



Twining Fiche

Project title: Strengthening the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Belarus

Beneficiary administration: Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus

Twining Reference: BY 18 ENI OT 02 18

Publication notice reference: EuropeAid/161398/DD/ACT/BY

EU funded project

TWINNING INSTRUMENT

1. Basic Information

1.1 Program: Annual Action Program for Belarus 2017 (ENI//2017/40-509), (direct management mode)

'For *British applicants*: Please be aware that eligibility criteria must be complied with for the entire duration of the grant. If the United Kingdom withdraws from the EU during the grant period without concluding an agreement with the EU ensuring in particular that British applicants continue to be eligible, you will cease to receive EU funding (while continuing, where possible to participate) or be required to leave the project on the basis of Article 12.2 of the General Conditions¹ to the grant agreement'.

1.2 Twinning Number: BY 18 ENI OT 02 18

1.3 Title: Supporting the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Belarus

1.4 Sector: Other

1.5 Beneficiary country: Belarus

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective:

Strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Emergency Situations to effectively address existing and emerging disaster risks in Belarus.

2.2 Specific objective:

Improved civil protection and disaster risk management services of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Belarus by applying best practices from the EU Member States in implementation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

2.3 The elements targeted in strategic documents, i.e. National Development

Plan/Cooperation agreement/Association Agreement/Sector reform strategy and related Action Plans

In the absence of a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Belarus, there is the EU-Belarus Coordination Group established in 2016 to provide a forum for a policy dialogue at the level of senior officials. The Coordination Group steers cooperation between the EU and Belarus and oversees the further development of relations. Since May 2009 Belarus is part of the Eastern Partnership initiative. The European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is the key EU financial instrument for bilateral relations with Belarus with a budget of about €91 million for 2014-2017. Funding is provided to support the cooperation in sectors of mutual interest and those benefitting most directly the citizens, such as border management, economic and regional development, environment, energy efficiency, green economy and food safety, and mobility and people to people contacts, putting emphasis on civil society participation and at the same time maintaining technical level contacts with the local administration. The EU also provides assistance to Belarus by thematic and regional programmes in the following fields: education (Tempus, Erasmus Mundus), the eradication of landmines, waste governance, air quality, nuclear safety (Chernobyl, and TAIEX). Furthermore, special additional financial resources are allocated for support to civil society.

The European Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Programme 2017 for Belarus stresses the need to strengthen conditions for private sector-led growth by improving the business environment, and sustainable economic growth. Component 2 of the Programme is aimed at capacity building for selected ministries and state agencies via provision of

specialised expertise, transfer of skills and ad hoc expertise based on the European experience in chosen priorities/areas/participants, including the Twinning Instrument.

The proposed Twinning Project aims to create a multi-dimensional enabling environment for the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) in Belarus to explore the best EU practices on various aspects of civil protection and disaster management. The project is designed to provide a unique opportunity for the MES to deepen their understanding about the European Civil Protection legal and regulatory frameworks and establish working relationships with the EU partners on various operational areas related to civil protection. This is believed to create necessary preconditions for increased synergy and alignment with the *Union acquis* on civil protection and improved operational contacts at the professional level. This will also directly contribute to the successful realisation of the EU-Belarus commitments towards sustainable development.

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification

General outlook

The Republic of Belarus occupies a territory of 207,600 km² in Eastern Europe bordering Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine, whereby 42% of the territory is agricultural land, 39% is occupied by forest, 2% by lakes and rivers and only 17% is used for other purposes. Belarus is a landlocked country with an estimated number of 9.5 million inhabitants in 2018 with about 78% of the population residing in urban areas. Since 2014, the country's GDP (current prices) dropped from USD 78,814 to USD 47,407 in 2016, whereby the industry share was 40.9%, the services share was 49.8% and agriculture 9.2% respectively. Belarus' per capita GDP was USD 5,600 in 2016. The inflation rate has decreased since 2013 from 18.3% to 12%. The unemployment rate remains low – 1.5% in 2017. The GDP growth rates remain modest, 1.8% in 2017.

Belarus is prone to both natural and man-made disasters. The major natural hazards are floods, strong winds, forest and peat fires caused by extreme temperature and seasonal heavy precipitations. There is a steady dynamic of decreasing of the total number of emergency situations in the country: from 14,682 in 2002 to 6,135 in 2015. The vast majority of all emergency situations constitute fires in residential areas (99.85% of all cases).

