

Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Interior
Sector for Emergency Management



**Enhancing Local Level
Disaster Resilience in Serbia**

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Head of International Cooperation

WHY?



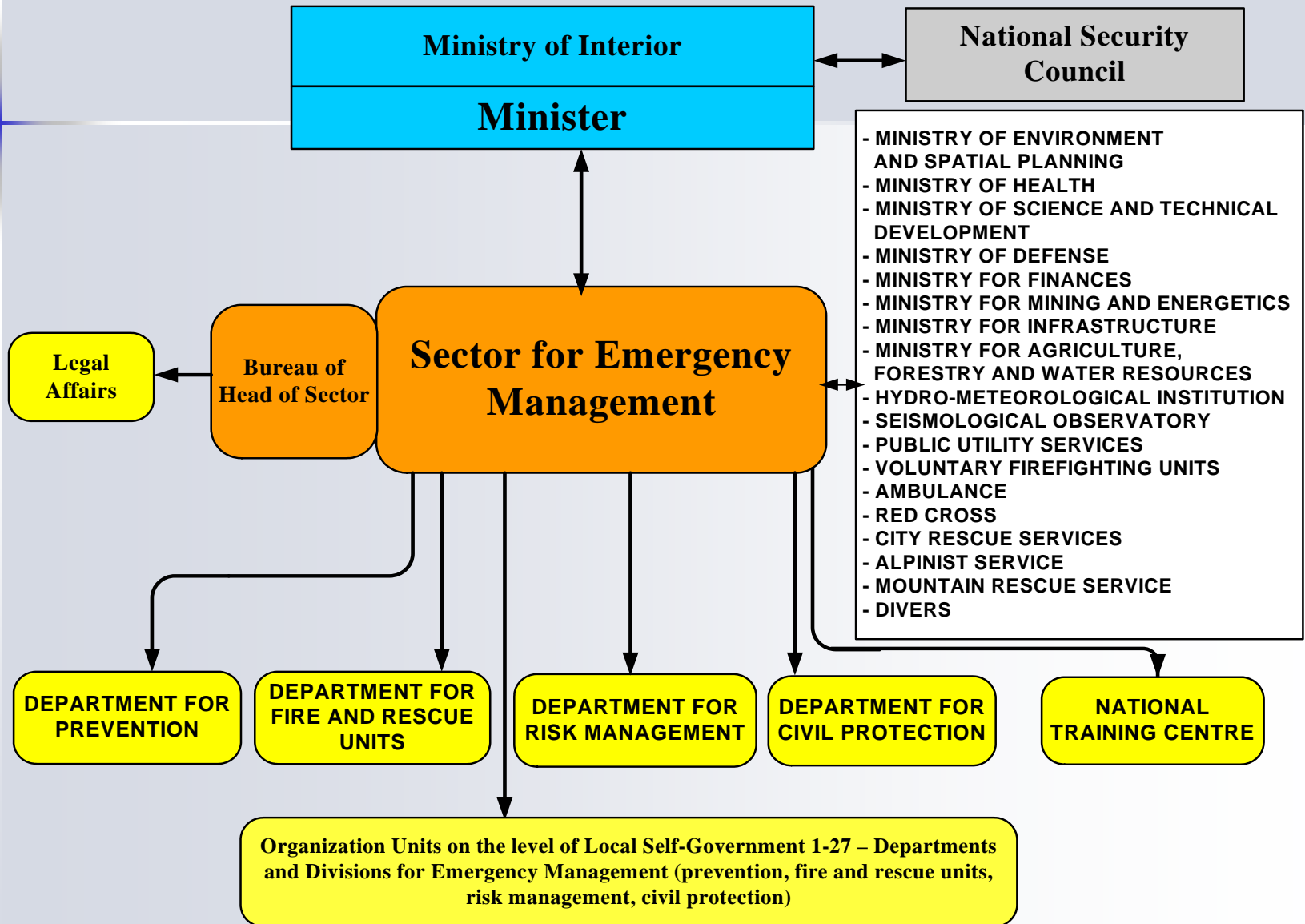
Legislative Framework

- Law on Emergency Situations adopted by the Serbian National Assembly in December 2009
- The Law defines activities, declaring and management in emergency situations; system of protection and rescue of citizens, material and cultural goods from natural and man-made disasters; rights and obligations of citizens, state agencies, autonomous provinces, local self-governments, companies and other legal persons and entrepreneurs; inspection and supervision, international cooperation and other issues relevant to organisation and functioning of the protection and rescue system.

