



Good practice

Inter-ministerial Commission for Recovery and Support (Bulgaria)

This good practice, realised in Bulgaria, is connected with the main idea for better Inter-ministerial connections and faster reactions to disasters in order to have special financial resources for overcoming the serious consequences.

Mission of the body

The Interministerial Commission for Reconstruction and Assistance (at Council of Ministers) is responsible for the Management and control of the granting of finance from the state budget for:

1. Financing prevention measures included in the annual plan for realisation of the National Programme for Disaster Protection;
2. Paying unforeseen expenses for rescue and emergency disaster works;
3. Financing urgent recovery works;
4. Providing recovery aid;
5. Organizing and financing monitoring checks of the decision implementation;
6. Organising inspections for complaints and signals;
7. Compensating physical and legal persons for damages caused during or in connection with the implementation of regulated activities for disaster protection;
8. Coordinating the granting and distribution of aid and donations.

Structure

The Inter-ministerial Commission is structured at the Council of Ministers.

Chairperson is the deputy prime-minister and minister of the internal affairs. Secretary is the representative of the Chief Directorate "Fire Safety and Protection" at the Ministry of internal affairs.

The members are:

- Minister of Regional development and Public Works;
- Minister of Economics, Energy and Tourism;
- Minister of Environment and Wa-



ters;

- Minister of Agriculture and Food;
- Vice-minister of Finance;
- Vice-minister of Health;
- Vice-minister of Defence;
- Vice-minister of Foreign affairs;
- Vice-minister of Labour and Social Policy;
- Vice-minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications;
- Vice-minister of Education, Youth and Science
- Vice-minister of Culture

The Director of Chief Directorate "Fire Safety and Protection" at the Ministry of Interior, the

Regional governors and delegates of the National Association of Municipalities in Bulgaria can participate in the work of the Commission and have advisory vote.

The Regional Governors can exercise their right of advisory vote without attending the sessions. They can send their written opinion about the appropriateness of the mayor's requests.

Regional Governors receive the agenda for the sessions in the cases when there are requests concerning the distribution of finance for their territory. They can order the establishment of working groups, which make inspections and write opinion about the mayors' requests for provision of financing for different prevention and recovery measures.

Regular meetings are conducted every 3 months, emergency meetings – in emergency cases, disasters, etc.

Decisions are taken by majority vote of half plus one of those present at the meeting. The decisions of the Commission are sent to the Ministry of Finance, to the Chamber of Accounts, to primary distributors of budget credits, to concerned Regional Governors for further implementation.

How does it work?

Recovery aid for the buildings of citizens:

- In 14 days the mayors have to prepare and send to the Commission and the related Regional Governor a list with the damaged buildings and their addresses;

- In 14 days the mayors appoint a municipal committee to estimate the damages, make pictures and write a protocol;
- In 1 month the municipal committee has to write a proposal for the way of compensating and supporting the people (like providing building materials, realising building services, etc);
- In 3 months after presenting the list with damaged buildings, the mayors submit to the Commission request for recovery aid;
- The Mayors re-distribute the provided aid. Its amount is to cover minimum necessary life conditions

Example



In June 2012, the Inter-ministerial Commission conducted 2 emergency meetings to consider requests for recovery aid (mostly as a result of the Earthquake in Pernik District from May 2012).

Decisions from the meeting on June, 8th:

- 2 928 000 BGN – recovery aid for 35 houses of citizens and for urgent repair works;
- 148 519 BGN – repair of 12 municipal buildings in Radomir municipality;
- 43 143 BGN – destroying 3 dangerous buildings (the finance is provided to the Ministry of economics)
- 191 237 BGN – restoration of 6 high-schools in Pernik, Slivnitsa and Sofia

Decisions from the meeting on June, 27th:

- 518 880 BGN – recovery help for 159 houses in 5 villages and Pernik;
- 80 000 BGN – urgent works for removing dangerous elements, strengthening a bridge, etc.

In total, in the first half of 2012 were allocated 60,445,318 BGN for areas affected by the major disaster this year. The funds are to finance emergency, urgent actions and aid recovery after the floods in Haskovo and Dabene regions, for victims of the earthquake on May, 22nd near Pernik, the areas affected by the storm on the Black Sea, and from the snow storms in different regions of the country.

The position

Main player is the "Fire Safety and Protection of Population" by the Ministry of the Interior, responsible for ensuring the effective protection of the population in case of emergency. Intersecting with the Commission are actually the common efforts for effective preventive actions and organisation, coordination and management of emergency rescue and restoration work.



Prevention is first, but then the good organisation and planning, and finally the reaction. That is why it is important how you respond to a disaster and therefore how quickly the means to overcome the damage from disasters and emergencies are provided.

The role of the Interministerial Commission is precisely in bringing together local and executive authorities in the event of disasters or emergencies /crises/.

It is important to note, however, that the state does not help because it is obliged to reimburse private property. This is an exceptional measure that the government used to support morally

and materially the people who experienced a disaster.

Lessons learnt

The existence of this Commission gives us some valuable lessons:

- To improve the activities in the field of protection require a robust institutional and regulatory framework that is strengthened through capacity building, facilitating the flow of information and effective coordination mechanisms, good governance and promotion of appropriate policies that bring together all ministries in the country
- The ability to react quickly is invaluable in overcoming the crisis and the existence of the Interministerial Commission makes sure that the institutions have very good coordination and act faster than the regulations impose
- Rapid response requires not only resources but also experts who can assess the impact and recommend appropriate ways to overcome the damage; in this assessment is important to highlight the damage caused by disasters and hence current needs renovations.



The MiSRaR project

The MiSRaR project is about Mitigation of Spatial Relevant Risks in European Regions and Towns.

The project is a cooperation between seven partners in six EU member states:

- *the Safety Region South-Holland South, The Netherlands (lead partner)*
- *the city of Tallinn, Estonia*
- *the region of Epirus, Greece*
- *the province of Forlì-Cesena, Italy*
- *the municipality of Aveiro, Portugal*
- *the municipality of Mirandela, Portugal*
- *the Euro Perspectives Foundation (EPF), Bulgaria.*

The goal of the project is to exchange knowledge and experiences on risk mitigation in spatial policies. The project will result in a handbook in which the lessons on the mitigation process are described and the good practices from the partners are presented. The Risk Assessment and Mapping Guidelines for Disaster Management of the European Commission will be implemented in the handbook.

The MiSRaR project is cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund and made possible by the INTERREG IVC programme.

www.misrar.eu

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