



CODE VDIC – NEWSLETTER # 2

November 2021.



CODE VDIC achievements

CODE VDIC stands for “**Common Development of Volunteer Intervention Capability**” (Project ID: HUSKROUA/1702/8.1/0035), **financed within the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020.**

Thanks to the cross-border cooperation project, the **following overall results** have been achieved:

- The “**Carpathian Region Disaster Response and Mitigation Network**” (with 18 members by the end of the project) has been set-up and running;
- A **Trained Cross-border Volunteer Network** (thanks to the 3-step training program, cross-border volunteer network capacity has been built, strengthened and preparedness is now increased);
- The **inhabitants’ awareness** has been raised (thanks to the common inhabitant’s campaign, awareness has been raised among the NGOs and population towards the importance of joint actions in case of disaster preventions and interventions).



*Closing Event
and Final Exercise of the
CODE VDIC project
on the 15th of September
in Sátorajújhely, Hungary*

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This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the CODE VDIC project and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





PARTNERS' PAGES

The end of the CODE VDIC project is now quickly approaching!

Despite the many unforeseen circumstance that occurred during the pandemic-affected last year, the consortium was able to achieve all planned results, since each partner was **dedicated and engaged to jointly implement the activities, so they can better face the catastrophic challenges of the future.**

To provide a scope of what has been achieved, the following pages will introduce the locally implemented activities and results.



**Zemplén Region Civil Protection and Disaster Management
Association (Lead Beneficiary, HU)**

Since the Association is **responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the CODE VDIC project**, a lot of pressure had been put on it during the last year to manage the many modifications request of the partners and to come up with "plan Bs" on several occasions, due to the unique situation. The Lead Beneficiary has also implemented its own activities. One of them will **ensure the maintenance of the cross-border volunteer network** and also will serve local purposes **from technical background point of view**, such as the **purchase of tools** (hand tools, protective materials, and camp lighting kits), **equipment** (emergency camp materials and personal equipment, and management and info-communication tools), **and a Mitsubishi L200 type vehicle, a pick-up truck to tackle fire hazards** – that are nowadays getting more and more frequent in the HUSKROUA target area, because of climate change. A **trailer and a camera system to watch forest fires** were also purchased with the support of the CODE VDIC project.

Moreover, the Lead Beneficiary has organized the **Closing Event and Final Exercise and the Local Campaign for Inhabitants** - jointly with the **Volunteer Firefighter Association Pálháza** - (further details of this event will be covered in the final section of the Newsletter).





Volunteer Firefighter Association Pálháza (HU)

The **purchase of equipment** planned in the second period has been completed (quad, 9-person bus, IT equipment, protective and training clothing).

The 2-day local training for 50 volunteers had been implemented on the **16th and 17th of August 2021. in Pálháza**. The training has contained both theoretical and practical sessions. The volunteers had had lectures/presentations on the **cross-border disaster management methodologies and practices** and the national guidelines and rules. They have also practiced with the **newly purchased intervention equipment**.

More info about the training (in HU language only):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8TNwAwaXeE>

The Association co-organized the **Public Campaign for local inhabitants** with the Lead Beneficiary for the HU target group, mainly youth together with the Closing Event of the project. Their volunteers also participated in the **Final Methodological Exercise** in Sátoraljaújhely on the 15th of September 2021 to demonstrate flood protection skills and methods to the project international partners and local professional visitors.



Municipality of Kráľovský Chlmec (SK)

The Municipality has managed to **enlarge the core network of cross-border volunteers** in September 2020, since a cooperation agreement on disaster management assistance was signed between the municipalities of **Dobrá, Biel, Somotor, Leles and the Municipality of Kráľovský Chlmec**, creating a disaster management network in the "Bodrogköz". Due to pandemic reasons, the **local training** in Slovakia took place in July 2021.





The **theoretical training** was conducted by the **head of the district disaster management department of Trebišov - Ing. Jozef Šandor, CSc.**
The firefighters of Kráľovský Chlmec have participated in the **practical training**.



Town of Seini (RO)

The municipality organized a **2-step Local Training for the volunteers of SVSU Seini**.

In June 2021, a **theoretical training** took place aiming at sharing information in the field of cross-border intervention, international humanitarian assistance, protection, and intervention in case of fires and floods, first aid measures and national standards for operation and qualification. Then a **practical training** was organized in August 2021. Volunteers from Seini and Babeş-Bolyai University from Cluj-Napoca familiarized with the purchased equipment during fire and flood simulations. **The training event was a success, and it has significantly increased the motivation of volunteers.**

On 15th September 2021, Seini representatives attended the project's **Final Exercise and Closing Event**.

