge scope of data that needs to be collected and processed. Also, if taking into account conditions in the country, this will be a challenging process and the Consultant may not be able to collect all the necessary information but will do its best to collect and process those which are available.

Ms. Lejla Kukavica (PU 'Ceste Federacije BiH') wanted to know more information about the overall project, and therefore the website link od the Clima Proof project was shared in the chat, as well as contact details of the Project Manager and National Consultant who are at disposal for any eventual clarifications or communication with stakeholders related to the project.

One part of the discussion among participants was related to stakeholders in Bosnia and Herzegovina that are likely to benefit from the development of the subject Strategy. In relevance to this, Mr. Sinanović (National Consultant) pointed out that the following institutions will benefit the most: PU 'Autoceste FBiH', PU 'Ceste Federacije BiH', PU 'Putevi Republike Srpske' and Cantonal Road Administration. The Strategy will be very beneficial for the said institutions because they are often the clients behind the relevant project documentation, and will therefore be able to request from the designers, through ToRs, (to process and integrate the Strategy outputs into the project documentation.

Ms. Tatjana Kapetanović (Environmental Fund of B&H) wanted to know in which way are the hydrometeorological institutions involved in the project, concretely the Federal Hydrometeorological Institute. Ms. Kapetanović noted that the Environmental Fund of B&H, which is responsible to manage and maintain the information system on environmental protection, has experience from other projects (such as the UNDP project related to climate change adaptation), where the Fund needed to recognize the indicators relevant to different sectors vulnerable to climate change. Through this and similar experiences, the Fund noticed and emphasized how the availability and appropriate format of the data are important for any meaningful action. Ms. Kapetanović fully understands the colleagues from Deltares and their comments on the importance of the relevant data, and therefore supports the data collection process and cooperation with relevant institutions. Accordingly, it is important to find out which types of data are already being collected in hydrometeorological institutes since numerous data are being collected but are often hard to find or are not being published (such as data on the intensity of precipitation and extreme climate events that are being collected throughout many years). The Fund has a good experience with this institution, employees are ready to collaborate, they just need to get the relevant questions and clarifications on which data are needed, and they will surely be able to contribute to the project. For instance, in hydrometeorological institutes, there are tables prepared for the need of energy audits development, so that designers may conduct energy audits of the objects. Also, Ms. Kapetanović stressed that throughout the Strategy development we need to rely on the capacities of competent authorities responsible for the collection and processing of relevant data.

Mr. Sinanović (National Consultant) replied that Consultant has close and frequent cooperation with the Hydrometeorological Institute, adding that the Institute is willing to share the data, but often these data are not processed to the final stage or there is no way to get them in form of a finalized set of data. Therefore, there is some form of non-compliance between the availability of data and the needs of the market.

Ms. Kapetanović (Environmental Fund of B&H) noted that because of the abovementioned reasons, the government needs to develop a systemic approach, to recognize which indicator is relevant for the specific institutions and instruct such institutions to provide necessary inputs in a form that is applicable for further

usage. Finally, Ms. Kapetanović expressed her pleasure to participate in the workshop with such a meaningful and interesting topic.

Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić (CENER 21) added that Hydrometeorological Institute is involved in the ClimaProof project and has participated in several meetings. The identification of specific needs and problems is very important for Strategy development, and in some way is the aim of the project, to recognize the difficulties and obstacles and develop accordingly a roadmap on how to surpass them in the future. Also, Ms. Kurtagić-Hadžić expressed her gratitude to Ms. Kapetanović and the overall Environmental Fund of B&H for continuous support and participation in the project and the willingness to make a positive, systemic change towards a better future.

<u>Albania</u>

Mr. Besim Islami (National Consultant for Albania) noted that in the energy sector in Albania, many aspects are examined quite well, but when it comes to road infrastructure and relevant cooperation with competent institutions, there are several lacks. For instance, there are institutions that possess quality expertise and data, but there are also many difficulties in collaboration and engagement with such authorities, and as an example, Mr. Islami indicated that many relevant stakeholders did not participate in the workshop. Also, in Albania, there are some good historical data (referring to hydro, solar and temperature data), but these data are not adjusted and available to the public despite the evident technology progress. Mr. Islami reminded that in 1920 Albania established 48 stations for all meteorological data. Later on, there were around 280 stations and all the data were available. However, these days there are around 60 stations and people again have a problem in obtaining the data; although there are quality remote stations, the data are not formalized and ready to be used by the public.

Ms. Margreet van Marle (Deltares) commented that she fully understands these issues and it is important to identify them and make recommendations for potential solutions. Also, even if the data is not available, people can alternatively rely on satellite-based resources.

Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić (CENER 21) noticed that based on what has been discussed there are already many recommendations and inputs for the action plan as a part of the Strategy. Also, Ms. Kurtagić-Hadžić reminded that in order to reach decision-makers, we need to find a way to collaborate with them. In relevance to this, the framework of the Strategy will be sent to stakeholders in Albania through their National Consultant, with an aim of obtaining their country-specific comments and inputs relevant to the Strategy and fostering the countries ownership over the project outputs.

During the activity of filling the Table (*Overview of hazards and climate change*), Ms. Sabina Cenamery (EUSIWM/ADA) noticed that the relevant source of the meteorological data may be IGEO (Institute of Geosciences), which is a part of the university and which has departments on hydrology, geology, meteorology and seismology.

Regarding the data on coastal flooding, Mr. Islami (National Consultant) noted that there is a relevant study under the Third National Communication, while the data on heat waves may be found in Second and Third National Communication.

Ms. Sabina Cenamery (EUSIWM/ADA) pointed out the issue of non-appropriate format of the available data (instead of relevant shapefiles and maps, many of the available data are in some report or excel forms that cannot be adequately used). Some institutions in Albania try to prepare the maps or cadaster, but these types of materials are often produced under specific projects and for a specific timeframe, not as a part of institutionalized and continuous public data. Also, Ms. Cenamery reminded that the Albanian referencing system is different from the European one and other types of evaluating software.

Ms. Margreet van Marle confirmed the data format issue, noting that Deltares had the same problem during the previous work in Albania, which was somewhat limiting in regard to the scope of work that needed to be done.

<u>Kosovo*</u>

Ms. Valbona Berisha and Mr. Arben Kelmendi (National Consultants for Kosovo) commented that the key institutions in Kosovo* to be contacted for obtaining the relevant data are the Hydrometeorological Institute and Ministry of infrastructure, but the Consultant will also reach out to other relevant stakeholders that may provide some useful data. Ms. Berisha also noticed that she expects some difficulties in obtaining the data from the stakeholders, but hopefully, the Consultant will be able to surpass them with the help of Deltares in the process of drafting the Strategy.

Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić (CENER 21) noted that the lack of cooperation when it comes to collecting and processing of the data seems to be the key issue in other participating countries as well. Responsibilities and division of competences related to processing, collection and publishing of data among authorities are often not very clear, which makes the overall process of obtaining the data longer and more complicated.

Ms. Valbona Berisha (National Consultant) confirmed that these issues are present in Kosovo* as well, but the Consultant will do its best to reach out to relevant stakeholders (for instance to translate the materials to Albanian in order to remove the language barrier and secure the relevant feedback). Also, Ms. Berisha noticed that in the draft of the Strategy there are appropriate places where the problematic circumstances and difficulties may be listed, but of course, the stakeholders should have the interest to participate in this process as much as possible because eventually, they will be the ones benefiting from such a document.

Mr. Afrim Berisha (Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency) indicated that for the purpose of Strategy drafting it may be useful to contact the Geological Service of Kosovo and Seismologic Institute because geological and seismologic data are very important in this context. Also, other institutions that are relevant to the project are the Emergency Management Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forest Agency (which may provide data on erosions) and Institute for Spatial Planning. It would be good to have representatives of these institutions in future meetings.

Ms. Valbona Berisha (National Consultant) noted that Kosovo* is not listed in the World Risk Report, and Ms. Margreet van Marle (Deltares) noticed that Kosovo* has no data on <u>ThinkHazard!</u> platform (that provides a general view of the hazards for a given location, which should be considered in project design and implementation to promote disaster and climate resilience). However, there are some alternative sources that may be used for the data obtaining, such as <u>country profile</u> available on '*reliefweb*' website or <u>Kosovo Climate</u> <u>Change Risk Profile</u> made by USAID.

During the activity of filling the Table (*Overview of hazards and climate change*), Mr. Atdhe Sefa (Hydrometeorological Institute of Kosovo*) commented that Hydrometeorological Institute has a hydrology sector that monitors flooding events in Kosovo*, and therefore possesses data on daily precipitation since 2008 (from several automatic stations).

<u>Serbia</u>

Mr. Aleksandar Simić (National Consultant for Serbia) commented that Hydrometeorological Service in Serbia conducts quality data assessments, and from this point of view, there shouldn't be any issues. However,

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potential problems may arise when trying to access specific road data (relevant to construction and maintenance of road infrastructure), which is why the focus should be on this aspect while drafting the Strategy, in order to provide relevant guidance.