Management of forest fires becomes extremely complex if they originate in the territories affected by the Chernobyl accident. About 97% of the radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl disaster landed in Belarus. Today, the remaining radioactive materials increase negative impacts of forest fires to other territories within and beyond Belarus towards EU states. Belarus continues to spend 3% of its national budget, or about €1 million per day, to address the consequences of Chernobyl accident with major focus on recovery and development of the territories. Belarus is currently constructing its first nuclear power plant in Ostrovets. The government plans to have it operating in 2019. The Russian Federation is financing the project and providing its technology. It will be a 2400 MWe plant, with two VVER-1200 reactors. Belarus stress-tested its nuclear power plant using European methods and standards in 2018.

The principal technological hazards are mainly related to nuclear accident contamination (after the Chernobyl disaster) but also to oil/gas pipelines, transport and industrial accidents.

The risk level of natural hazards is mainly affected by economic, social and environmental factors, as well as the institutional, legal and political context. While the human toll is quite limited, the economic losses of disasters cause a burden to national sustainable development.

Institutional and legal framework for disaster management

The legal and institutional basis for addressing disasters is defined by a number of laws and regulatory acts as well as direct orders of the President of Belarus. The major legal documents that govern the sector are the following three: (1) Law No. 141 on ‘Protection of the population and territories from emergency situations of natural and technological origin’, 5 May 1998; (2) Law No. 183 on Civil Defence, 27 December 2006; and (3) Decision of the Council of Ministries No. 495 of 10 April 2001 created the State System of Prevention and Elimination of Emergency Situations.

The main authority mandated for the civil protection and disaster management is the MES of Belarus. The MES operates on three levels: national, provincial and district and has an elaborated structure. Numerous legal/regulatory documents define and support the response mandate of the MES. The response system includes:

- A well-elaborated system of **fire-fighting** at all three levels, with detailed regulations on fire standards in different settings; a risk-based control mechanism for fire prevention in industrial and residential complexes updated since January 2018; and production at the industrial level of specialised fire-fighting tools and equipment compliant with and conformed by relevant international standards (the national Institute on Fire Fighting is the member of the European Group of Laboratories and Testing (EGOLT)).
- Elements of a **volunteerism** system, which includes a nation-wide network of voluntary fire fighters (with National, Provincial, and District Councils). The system of volunteers largely includes pensioned fire fighters, however, there are also some specialised clubs of young fire fighters. This field is partially regulated by the Law of Fire-Fighters (No. 23 of 15 June 1993), a draft version of the revisions in the Code of the National Association of Volunteer Fire-Fighters has been submitted for adoption to the President of Belarus. This system is further supplemented with a nation-wide system of 16,000 Red Cross volunteers, largely engaged in providing medical and social support, safety information dissemination, as well as 250 volunteers trained for disaster response. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies’ (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund supports the latter by covering insurance costs for those volunteers.
- A network of **crisis management centres**: There are crisis management centres at all three levels: national, provincial, and district. The Republican Centre of Emergency Management and Response accumulates information from the country-wide monitoring systems (i.e. radiological monitoring system, fire monitoring system, seismic monitoring system, meteorological monitoring system, hydrological monitoring system). Apart from on-ground monitoring systems, there are also aerial and cosmic monitoring systems in use. From its provincial and district centres, it receives operative information on daily basis and on accident basis. The Republican Centre coordinates the activities of 15 Ministries during emergency situations by providing data and tailored information for response.
- **Specialised response forces** including aviation: The MES has an elaborated network of specialised response forces and centres. It has an Aviation Team and the Republican Special Response Team certified by INSARAG as Heavy USAR Team in 2013. It also has a team of search and rescue dogs (seven in total) based within the Republican Special Response Team. There are several specialised centres, such as the Centre for

Chemical and Radiological Safety, the Centre for Medical Support, the Centre for Water Rescue Services, the Centre of Explosive Services, and the Centre for Pontoon Bridge Services. While the teams and centres are relatively well equipped to provide necessary services, there is a need for more focused attention for on-site coordination of various response forces, specialised search and response expertise in ecosystems and in urban settings.

- **Disaster loss assessment and recovery:** The post disaster needs assessment system in Belarus is predominantly focused on damage assessment and financial compensations to the victims of disaster regulated by the Law No. 141 on the Protection of People and Territories from Natural and Technological Emergency Situations adopted in 1998. The approach and methodology of compensation for disaster loss and damages are also regulated by the joint Resolution o. 40/276/136 of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Economy of Belarus adopted in 2006: About the instructions defining the procedures for financial compensation to individuals and juridical entities that suffered material and financial damage from a disaster. However, there is a growing interest towards the importance of understanding the direct and indirect economic losses caused by disasters in Belarus. Towards this end, in 2017 the MES and the National Institute of Economy set up a working group to learn best international practices and design a methodology for assessing economic losses that result from disasters. Thus far, only early steps have been done in this direction.