Having identified floods and fires as main local risks, **SVSU Seini also drew up a local protection and prevention plan and contributed to the common project policy and strategy with a written material which was included in the CODE VDIC Joint Publication.**

Despite many unforeseen circumstances, **Town of Seini has managed to purchase a fire engine.**

In November 2021, SVSU Seini organized a Local Campaign addressed to vulnerable citizens (elderly people, people with disabilities, people in high disaster risk areas, marginalized communities, and minorities, etc.). **Informative materials were distributed, and preventive measures were shared with the community.**

In the final phase of the project, Seini **identified and contacted 2 new organizations** and asked them to join the cross-border volunteer network, by signing cooperation agreements.





The local public administration concludes that, following the implementation of the CODE VDIC project, **the capacity of the local volunteer organization (SVSU) to intervene in emergency situations has highly increased, and the cooperation with experienced international partners - members of the same network - broadened the horizons of local volunteers.**



UNIVERSITATEA
BABEŞ-BOLYAI

Babeş-Bolyai University (RO)

The University project team **has played a very active role** in the activities of the 2nd year.

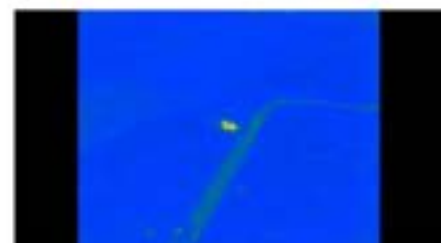
They have managed to **purchase all necessary equipment** (UAV multicopter drone with a Thermal vision camera, a laptop and equipment for logistics support and technical assistance).

A **Common Disaster Prevention Volunteer Strategy** was developed with their lead, based on the **risk map of the NGO operational area**, which was elaborated in the 2nd year of the project (*an extract of the strategy and the risk maps can be found on page 8*).

Babeş-Bolyai University conducted a **local training for the volunteers of the UBB-RPAS team** (RPAS – Remotely Piloted Aircraft System) in two stages.

The first stage consisted of a theoretical session, organized on 12th of June 2021, in Cluj-Napoca. The knowledge acquired in the theoretical part was completed by a **practical exercise in Seini City on 5th of August 2021, where UBB trainers and volunteers participated together in firefighting exercise, organized by the Seini Volunteer Service for Emergency Situations.**

During the exercise a fire situation next to a Biogas station in the vicinity of Seini city was created. The participants had a short briefing on the situation, the drone was sent to surveillance and with the help of the thermal camera the source of the fire was detected. The local fire brigade was alerted and deployed to extinguish the fire and secure the area. The drone was capturing the intervention using the thermal camera and confirmed the end of the situation.





An **awareness raising campaign** for local communities was organized, **during the Researchers' Night: The Green Deal – Research Communication to Communities event, which took place in Cluj-Napoca city on September 24, 2021.** During the event the visitors had the opportunity to gain insight in the use of drones in case of disasters, to analyse and monitor the situation, search for the affected people, and could test different intervention equipment purchased within the project. **Promotional materials** were also distributed for the visitors.



Transcarpathian Reformed Church (UA)

The Carpathian Reformed Church has managed to purchase **4 closed tents** made of waterproof material with closed inflatable technology **for the mobile supply unit**, so that the unit can be deployed with 5 (4 green and 1 red; modular design) tents **in case of a possible emergency.** The mobile supply unit can be heated, thus providing an appropriate and unprecedented option in case of emergency, unique in Transcarpathia, for a damage site.

In addition to the mobile rapid response unit, an important part of the project is **to set up emergency units** in the **dioceses of Bereg, Máramaros-Ugocsa and Ung** in their diocese, which can be located as close as possible to the site of a natural disaster, to speed up the response. Depending on this, **emergency containers of trailer (towable) design have been placed in designated locations with the involvement of the relevant experts, one per diocese.**

Exchange of expertise with the project partners during the implementation of the second phase of our project played an important role, which greatly contributed and helped to adapt and localise the systems used and working well in EU Member States. This has enabled the Transcarpathian Reformed Church District to organise **local training and educational events**, which have enabled them to transfer theoretical knowledge and prepare their communities and members of their partner organisations to use the equipment they have acquired.





On 27th of November 2021, a campaign day and training for the local fire brigade, scouts and the population was organised by the Transcarpathian Reformed Church District (KRE) in the Municipality of Vari with the support of the CODE VDIC project.