During the activity of filling the Table (*Overview of hazards and climate change*), Ms. Biljana Milić-Petrović from Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia indicated that the Service has maps of return periods for precipitations. The assessments of flood and heavy precipitation risks were conducted by the Sector for Emergency Situations (Ministry of Internal Affairs), and these maps are available on the official website. Also, Ms. Milić-Petrović shared the document <u>Assessment of Disaster Risk in the Republic of Serbia</u>, which, inter alia, contains an assessment of heatwaves and fires in open spaces, and noted that the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia conducted the assessment of the risk of snow disasters, heat and cold waves, heavy precipitations and droughts.

Mr. Mike Woning (Deltares) commented that according to the Table inputs, the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia plays a crucial role in the dissemination of relevant data, and it is important to establish good cooperation with this institution in the further process of drafting the Strategy. Mr. Woning wanted to know if such data are free and open for general use, or they are protected and being charged.

Mr. Aleksandar Simić (National Consultant) replied that the majority of the information is publicly available. There are some data (such as river flows listed by months) that are more specific data and are not publicly available (instead they need to be paid for) but in general other data are available on the official website.

Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić (CENER 21) asked Mr. Aleksandar Simić (National Consultant) which institutions in Serbia are likely to benefit the most from the Strategy?

Mr. Aleksandar Simić (National Consultant) replied that road authorities are going to benefit the most because they need these types of information. The involvement of climate projections and climate-proofing in road and rail infrastructure projects is generally not the case in Serbia, which needs to be changed and improved in the future. Therefore, Mr. Simić invited the stakeholders once again to take part in the formulation of the Strategy.

<u>Montenegro</u>

Mr. Vasilije Gazivoda (National Consultant for Montenegro) noted that in the process of drafting the Strategy there should not be particular difficulties, because the majority of the data needed are available, and the Consultant can already start with the data collection.

Ms. Marija Tripunović (European Integration Office) thanked for the substantive and interesting presentation, noting that Montenegro has prepared a comprehensive document called Disaster Risk Assessment in December last year (where over 90 experts from Montenegro participated). This document may be a great source of data, and also, it may be wise to invite some of these experts to contribute to the Strategy drafting since they possess valuable expertise and knowledge on the existing circumstances.

Ms. Mirjana Ivanov (Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology, Montenegro) thanked Deltares for an interesting and useful presentation, and commented that potential problems may occur while trying to calculate the intensity of precipitation (Montenegro does not have many precipitation stations). In addition, many of the stations are not classical stations anymore, and therefore there are no tapes that could be used for the calculation of precipitation for a specific time, however, there are automatic stations now that require a bit different approach. Ms. Ivanov emphasized the potential difficulties related to interpolation (referring to the processing of data for places where there are no stations and no curves available) and some previous periods (for instance 10 years ago) when automatic stations were not available. This issue should be discussed with engineers to agree upon the best methodology (e.g. to use satellite data) and surpass the potential obstacles.

Ms. Margreet van Marle (Deltares) commented that these types of information are exactly the ones that should be integrated into the Strategy, noting that if the relevant institutions in Montenegro already noticed these problems, it is a great step forward into preparation for analyses and a great indicator of understanding the topic.

Mr. Angel Marčev (Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology, Montenegro) commented that Montenegro has a specific orography; therefore, particular attention should be paid to which climate data are being taken, especially from which climate models and with which horizontal resolution while drafting the Strategy. It is necessary to have more experts in the development of the Strategy, especially from the field of climatology. Mr. Marčev also added that for Montenegro, it would be best to conduct a numerical simulation with a high-resolution model (about 1 km).

Mr. Marko Ilić (E3 Consulting, National Consultant) noted that the colleagues from the Ministry of Interior are present at the meeting and they can contribute to the Strategy drafting since they possess a valuable database.

Mr. Ranko Lazović (Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism) wanted to know what is the deadline for the Strategy development.

Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić (CENER 21) replied that the very first draft should be prepared by the end of March 2022 (in terms of knowing which data are available and will be provided by specific institutions, and containing the general introduction part). However, drafting of the Strategy is a process and the Strategy will be continuously updated by June (when the final version needs to be completed).

During the activity of filling the Table (*Overview of hazards and climate change*), Ms. Slađana Živković from Rescue and Protection Directorate noted that data on damages are exclusively based on *Desiventar* (for the last 10 years) and she also wanted to know which specific data are needed for the Strategy.

Mr. Mike Woning (Deltares) clarified the response by showing the slide *Data collection & collation - vulnerability curves*, particularly focusing on the graph that indicates the relationship between hazard intensity and damage. Mr. Woning commented that the necessary data could be related to flooding water depth, peak flow, snow depth, etc. on one hand, and damages data on another (e.g. repair costs that occurred due to flood occurrent). These types of data should be familiar to road authorities.