The central body of the Ministry of Emergency Situations consists of the following departments: Industrial Safety Department, Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Department, Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster Department, State Reserve Department, Rescue Services and Emergency Response Department, Fire Prevention and Supervision Department, National Emergency Management System Department, Republican Special Response Team, Republican Centre for Emergency Management and Response and other special departments. It includes also several Educational Institutes, Scientific Institute and Aviation branch. Regional departments are situated in Brest, Vitebsk, Grodno, Mogilev, Gomel and Minsk regions as well as in Minsk City.

While the MES is directly responsible for the liquidation of emergency situations and disaster response, it also holds the disaster risk assessment and prevention mandate. The responsibility for all-hazard risk assessment resides largely within the Republican Centre of Emergency Management, which uses some specific methodologies developed for different hazard related risk assessment by respective agencies (e.g. fire risk). The understanding of disaster risk and methodologies for risk assessment is one of the areas that require serious attention within the MES. The challenges with risk assessment are further explained by the low capacities for weather forecast (for instance, there are no seasonal forecasts in Belarus due to the lack of expertise) and limited availability of maps (this is to be partly addressed by the other twinning project designed for the National Cadastral Agency (NCA)). In line with its strong interest in aligning its practices with those of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, the MES is strongly interested in learning from Member States and practicing its own national risk assessment.

International cooperation

The MES is the national government's focal point for developing and maintaining international cooperation in the field of disaster management, civil protection and fire-fighting activities and had developed its Strategy for International Cooperation on 23 December 2014. Between 1999 and 2017, the MES concluded 46 international cooperation

treaties including countries such as Austria, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Hungary, Vietnam, Germany, Georgia, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, Qatar, South Korea, China, Kirgizstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Syria, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Finland, France, Switzerland, Ecuador, Japan, ICDO and the UN.

In 1995 the MES joined the NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme and has kept contacts with the NATO Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) in Brussels. It is also actively engaged in the activities under the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Ministerial Commission on Disaster Management under the Commonwealth of Independent States.

It should be mentioned that language remains one of the major limitations in dealing with international partners – only a limited number of experts within the MES have sufficient knowledge of English.

3.2 Ongoing reforms

By the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 1051 ‘About the main directions on the realization of the state politics on civil defence’ from 2013, the Government of Belarus sets the grounds for the major reform in the civil protection and civil defence system. By this Decree, civil protection and civil defence will be merged into one united civil protection system to prevent, prepare to, and respond to all emergency situations both in peace and war times. There are eight main directions defined for the realisation of this Decree, namely, in political, economic, scientific-technical, social, demographic, information, military, and ecological spheres. These efforts provide the necessary enabling environment for this twinning project to generate larger and sustainable impact across the system and to strengthen institutional capacities of the MES by bringing its legal and institutional frameworks closer to Union *acquis* on civil protection.

The MES is part of the public administration system of Belarus and the key authority responsible for the whole spectrum of disaster and crisis management in the country. The civil protection and disaster management system in Belarus is predominantly focused on emergency response and preparedness for response. Nevertheless, MES senior officials and experts recognise that not only emergency response but also prevention measures and disaster risk management is critical for building resilience in Belarus. Prevention has grown into serious nation-wide efforts to raise awareness and educate different groups of population on safety issues. The National Institute on Fire-Fighters and the University of Civil Protection of the MES are at the frontline of this work.

Prevention requires a clear understanding of the risk of different disasters. As a signatory for major global agreements such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Sendai Framework for DRR (SFDR) and Paris Climate Agreement (PCA), the government of Belarus and specifically, the MES, are committed to increase disaster resilience by mobilising knowledge and expertise of international partners and creating necessary enabling environment within the country. One of the major steps in this direction was the decision to shift away from conceptual and practical legacy of the Soviet period, namely, differentiation of civil protection and civil defence. Today, the MES is building a unified system of civil protection to different types of disasters and is eager to explore the EU’s expertise in this field.

However, the expression of political commitment to disaster risk reduction does not necessarily result in its implementation. In many cases the lack of financial, human or technical resources and capacities can be the most pressing obstacles. On a positive side, Belarus has established a National Platform for DRR, which is being convened and coordinated by

the MES. The MES has also started drafting a National Strategy for DRR, which demonstrates the understanding of the need for a shift from a reactive to a proactive approach to disaster management.