Cooperation agreements were signed with the Association of Hungarian Scouts of Transcarpathia, the "Csodaszarvas - Foundation for the Scouts of Berehovo", the Reformed Volunteer Fire Brigade of Dercen, the Reformed Volunteer Fire Brigade of Vari and the Transcarpathian Unit of the State Service for Emergency Situations of Ukraine to properly develop volunteer cross-border networks.



COMMON DISASTER PREVENTION VOLUNTEER STRATEGY – Extract

The volunteer capacities are task and needs-driven, pro-defined technical capabilities and specialized personnel from the community's, set-up on a voluntary basis. As these capacities are expected to act in disaster affected areas from different partner countries, the further activities need to create the premises to fulfill the minimum standards for working in difficult conditions.

The minimum standards are referring to:

- Interoperability,
- Coordination,
- Self-sufficiency,
- Standard Operating Procedures,
- Communication,
- Better prepared capacities for international deployments,
- Provision of a learning and networking opportunity for all participants.

To ensure effective coordination on the ground, education, training, and exercises are interlinked and inextricable elements of preparing the voluntary response capacities to maximize assistance to the affected community.

The main objective is to make disaster response capacities more pro-planned, predictable, effective, and faster in interventions in the cross-border area.

Risk mapping

In the CODE VDIC project, **the risk map is the documentation that points to the potentially affected areas in various scenarios**, based on the GIS system, using previous multi-hazard and multi-risk analyses. It was a basic element for the elaboration and development of an effective strategy for prevention, intervention, and for the identification of vulnerable areas.

The developed network will use the risk maps to prioritize the preparedness, prevention, and response activities.

All partners have provided inputs on their former activities concerning the area of disaster response and prevention, describing their most relevant volunteer intervention experiences of the past few years.



The following methodologies were applied to the two, most highly probable risks (flood and forest fire) in the project target area:

Flood risk assessment methodology

To assess the flood risk in this project, the Swiss methodology has been chosen.

This methodology is based on the assessments developed on the global scale by Loat and Petrascheck, 1997, in the Office Fédéral des Eaux et de la Géologie (Stănescu and Drobot, 2002). The qualitative approach of flood risk assessment considers on the one hand, the level of danger of the flood and on the other hand, the level of potential damage. This methodology has been simplified in some context and adapted to the available data provided by the project partners.

Forest fire assessment methodology

For the assessment of forest fire risk, UBB (responsible partner) used a quantitative approach based on forest structure and type. At EU level there is a comprehensive dataset related to land use, CORINE land cover; unfortunately, this data set does not cover third countries outside of EU, meaning that it does not cover the Ukrainian territory. So, to be able to use the same methodology for all partner countries UBB used a different data set: Global Land Cover obtained from Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS)

References:

1. Loat R., Petrascheck, A., 1997, Prise en compte des dangers dus aux crues dans le cadre des activités de l'aménagement du territoire, FAT, OFEE, OFEFP, Berne, p. 29
2. Stănescu, Al. V., Drobot, R. (2002), Măsurile nestructurale de gestiune a inundațiilor, Ed. H*G*A*, București, p. 107-110.

