Project: "REAGO - Enhancing Capacity for Preparedness and Community Organization"

Within the framework of cooperation between the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), the implementation of the project "REAGO - Enhancing Capacity for Preparedness and Community Organization" has been launched, to be executed during the years 2025–2028. The first introductory meeting took place in November 2025, with the participation of representatives from Civil Protection institutions and other stakeholders. The project, funded by SIDA, consists of: Bilateral cooperation between the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) in Albania and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MCF). General Objective of the Project: To improve the coherence and consistency of disaster preparedness in Albania and align it with EU practices. Specific Objective of the Project: To strengthen disaster preparedness capacities in Albania through public awareness, education, and the development of inter-institutional coordination in the field of civil protection and disaster risk reduction (DRR). Project Components: Increasing public awareness of disaster risks and household emergency preparedness. This component focuses on creating an umbrella for public awareness and communication actions in Albania, establishing standards, and creating tools for planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating the effects of various public awareness initiatives in the country. Building bridges and closing the gap between Civil Protection authorities and the educational/academic system. The main goal is to foster mutual cooperation between civil protection institutions and academia. This includes promoting the integration of civil protection topics into the educational system and school curricula, while enabling evidence-based policymaking in the fields of Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Management (DRM). Improving inter-institutional coordination. The effectiveness of disaster preparedness efforts is closely linked to the coherence and consistency of actions taken nationwide. This will be achieved by expanding the coordination of various actors active in this field, which is a core part of the NCPA's mission. Key Activities by Component: Component 1: Increasing public awareness of disaster risks and household emergency preparedness measures. Drafting the National Strategy for Public Awareness and Crisis Communication in accordance with the National DRM Strategy and EU standards. Drafting a framework/roadmap of actions for the implementation of the national Public Awareness strategy. Public awareness at national, regional, and local levels. Developing training programs for municipalities. Capacity building for relevant actors (e.g., municipalities) on incorporating gender, environmental, and human rights perspectives, etc. Pilot Public Awareness campaigns in selected municipalities to improve household preparedness. Expanded inter-institutional coordination, etc.