These relatively recent initiatives could play a catalytic role in reforming the current disaster management and civil defence system in Belarus and its administration. For both initiatives the crucial issue is a solid inter-institutional work and transparent data and information sharing. Strong cooperation with other stakeholder institutions and willingness for transparent data and information sharing are prerequisites for up-to-date information supporting the decision-making process. As of today, there is no legal or institutional mechanism that would require the state institutions to provide data and information to each other on a periodic basis.

Thus far, the civil protection and disaster management system in Belarus is predominantly focused on emergency response and preparedness for response with elaborated response forces, including but not limited to USAR, rescue services, aviation, fire rescue services, diving-rescue services, etc.

Specialized emergency response services include rescue service, structural engineering service, urban search and rescue service, landing parachute service, communication service, diving rescue service, flood response service, medical service, canine search service, explosive operation service, fire rescue service, logistics service, psychological assistance service and coordination of response preparedness service.

3.3 Linked activities:

In general, from 2010-2017 the MES participated in the implementation of international cooperation projects with total budget over € 25 million. It has established strong relationships with the emergency management services of the neighbouring EU MSs (Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia). A joint Poland-Belarus project called “Belarusian-Polish cross-border security. Strengthening the capacity of fire and rescue services.” (€ 4,5 million) has been approved by the EU and is currently at the phase of project registration in Belarus. Also, on the registration stage is another EU-funded project on “Development of cross-border cooperation in the field of flood prevention, flood management and reduction of environmental pollution” (€ 500,000). Over the period of 2017 and 2018 over 20 different project proposals have been submitted under the funding mechanisms “Belarus-Poland-Ukraine” and “Belarus- Lithuania-Latvia”.

Belarus also benefits from regional and multi-country action programmes funded under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). Belarus is one of the strongest-performing Eastern Partnership countries in the Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation. Under Horizon 2020, the EU allocated more than € 12 million to Belarus for projects for the period 2002-2017. As a result, Belarusian scientists took part in 113 projects on strengthening scientific and technological cooperation.

A number of projects are being implemented on nuclear safety, which is explained by the construction of the first nuclear power plant under construction in Ostrovets (Belarus) due in 2019. The EU has already been engaged in capacity-building assisting to Belarus' nuclear safety regulator, through the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation and in close cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Also, the MES is actively developing and maintaining relations with UN, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Technical Committee for the Prevention and Extinction of Fire (CTIF), International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) and NATO. The NATO for instance, has sponsored a flood risk monitoring and forecast

system in the Pripjat river basin in both Belarus and Ukraine implemented by the Slovak Hydro-Meteorological Institute.

Special attention deserves Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters (PPRD East II program), worth € 5,5 million of funding, for the period of 2014-2018. The programme was designed in 2009 and the first flagship initiative of the EC in the ENP region with the focus on increasing disaster risk management capacities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The current phase of the programme in Belarus set the focus on three priorities: (a) volunteerism, (b) host nation support and (c) raising awareness about disasters. During the first phase risk focus was a priority also for Belarus, however, the risk atlas was not utilised by the MES.

3.4 List of applicable Union acquis/standards/norms

While the EU legal and regulatory framework on civil protection is well developed, the list below provides only an extract of the most relevant standards and norms applicable in the context of the proposed twinning fiche. It remains important to further explore synergies with the relevant developments within the *Union acquis*.

- EU Seveso Directive
- EU Flood Directive
- INSPIRE Directive
- EU Forest Strategy 2013
- COMMISSION NOTICE: Risk Management Capability Assessment Guidelines (2015/C 261/03)
- COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT: EU Policies contributing to Disaster Risk Management Accompanying the document Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions The post 2015 Hyogo Framework for Action: Managing risks to achieve resilience (COM(2014) 216 final)
 - COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT, Action Plan on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, A disaster risk-informed approach for all EU policies SWD(2016) 205 final/2.
- REGULATION: (EC) No. 2152/2003 of The European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 concerning monitoring of forests and environmental interactions in the Community (Forest Focus)
- COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS: Strengthening EU Disaster Management: rescEU Solidarity with Responsibility
- Proposal for a DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL: amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism
- EU Risk Data Hub
- European Flood Awareness System (EFAS)
- European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

- Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System

3.5 Results per component

The twinning project will produce four Mandatory Results (i.e. Components) as follows:

