

EVROS2010 FIELD EXERCISE SUMMARY



**Cross-border field test report – PP11,
PP12**

Dr. Nina Dobrinkova, Angelos Antoniadis
nido@math.bas.bg, monitor_ii@yahoo.gr

Work package 5:

CSA Field Experiments joined to pre-scheduled
Standard Field Exercises

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Project “**Complex Floods Management in European Union Vulnerable Areas through effective Reaction and Joint Operations Simulation in 2010**” funded by DG “ECHO” – 070401/2009/534328/SUB/A3/14.07.2009, financial instrument for Civil protection – prevention and preparedness with acronym: “EVROS2010” aimed to simulate the planning and response to a 50-year (or higher) flooding event for the River Maritsa/Evros and the broader Evros delta.

The River Maritsa/Evros is 480 km long originating in the Rila Mountains in Western Bulgaria, flowing south east between the Balkans and Rhodope Mountains, past Plovdiv (BG) and Edirne (TR) to outfall finally in the Aegean, forming a delta east of Alexandroupolis (GR). The River acts as a natural borderline between Bulgaria and Greece in the Svilengrad (BG) – Dikaia (GR) area for about 11km and continues to form the borderline between Turkey and Greece for the rest of its flow, where the eastern bank belongs to Turkey and the western bank to Greece, until the Aegean sea-mouth. The River Tundzha is its chief tributary in the north-eastern side and the River Ardas is the one in the western side. The upper Maritsa valley is a principal east-west route in Bulgaria.

There is a long history of significant flood events occurring along the length of the River Maritsa/Evros and within the wider Evros Delta. These often result in devastating damage to communities and the environment, loss of livestock; severe disruption to critical infrastructure and the requirement to evacuate large numbers of civilians. Thankfully, there has been no loss of life associated with recent Evros flood events.

The EVROS 2010 exercise scenarios were based upon simulations of actual flood incidents which Evros Civil Protection, emergency responders, volunteer organizations and international agencies have responded to during the last few flood events:

A. EVROS 2010 EXERCISE SCENARIO ABSTRACTS

Scenario One – 28th May 2010 09.00hrs

Due to continuous rainfall in the regions of Southern Bulgaria and Prefecture of Evros excessive quantities of water have reached the delta of Evros River. A group of hunters known to be in the delta area have not returned to their shelter since sunrise and have now been reported as missing. Search and Rescue (SAR) teams have been engaged in trying to locate the missing hunters, and during their searches have also found a large number of illegal immigrants who require rescue and evacuation.

Scenario Two – 28th May 2010 17.00hrs

Two agricultural vehicles with a total of six (6) passengers have tried to cross Ardas River. They have underestimated the danger of the current situation and have ignored all of the safety announcements given by Prefecture Civil Protection for the immediate evacuation of



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all at risk areas around the River due to the large volume of water that has been released by Ardas River Dams «Ivailovgrad» and «Kirdjali» in Bulgaria

Scenario Three – 28th May 2010 22.00hrs

Due to the continuous rainfall and the hazardous road conditions, a road traffic accident has occurred involving a car and a chemical road tanker trailer. The tanker is carrying ammonia and the collision has resulted in two leaks of liquid ammonia from the tanker. The driver of the tanker and three people in the car are trapped. The accident has happened at Exit 85 of the E51 Egnatia Highway.

Scenario Four – 29th May 2010 09.00hrs

The Evros River is being fed by increasing large quantities of water and the embankment at Praggi village has been breached. Because of failure of the dyke protection, there is a significant risk of flooding to the whole of Praggi village which has 200 inhabitants based on 2001 records of Greek Statistical Service. Mass evacuation of the village population is required.

Scenario Five – 29th May 2010 09.00hrs

Rail tank wagons with the hazardous chemical cargo are transported from Bulgaria to Thessaloniki via Alexandroupolis and currently are located at Railway Station of Praggi. The railway near to Praggi village in the municipality of Didymoteicho has been closed due to the dangerous increase of the water level of Evros River at Praggi district. Because of the probable breaching of the embankment protection, it is necessary to call for immediate decant of the hazardous cargo from the tank wagons to specialized road tankers road transport to the final destination. During the decant process it is observed that there is a leak in two of the tank wagons requiring the direct intervention of the Fire Service.

Scenario Six – 29th May 2010 17.00hrs

Holidaymakers in «THRASSA» Hotel have ignored the treacherous weather conditions (strong winds and heavy rainfall) and have taken two canoes out into the lake at Tycheron. The canoeists have gotten into difficulties and have been reported missing. In addition two other people who were known to be walking in the area have also been reported missing. A full search and rescue operation is initiated.

Scenario Seven – 29th May 2010 19.30hrs

Residents of «HOLIDAY VILLAS» hotel have organized an excursion to the ‘Fossil Forest’ amongst themselves and without being accompanied by a professional guide. The weather

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forecast is unfavorable and predicts a rapid deterioration of the weather conditions over the early evening. The weather forecast proves to be correct and there is an intense storm which results in the holidaymakers getting into difficulties.

B. EVROS 2010 SCENARIO AIMS

1. To facilitate familiarization of the local and regional units with EU mechanism
2. To practice and cooperate with an EU assessment team
3. To assess and improve the local, regional, national and European Union coordination and response mechanism
4. To practice and improve the transnational



operational skills of local mechanism and cross border cooperation



benefits of multinational exercises

5. To assess and improve the tactical operational value of the units
6. To test the early warning system, especially its capabilities as an instrument for operational support
7. To document best practices, things to be avoided and disseminate the

The Full Scale Civil Protection Exercise has been conducted following the seven scenarios developed in advance for that reason and fulfilled in the period 26th – 31st May 2010.

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