Ms. Slađana Živković (Rescue and Protection Directorate) informed that database on damages is relatively scarce due to the lack of a unified methodology at the local and national level.

Mr. Vasilije Gazivoda (National Consultant) clarified that since this project is related to road infrastructure, the data on relevant damages should be found within the road authorities. On the other hand, when considering the role of the Rescue and Protection Directorate in the project, the Directorate could provide some data on forecasts of potential natural disasters (which do not directly cause road damages). For instance, this could be some data on potential snowslides that could eventually block the roads (referring to snowslides from around 10 years ago when almost all road directions were blocked for several days due to large snowdrifts).

Mr. Ranko Lazović (Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism) wanted to know more about the steps that follow after the Strategy development, particularly if the adoption of the Strategy at a national level is required.

Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić (CENER 21) clarified that ClimaProof is a regional project encompassing six countries with different institutional frameworks, therefore, there is no legal basis for adoption of the Strategy as a strategic national document. However, the Strategy will serve as a roadmap to countries in terms of what should be done in order to increase the adaptive capacities to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change, whereas governments should see this document as a useful tool in bringing informed decisions in future and

should be able to develop mechanisms for adopting the Strategy outputs and transposing these into their national legal framework. This document will remain the ownership of the participating Western Balkan countries and will be at the disposal of governments that will ultimately decide how to make use of it in future.

North Macedonia

Mr. Vasko Popovski (National Consultant for North Macedonia) commented that when observing the case of North Macedonia and potential difficulties that may arise while drafting the Strategy, the situation is more or less similar to other Western Balkan countries. These difficulties comprise non-consistency of the relevant data and maps, and limited or discontinuous cooperation and communication with the competent authorities. Also, the interest of stakeholders to participate in the project varies (for instance the representatives of road authorities were not present at the subject workshop, although some of them were active at previous events). Finally, the Consultant was not sure whether authorities in North Macedonia possess such level of capacities that are required for the Strategy.

Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić (CENER 21) noted that unfortunately many relevant stakeholders (such as representatives of relevant ministries, hydrometeorological institute, road authorities, etc.) were not present at the workshop, however, the Methodological Framework of the Strategy will be sent to all stakeholders for review and comments, through their National Consultant, in order to involve them more in the process of drafting the Strategy and to produce a comprehensive document that will remain in their ownership.

Mr. Milorad Jovanovski (Professor at the Faculty of Civil Engineering in Skopje) commented that the Department for Geotechnics within the Faculty has good cooperation with the Public Enterprise for State Roads. Mr. Jovanovski noted that this Enterprise and the data it possesses are important for the development of the Strategy, and therefore he offered (on behalf of the Department) to facilitate the communication and cooperation between the National Consultant and the Enterprise for the needs of Strategy drafting.

Marijan Gajsak (International Consultant) briefly noted that UNDP is preparing a Study on climate-resilient infrastructure, and relevant staff is currently collecting the data on legal aspects for the initiative. Accordingly, Mr. Gajsak posed a question on legal drives and features of the Strategy that is being prepared within the ClimaProof project, particularly wanting to know which specific outputs will come out from the process and how these outputs will be mainstreamed in the legal framework. Apart from this, the second question from Mr. Gajsak was referring to the Adaptation Strategy on the EU level (which contains technical guidance on climate-proofing of infrastructure projects), specifically, if the Strategy that is being drafted under the Clima Proof project will be aligned with the Adaptation Strategy on the EU level.

Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić (CENER 21) clarified that in terms of the legal basis, there is no legal basis for governments to integrate such document into their legal framework (since the project is of regional nature). However, the Strategy will serve as a roadmap to countries in terms of actions and steps to be undertaken in order to achieve strategic goals towards climate resilience and proofing of road infrastructure and may be used as a useful tool and driver for enhancing changes within the relevant national framework. The document will stay in the ownership of the countries, as a guidance for relevant institutions on mainstreaming the climate-proofing aspect. She further explained that, overall, the project is leaning on two pillars: technical and financial one, and the general idea of the project is to close the circuit between technical and financing requirements of climate-proofing of investments. Therefore, by June, the project will result in a set of activities that will be focused on financing aspects of climate-proofing in the Western Balkan countries. Regarding the second question, Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić replied that Clima Proof Strategy will be aligned with the EU Adaptation Strategy, however, one has to bear in mind that circumstances and priorities in the Western Balkans significantly

differ from those in the EU. Relevant to this, there is a notable disbalance between Western Balkans conditions and requirements of the EU, so the Regional Strategy will be tailored realistically, towards what is applicable in WB, and with an aim to overcome such disbalance where possible while bearing in mind the context of Western Balkans.