Mandatory Result 1 (Component 1): More aligned legislative and regulatory framework to the *Union acquis* on Civil Protection

Sub-result 1: Designed DRR Strategy

Sub-result 2: Strengthened volunteerism system

Sub-result 3: Increased harmonisation of the civil protection legal and regulatory framework in Belarus with the EU *acquis*

The rationale for this cluster of sub-results is to help the MES to strengthen their legal and regulatory framework through building upon existing one yet taking into consideration the practices developed within the European Union. There is a keen interest within the MES to learn from the EU practices on creating enabling legal environment for effective disaster management. The special focus of their attention is the legal basis supporting the EU Civil protection mechanism and the norms and standards developed for the European civil protection system. While EU level remains the main focus area, some useful practices from the EU member states will be applicable too.

Indicators of success:

- Strengthened capability of the MES to develop national disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategy in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR
- National DRR strategy for Belarus submitted for the approval by the government
- Increased ability of the MES to align Belarusian legislation of civil protection with the EU *acquis*
- % recommendations approved from the total proposed on legislative reform of civil protection system linked to volunteerism system in Belarus
- Drafted guiding document for increased cooperation and better harmonization between MES and UCPM

Mandatory Result 2 (Component 2): Improved disaster risk assessment methodologies and governance mechanism

Sub-result 1: Improved all-hazard National Risk Assessment

Sub-result 2: Improved risk assessment for major hazards (wild fires and floods)

Sub-result 3: Improved urban risk assessment

The rationale for this cluster of sub-results is to help the MES to improve their capacities in risk assessment. There is a particular focus on a new area for the MES, namely on national risk assessment. In the meantime, there is a strong interest to improve the existing methodologies on specific risk assessment for fire, floods, and urban risk. In each case, there is a need for a functioning multi-stakeholder governance mechanism to ensure smooth data sharing and risk analysis. The MES is committed to facilitate the process and the set of sub-results are tailored to address the most critical milestones in that process.

Indicators of success:

- Availability of multi-stakeholder mechanism to produce the first NRA report
- Substantially improved understanding on fire and flood risk assessment within the EU MSs
- % of recommendations out of total proposed to improve the existing fire and flood risk assessment methodologies in Belarus
- Substantially improved understanding of on urban risk management within the EU MSs
- % of recommendations out of total proposed on urban risk assessment for Belarus
- Manual on Urban Risk Assessment in Belarus is approved for use
- # of people trained in Belarus by the ToTs trained in the EU MSs
- # of guidelines developed for the MES Belarus
- # of methodologies developed for the MES Belarus

Mandatory Result 3 (Component 3): Enhanced disaster data management and analytics

Sub-result 1: Improved disaster loss and damage assessment

Sub-result 2: Improved disaster data management and information system

Sub-result 3: Sendai monitoring and reporting

The rationale for this cluster of sub-results is to help the MES to improve the capacities of the MES for disaster data management and analytics. The major milestones would be to support the MES in learning best European practices on disaster data management and information system as well as in how to assess disaster damage and loss. Given that Belarus has committed to the Sendai Framework and the MES is the custodian and the main implementer of the Sendai monitoring reporting, the MES is also strongly interested in understanding Sendai monitoring requirements and issues the first report in line with those requirements.

Indicators of success:

- The new disaster loss and damage assessment methodology is endorsed
- % of recommendations out of total proposed to improve disaster data management and information system
- 1st Sendai reporting is produced
- # of people trained in Belarus by the ToTs trained in the EU MSs
- # of guidelines developed for the MES Belarus
- # of methodologies developed for the MES Belarus

Mandatory Result 4 (Component 4): Strengthened mobilisation and coordination of disaster response and preparedness

Sub-result 1: Improved operations of Crisis Management Centres

Sub-result 2: Improved disaster preparedness and response plans

Sub-result 3: Improved capacities of rescue forces

The rationale for this cluster of sub-results is to help the MES to strengthen its response capacities. The primary focus is on learning from the European partners on the best practices of managing crisis response centres, including standard operational procedures, leadership and management, communication, and many more. They are clearly focused on improving their preparedness and response plans based on the best practices both the EU and MS levels. Also, within this cluster of results it is envisaged to strengthen the MES search and rescue capacities through building their skills in working in urban areas.