Floods risk maps of CODE VDIC project target areas - 100-year return period

1. Hungary

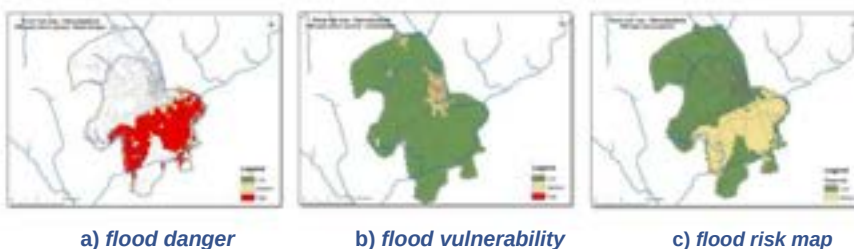


Figure 1. Sátorajújhely

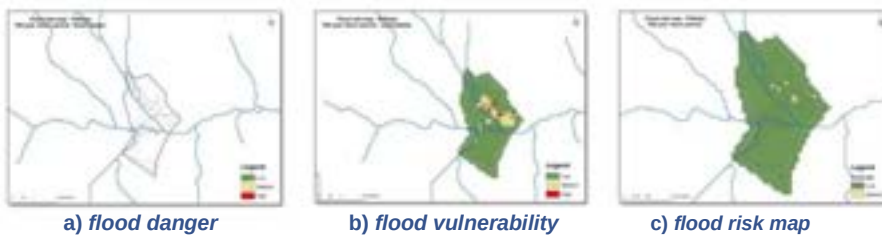


Figure 2. Pálháza

3. Slovakia

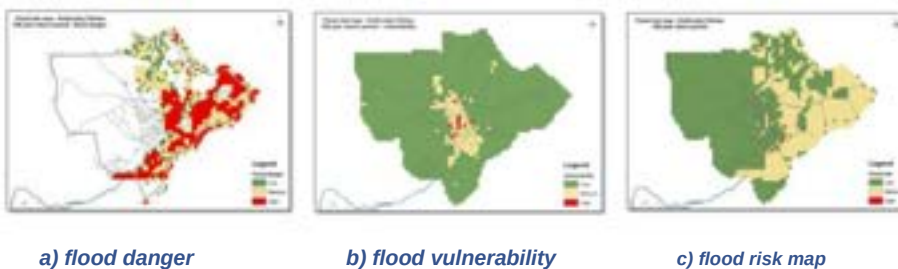


Figure 3. Král'ovský Chlmec

4. Romania

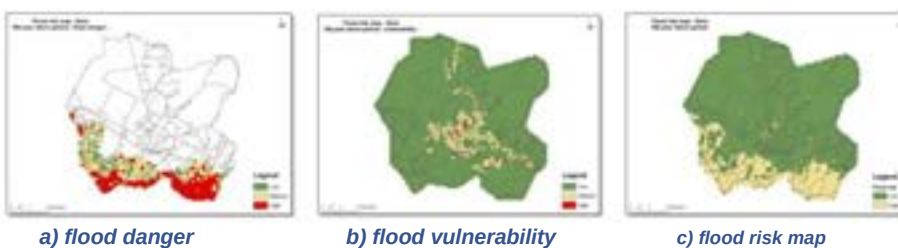


Figure 4. Seini



5. Ukraine

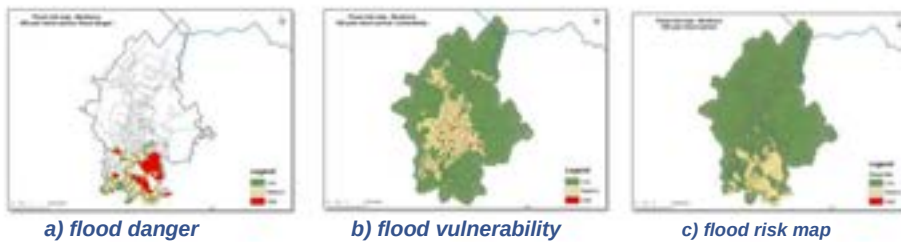


Figure 5. Berehove

Forest fire risk maps of CODE VDIC project target areas

1. Hungary

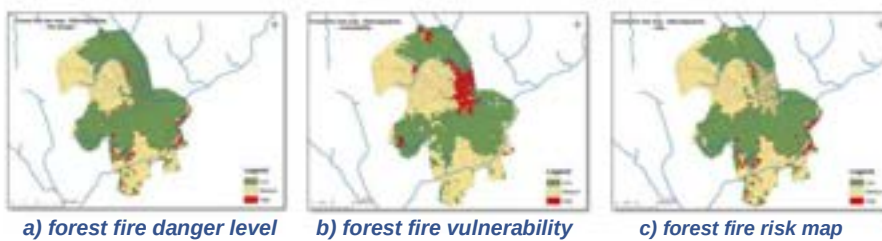


Figure 6. Sátorajújhely

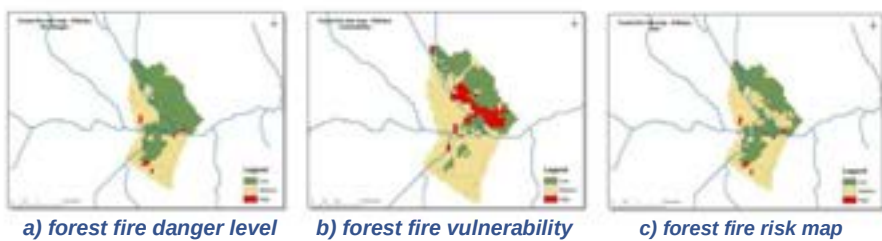


Figure 7: Pálháza



2. Slovakia

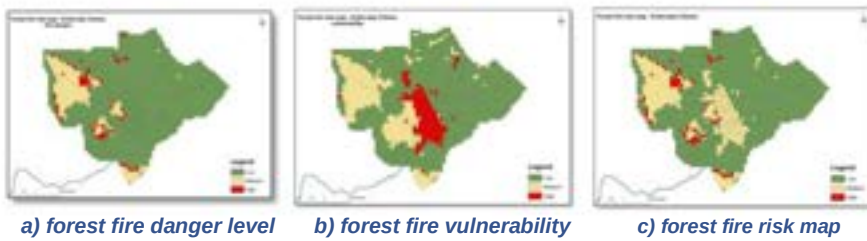


Figure 8: Král'ovský Chlmec

3. Romania

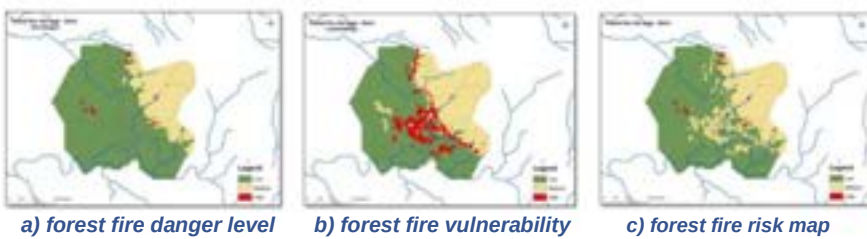


Figure 9: Seini

4. Ukraine

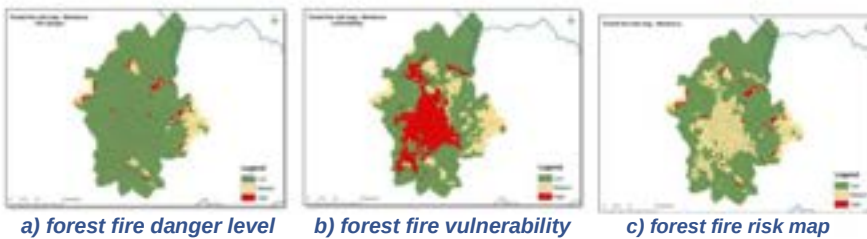


Figure 10: Berehove

CLOSING EVENT, FINAL EXERCISE AND LOCAL CAMPAIGN FOR INHABITANTS

More than 200 participants (project partners, professionals, and volunteers) gathered for the **Closing Event and Final Exercise of the CODE VDIC project** in Sátoraljaújhely, Hungary, on the 15th of September 2021.



The so called **“Safety Day”** has provided a great opportunity for the project partners to co-organize their event for this same day to share the project results with as many participants as possible and to finally meet in person after a long pandemic period. Prominent speakers, like **Dr. Péter Jackovics**, Fire Colonel, Head of Emergency Management Department, Ministry of the Interior National

Directorate General for Disaster Management Civil Protection Inspectorate, **Dr. habil István Endrődi**, Retired Fire Colonel, President of the Hungarian Civil Defense Association, **Sándor Zán Fábián**, Bishop of the Transcarpathian Reformed Church and **György Leskó**, Vice President, responsible for the International Relations of the Hungarian Civil Protection Association, senior professional coordinator of the CODE VDIC project, have highlighted the importance of developing the local volunteer capacities -, even though such international cooperation projects, like CODE VDIC -, who are then better prepared to effectively intervene at the time of cross-border disastrous events as well. These human and technical volunteer capacities are becoming more and more valuable as both natural and man-made disasters seem to be on the rise nowadays.