During the activity of filling the Table (*Overview of hazards and climate change*), Ms. Anita Kodzoman (UNDP) commented that the UNDP has extensively worked on flood risk assessment and preparation of flood risk management plans in North Macedonia for the last 10 years. Such assessments and maps exist for several watersheds and river basins in North Macedonia, where the beneficiary has always been the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, but such documents may not be easily accessible or available in a form appropriate for others.

Mr. Metodija Sazdov (UNEP) noted that there are relevant data and pieces of information, but are not in one place and are not being used in practice, since the institutions and people most responsible for planning processes (especially the competent engineers) are often not adequately involved in projects. Mr. Sazdov also commented that UNEP has previously worked on some bio corridors, erosion maps and other relevant maps that may be useful for the Strategy and can be available for this purpose. He clarified that when it comes to these types of projects, all relevant participants should join their efforts and then contact the authorities (for instance the Chamber of Architects and Engineers) to engage them and obtain the relevant data. UNEP can provide its support on reaching the stakeholders (through newspaper medium, website, etc.) in order to notify as many as possible relevant entities and generate the comprehensive output.

Conclusions

After the Q&A session, Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić informed participants about the next project activities, which involve an active process of obtaining the data needed for the Strategy, organization of a *Regional Conference on financing climate-proofing and green infrastructure*, followed by two webinars on EU best practices regarding financing and economic instruments for climate proofing and green infrastructure. She expressed hope that the circumstances will allow for the planned Regional Consultation Workshop to be held in-person instead of on-line. Ms. Kurtagić-Hadžić once again pointed out the importance of stakeholders' participation and contribution in the implementation of the ClimaProof Project.

At the end of each meeting, Ms. Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić stressed that the Methodological Framework of the Strategy will be sent to all relevant stakeholders for their review and comments (that will be highly appreciated), together with the workshop material that will be accordingly translated, as needed.

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 expressed hope in constructive collaboration in coming activities.

Participants response:

The average number of stakeholders attending the meetings was 15 per country. The Attendee reports, generated by the platform provider, from each of the countries are provided in Annex 1 of these Minutes.

Annex 1: Attendee Report

Bosnia and Herzegovina

No.	Name and surname	Institution	Job title	Gender	Contact
1.	Tatjana Kapetanović	Environmental Fund of FB&H	Environmental Monitoring Expert Advisor	F	tatjana.kapetanovic@fzofbih.org.ba
2.	Amir Sinanović	ASI Inženjering Ltd. Sarajevo	Main Designer, Director	М	amirsin@hotmail.com
3.	Zehireta Smajić	ASI Inženjering Ltd. Sarajevo	Civil Engineer	F	zehireta smajic@hotmail.com
4.	Selena Grizić	ES Hydrotechnics Ltd.	Designer	F	grizicselena@gmail.com
5.	Maja Kurtagić-Hadžić	CENER 21	Project Manager	F	maja.kurtagic@cener21.ba
6.	Margreet van Marle	Deltares	Project Manager	F	Margreet.vanMarle@deltares.nl
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^{*} This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

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Annex 2: Photo material

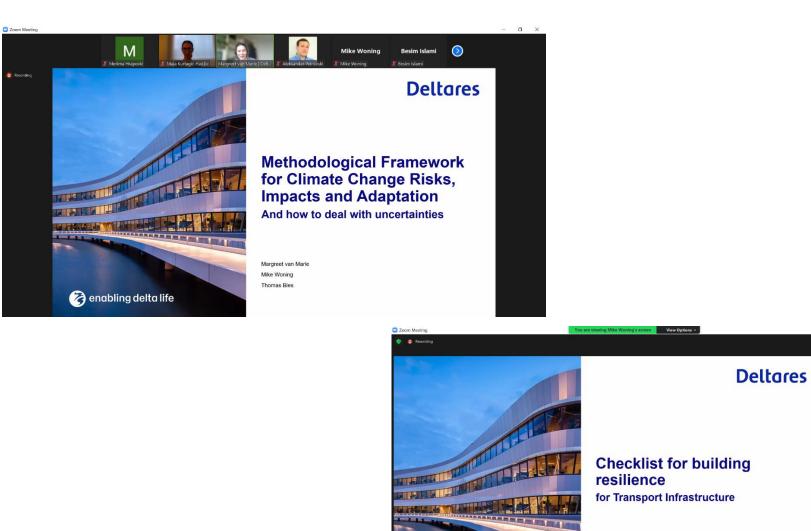
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Mike Woning Margreet van Marle Thomas Bles

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