Indicators of success:

- Enhanced ability of the Crisis Management Centres to respond to future emergency situations
- % of recommendations out of total proposed to improve functioning of the Crisis Management Centres
- % of recommendations adopted out of total proposed to improve disaster preparedness and response plans
- # of people trained in Belarus by the ToTs in the EU Member States in the field of emergency response planning and Crisis Management Centres operations
- The polygon for urban search & rescue on the basis of the Republican Special Rescue team is operational

3.6 Means/ input from the MS Partner Administration:

3.6.1 Profile and tasks of the Project Leader

Project Leader Profile:

- A high ranking Member State official or assimilated agent who directs the implementation of the Twinning project and formally signs all work plan(s) and/or any updates of these.
- Active senior position in one of the Member States in the field of civil protection
- Minimum of 8 years of experience in civil protection and disaster management field
- Minimum 3 years of professional experience in one of the project components: risk assessment, EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), disaster analytics, or management of rescue operations
- Demonstrated experience with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)
- Demonstrated experience both at the operation and policy making level
- A very good command of written and spoken English (level C1)

Project Leader Tasks:

- High-level coordination and quality control of the project;
- Ensure project achieves its Mandatory Results
- Verification of project progress reports with support of RTA;
- Active networking within EU MSs to identify and develop relationships with the best partners for the project
- Maintain professional and productive relationships with the counterpart, i.e. the MES

3.6.2 Profile and tasks of the RTA

RTA Profile:

- Senior civil servant or equivalent staff of a MS Mandated body institution
- University level education or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in public administration
- Minimum 3 years of professional experience in one of the project components: risk assessment, EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), disaster analytics, or management of rescue operations
- Demonstrated experience with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)
- Demonstrated experience both at the operation and policy making level
- Experience of working in twinning projects in transition countries is an asset
- Excellent diplomatic skills
- Good public speaking, coaching, and written communication skills
- Advanced computer literacy
- Excellent command of spoken and written English
- Knowledge of Russian is an asset.

RTA Tasks:

- Overall supervision of the project planning and implementation
- Coordination of the project activities to ensure timely and quality delivery of expected outputs
- Responsible for the logistics and administration of the project
- Brief, guide and support the short-term experts seconded to the project and participants of study tours/internships
- Coordination of monitoring and reporting of the project
- Provide technical input to the project whenever needed
- Liaise with MSs and MES Project Leader
- Maintain professional and productive relationships with the MES RTA counterpart and the MES Component Leaders on a daily basis
- Organise kick-off and project closure events and activity related workshops, meetings, roundtable discussions, and regular thematic events over the course of the project implementation
- Prepare project progress reports in close cooperation with its counterpart
- Liaison with MS Project Leader
- Liaison with other relevant stakeholders in Belarus.

3.6.3 Profile and tasks of 4 Component Leaders

Component Leader Profile:

- Minimum 3 years of professional experience in one of the project components: risk assessment, EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), disaster analytics, or management of rescue operations

- Demonstrated experience with the EU MSs and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)
- Excellent command of spoken and written English

Component Leader Tasks:

- Coordinate planning and implementation of each specific component of the project
- Contribute to effective monitoring and reporting
- Provide technical input on its knowledge area as required
- Network and advise qualified short-term experts for the realisation of its component
- Liaise with its counterpart within the MES Belarus on a regular basis

For all key personnel, the following is an additional asset:

- A working knowledge of Russian
- Experience with similar international projects

3.6.4 Profile and tasks of the short-term experts

The exact number of the short-term experts and the duration of their engagement in the project implementation should be agreed during the contract negotiation process. The general requirements include the following:

- University level education or equivalent professional experience of 5 years in the relevant field (must)
- Solid expertise in one or more EU MSs (must)
- Demonstrated experience in coaching and training (must)
- Knowledge of and experience in the region (optional)
- Knowledge of Russian (optional)

4. Budget

The maximum budget will be EUR 1,200,000

5. Implementation Arrangements

5.1 Contracting Authority:

The European Union Delegation to Belarus will be responsible for tendering, contracting, payments and financial reporting, and will work in close cooperation with the beneficiary. Any written communication relating to this Contract shall be sent to the following address either per post or electronically:

Postal address:

Mr. Berend De Groot
 Head of Cooperation Section
 Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Belarus
 34 A/2, Engels Street,
 220030 Minsk, Belarus
 Tel: +375 17 328 66 13

E-mail address:

E-mail: DELEGATION-BELARUS-CALLS@eeas.europa.eu

5.2 Institutional Framework

The project beneficiary is the MES Belarus. The implementation will be coordinated and managed by the Main Division on National System of Disaster prevention and preparedness, but with close engagement of all relevant sub-divisions of the Ministry. Specifically, the University of Civil Protection will lead on Risk Assessment work; the Legal Department will lead on approximation of legal frameworks; the Republican Centre of Emergency Management and Response will lead on disaster data management and information work; and the Republican Special Response Team will lead on disaster coordination and response preparedness work.