One of the key activities of the project was to establish a network of cross-border volunteer organizations, who will keep in touch even after the project ends and will find new ways on how to cooperate in the future. Therefore, following the professional session of the Closing Event, this

network was officially extended by welcoming new Hungarian organizations, whose representatives have signed the **CODE VDIC volunteer cross-border network cooperation agreement**, because they are dedicated to becoming part of a long-term cross-border volunteer intervention cooperation.



The **Final Exercise** section of the Closing Event has taken place at 5 “damaged sites” in and around Sátoraljaújhely, where CODE VDIC project participants have been taken by a small city train **to view the performance of the trainees, who have participated in the local training** - organized also in the frame of the project this summer in Pálháza, Hungary -, **focusing on flood protection.**



In the afternoon session, project partners attended the **5th Project- and Steering Group meeting** as well to discuss actual and upcoming tasks until the end of the project.



Hungarian Partners have prepared promotional materials for a **Local Campaign for Inhabitants** too – mainly targeting the youth - to attract them to become volunteers when they grow older. **Promo materials were distributed and information about the project was shared at a campaign tent, dedicated to showcase the CODE VDIC project and its results.**



Moreover, **outdoor disaster management-, military-, police-, healthcare static- and rescue demonstrations** have also made this event memorable for the participants.

More photos, a radio interview and a television report about the Closing Event and the promotional materials (joint publication, leaflet, project brochure) is available on the project website and social media site:

<http://codevdic.polgvedsujhely.hu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/codevdic/>

<https://husrkroua-cbc.eu/news/>



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