Key Elements of the Law

- **Law on Emergency Situations** adopted in December 2009, updates legislation from 1977 and 1988 and institutionalizes modern emergency management system in Serbia
- **Sector for Emergency Management** recognized as a single body within the Ministry of Interior where all emergency services from MOI, MOD and Ministry of Environment are integrated
- **Compliance with Hyogo Framework for Action** ensured through standards defined by the Law
- **High Level of Local Governments Involvement** and decision-making authority in the area of disaster management
- **'Enhanced Disaster Resilience'** methodology based on Serbian law and international standards defined by UN HFA implemented through USAID funded Preparedness and Planning Program

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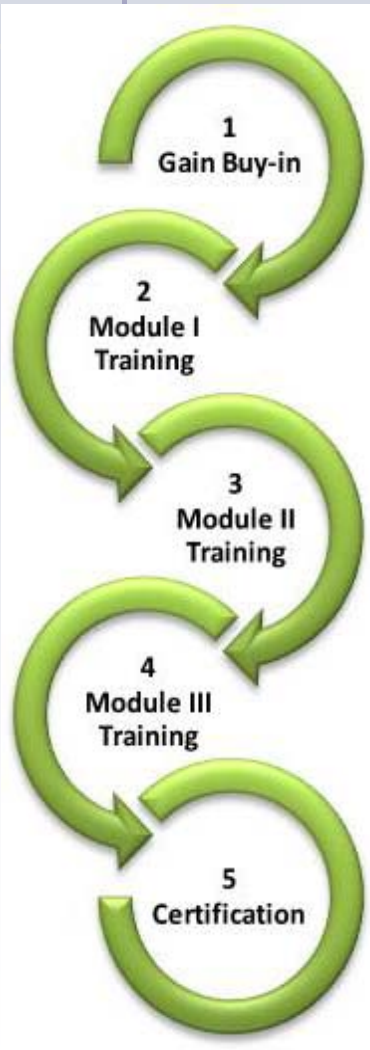
Following the adoption of the Law on Emergency Situations, the strategic documents should be adopted – National Protection and Rescue Strategy, National Platform, National Risk Assessment and National Emergency Plan.

In accordance with the new Law, the tailoring of these strategic documents shall be done in cooperation with other ministries, state agencies, institutions and associations which participate in the disaster and emergency management system.

In order to achieve better understanding of the importance of the integrated disaster and emergency management system, the Sector aims at:

- increasing public awareness to understand risk, vulnerability and disaster risk reduction,**
- stimulating interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships.**

Enhancing Local-Level Disaster Resilience



1. Gain buy-in from the new municipalities and introduce Mayors with their role and responsibilities.
2. Introduce municipalities to the new legislation framework, in particular the requirements for establishing Disaster response Headquarters at the local level.
3. Introduce municipalities to the methodology and tools needed to update an existing risk assessment or to conduct a new one.
4. Introduce municipalities to technical training in the development of Hazard Response Plans for specific threats such as Flood Response Plans and Fire Protection Plans, etc.
5. Municipalities earn certification and bring their emergency services into compliance with the law by following a rigorous menu of criteria.

Enhanced Disaster Resilience

Certified municipalities:

- Respond better to emergencies,
- Communicate better with citizens on emergencies,
- Reduce the time needed to assess damage following a disaster, and
- Increase the speed of delivery of relief and recovery assistance.

80 municipalities trained, 52 municipalities certified

Enhancing Disaster Resilience

In September 2010, Serbia joined World Disaster Reduction Campaign **“Making Cities Resilient: My City Is Getting Ready!”** , when a signing ceremony had been held in the town of Nis where 18 Serbian cities joined the campaign with another 60+ to be nominated.

In accordance with the Law on Emergency Situations, the Regulation on formation of disaster response headquarters on republic, regional and local level was adopted. The HQ are standing bodies engaged in the event of disaster or emergency on local, regional or republic level. Decision-makers of HQs are mayors and representatives of SEM.

In 2011-2012, 160 members of HQ will be trained (8 cycles of 20 mayors on a one/two-day training course).

- The Sector cooperates with and participates in the activities of international institutions and organisations:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), EUR-OPA of the Council of Europe, Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) for SEE, United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA), UNECE, Civil-Military Emergency Planning (CMEP), PfP of NATO, OSCE, USAID, BSEC, ICDO etc.

- Cooperation with UN agencies in the framework of United Nations Country Partnership Strategy 2011-2015

- Cooperation with EC in the framework of DG ECHO and IPA Programme for Civil Protection for candidate and potential candidate countries (with the aim of bringing beneficiary countries closer to the European Civil Protection Mechanism)

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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