A project Steering Committee will be established to provide overall coordination to the project implementation, quality assurance, and reporting. The Steering Committee shall consist of the PL, RTA, Component Leaders from the MS and its counterparts from the MES Belarus. Also, the representative of the EU Delegation in Belarus will be included in the Steering Committee.

5.3 Counterparts in the Beneficiary administration

5.3.1 Contact person: Mrs. Svetlana Shotskaja, Head of International Projects, Department of International Relations, MES Belarus

5.3.2 PL counterpart: (major general) Khudoleev Alexander, Deputy Minister of MES Belarus

5.3.3 RTA counterpart: Colonel Dedul Leonid, Head of the Main Division on National System of Disaster prevention and preparedness, MES Belarus

6. Duration of the project

The execution period is 24 months.

7. Sustainability

The project is expected to provide very specific outputs (reviews, recommendations, training courses and exercises, etc.) while in the meantime create a flow of long-term benefits for the MES to be explored through various channels. Hence, the recommendations on improved harmonisation with the *Union acquis* will open up new perspectives for the country to strengthen their partnership with the EU in the field of civil protection. Increased capacities of the MES staff at different levels is a guarantee of impact that is more lasting for the organisation and the country. Specific initiatives that are to be explored and initiated within the project (e.g. national risk assessment, loss and damage assessment, etc.) are expected to further contribute to disaster risk informed sustainable development of Belarus.

Moreover, the MES is committed to further build the capacities of its staff by organising regular capacity development events, whereby those trained during this project (i.e. trainers) will be transferring their expertise to the colleagues within the MES at all levels and its partners. Therefore, the twinning fiche is designed in such a way to build lasting capacities of the core team of experts, i.e. trainers, creating thereby preconditions for the MES to further explore this new human resource. By allocating additional funds for capacity development under the components 1-3, the project creates a room to flexibly address all emerging capacity needs during the implementation of the project.

Through organising one visibility event outside Belarus, the project creates an opportunity for the MES to explore direct contacts with multiple relevant EU partners, supporting thereby the sustainability of the project outcomes. Also, a number of local thematic visibility events will be organised by the RTA in close cooperation with the MES on a regular basis.

8. Crosscutting issues

The principle of equal opportunity will be integrated into all stages of the project implementation. During the implementation of the project special attention should be paid to ensure gender-sensitive programming and gender balance as relevant and deemed necessary by the beneficiary country.

9. Conditionality and sequencing

There is no precondition set for this Twinning project. Sequencing should be justifiable to maximise the synergy between various components of the project and be in line with the agreed Logframe attached to this twinning fiche.

The MES is very keen to embark on effective and efficient cooperation with appropriate EU MSs to enhance its capacity in addressing existing and emerging disaster risks in the country. The MES considers itself ready to sign a Twinning Contract that will result from this Twinning Fiche.

There is full understanding of and commitment of the Ministry senior managers to pursue all mandatory results outlined in this twinning fiche. The MES will assign all necessary human and other resources to this project.

The MS team can count on full support from its national counterpart in all priority areas through smooth facilitation and coordination action. The Twinning project will fully consider any past, ongoing and planned activities under the TAIEX instrument.

Annexes:

Annex I: Logical framework matrix

ANNEX I: Logical framework matrix

	<p>Programme name and number: Strengthening the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Belarus BY 18 ENI OT 02 18</p>		<p>Twinning budget: EUR 1,200,000 <u>Implementation period: 24 months</u></p>	
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of verification	Assumptions	
Strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Emergency Situations to effectively address existing and emerging disaster risk in Belarus.	Reduced economic, environmental and human losses caused by disasters. Reduced number of critical infrastructures damaged by disasters.	National statistical data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MES committed to build upon the results achieved within the Twinning programme 	
Specific objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of verification	Assumptions	
Improved civil protection and disaster risk management services of the MES Belarus by applying best practices from the EU Member States and in the implementation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sizable increase in capacities to implement multi-hazard risk assessment Sizable improvement in disaster analytics Sizable improvement in alignment of the legal framework of Belarus on civil protection to that of the <i>Union acquis</i> Sizable increase of on-ground coordination capacities of response forces Broadened partner base for the MES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer-review of the progress by the Twinning partner Internal assessment of the MES Belarus Evaluation reports Monitoring visits and follow up reports Thematic Visibility Conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All relevant stakeholders are committed to the Twinning programme Strong support and commitment from twinning partner(s) Appropriate MES staff assigned to the process MES participated in adequate EU international conference/forum 	
Mandatory Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of verification	Assumptions	
Mandatory Result 1: More aligned legislative and regulatory framework to the <i>Union acquis</i> on Civil Protection				
<p><i>Sub-Category 1:</i> Defined DRR Strategy <i>Sub-Category 2:</i> Strengthened volunteerism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened capability of the MES to develop national disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategy in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation from all relevant external 	

<p>system <i>Sub-Category 3: Increased harmonisation of the civil protection legal and regulatory framework in Belarus with the EU acquis</i></p>	<p>line with the Sendai Framework for DRR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National DRR strategy for Belarus approved by the government • Increased ability of the MES to align Belarusian legislation of civil protection with the EU acquis • % recommendations approved from the total proposed on legislative reform of civil protection system linked to volunteerism system in Belarus • Drafted guiding document for increased cooperation and better hamronization between MES and UCPM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from the study tours • Minutes from the meetings, workshops, roundtable discussion • Recommendations published • Belarus National DRR Strategy document • Increased cooperation between the UCPM and MES 	<p>stakeholders is active and successful</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified Stakeholder staff is appointed and participates in Activities • Language barrier has been overcome
<p>Mandatory Result 2: Improved disaster risk assessment methodologies and governance mechanism</p>			
<p><i>Sub-Category 1: Improved all-hazard National Risk Assessment</i></p> <p><i>Sub-Category 2: Improved risk assessment for major hazards (wild fires and floods)</i></p> <p><i>Sub-Category 3: Improved urban risk assessment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of multi-stakeholder mechanism to produce the first NRA report • Substantially improved understanding on fire and flood risk assessment within the EU MSs • % of recommendations out of total proposed to improve the existing fire and flood risk assessment methodologies in Belarus • Substantially improved understanding of on urban risk management within the EU MSs • % of recommendations out of total proposed on urban risk assessment for Belarus • A draft Manual on Urban Risk Assessment in Belarus is prepared • # of people trained in Belarus by the ToTs trained in the EU MSs • # of guidelines developed for the MES Belarus • # of methodologies developed for the MES Belarus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project reports • Reports from the study tours • Reviews of best practices from the EU MSs • Recommendations published • Risk informed urban planning • New guidelines in subject area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent share of data from all engaged partners • Qualified experts engaged

Mandatory Result 3: Enhanced disaster data management and analytics			
<p><i>Sub-Category 1: Improved disaster loss and damage assessment</i></p> <p><i>Sub-Category 2: Improved disaster data management and information system</i></p> <p><i>Sub-Category 3: Sendai monitoring and reporting</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new disaster loss and damage assessment methodology is endorsed • % of recommendations out of total proposed to improve disaster data management and information system • 1st Sendai reporting is produced • # of people trained in Belarus by the ToTs trained in the EU MSs • # of guidelines developed for the MES Belarus • # of methodologies developed for the MES Belarus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project reports • Reports from the study tours • Reviews of best practices from the EU MSs • Recommendations published • Belarus Sendai monitoring report received by UNISDR on time • Manual on urban risk assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent share of data from all engaged partners • Qualified experts engaged • The MES' DRR unit understands Sendai reporting procedure
Mandatory Result 4: Strengthened mobilization and coordination of disaster response and preparedness			
<p><i>Sub-Category 1: Improved operations of Crisis Management Centres</i></p> <p><i>Sub-Category 2: Improved disaster preparedness and response plans</i></p> <p><i>Sub-Category 3: Improved capacities of rescue forces</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced ability of the Crisis Management Centres to respond to future emergency situations • % of recommendations out of total proposed to improve functioning of the Crisis Management Centres • % of recommendations adopted out of total proposed to improve disaster preparedness and response plans • # of people trained in Belarus by the ToTs in the EU Member States in the field of emergency response planning and Crisis Management Centres operations • The polygon for urban search & rescue on the basis of the Republican Special Rescue team is designed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project reports • Reports from the study tours • Lessons learned published for internal use • Visit report(s) • Recommendations published • Training reports • Contingency plans • Real time post disaster reviews • Mass media reports • Disaster response reports • Layout of the polygon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent share of data from all engaged partners • Qualified experts engaged • Language barrier has been overcome • All partners are actively participating

