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South-East European Multi-Hazard Early Warning Advisory
System
Final Conference of the Phase I of SEE-MHEWS-A Project

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Ljubljana, Slovenia



**World
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Organization**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Following the successful outcome of the project “Building Resilience to Disasters in the Western Balkans and Turkey” in 2014, and responding to the needs identified by the beneficiaries, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) initiated a new project “South-East European Multi-Hazard Early Warning Advisory System” (SEE-MHEWS-A), which aims to strengthen the existing early warning capacity in the region. During the Phase I of the SEE-MHEWS-A project, the commitment to the project by the key stakeholders has been established and a comprehensive implementation plan developed (e.g. scope of the project, contributing meteorological and hydrological services and partner agencies, types of tools to be included, required resources, phases of the overall project, and implementation mechanisms).

As a part of the project activities, the Final Conference of the Phase I of SEE-MHEWS-A Project was organized from 14 to 15 June 2017 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Final Conference of the 1st Phase of the SEE-MHEWS-A project was organized to present and discuss the implementation plan developed as the main output of the project activities. Furthermore, the aim was that the Directors of the Meteorological and Hydrological Services of the South-East Europe region would agree to collaborate on the establishment of the SEE-MHEWS Advisory System during the coming years. The conference was hosted by the Slovenian Environment Agency and attended by participants from 15 meteorological, hydrometeorological, and hydrological services of the region and 19 partner and stakeholder organizations and development partners (participant list is attached as Annex I). The agenda of the workshop is included as Annex II.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

First day of the Final Conference of the 1st Phase of the SEE-MHEWS-A project

2.1 Session I: Opening

The welcoming addresses of the first day of the Final Conference of the 1st Phase of the SEE-MHEWS-A project were given by Mr. Drago Groselj, Director of the Environmental Measurements Office, Slovenian Environment Agency, Mr. Ivan Čačić, the President of WMO Regional Association VI and Ms. Mary Power, Director of Development and Regional Activities Department, WMO. The first conference day gathered Directors and their representatives from meteorological, hydrological and hydrometeorological services of the project region to discuss and agree on the SEE-MHEWS-A Implementation Plan.

2.2 Session II: Introduction to the South East European Multi-Hazard Early Warning Advisory System (SEE-MHEWS-A) Implementation Plan

2.2.1 Session II introduced the Implementation Plan for the SEE-MHEWS-A project. The session was chaired by Alasdair Hainsworth, Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction Services Division, WMO.

2.2.2 Ivan Čačić, the President of the WMO Regional Association VI, in his presentation about

SEE-MHEWS-A Vision as a Part of the WMO GMAS Process gave a brief overview of the rationale and need for SEE-MHEWS Advisory System. He further introduced the consultative process by which the project participants gathered information and knowledge and substantially contribute to shaping the Implementation Plan for the advisory system. Mr Čačić pointed out that this project may serve as a template for similar projects in other WMO regions. At the second half of his presentation, he argued that the SEE-MHEWS-A is an important project, which has potential to trigger the build-up of national capacities of NMHSs to a higher level securing the full participation in production of early warnings at national levels, whereby NMHSs could contribute to broader Global Multi-Hazard Alert System (GMAS). In this respect, the GMAS may serve as a resource of authoritative warnings and information related to high-impact weather, water, ocean and climate events recognized globally by decision makers.

2.2.3 Milan Dacić, WMO Representative for Europe and Sari Lappi, the Project Manager from WMO/FMI Project Office, presented the SEE-MHEWS-A Implementation Plan. They introduced project highlights, project participants and other project partners/stakeholders. The total number of experts who participated in the technical workshops was 127 experts from meteorological and hydrological services from SEE and additional 28 other international experts. They stressed the importance of this active engagement of the whole sub-region and European meteorological community in advising and driving the process of drafting the implementation plan. Up to 20 project participants (meteorological and hydrological services) were identified during this process, and more than 35 potential contributing stakeholders. Ms Lappi and Mr Dacić exposed the content of the Implementation Plan with its phases and possible management structure. Further elaboration on the system design and proposed division of project sub-domains for optimized implementation was proposed. They also proposed topics for further discussions during the final conference, including the management structure, and roles of Project Steering Committee, Project Advisory Group and Technical Teams. Implementation Plan should be considered as a living document, which will be adjusted to reflect the discussion at the final conference, further comments received from the project partners and stakeholders and modifications needed during the implementation phase. Information was given in connection to establishment of WMO Project Office in Croatia, which will be hosted by the Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Croatia (DHMZ), following a long-lasting contribution by DHMZ to the sub-regional cooperation. Additional work to be pursued urgently in resource mobilization for further phases of the project with e.g. USAID, EU, World Bank, and Green Climate Fund was underlined, together with the prospect for the next phase of the SEE-MHEWS-A project in preparation jointly with the World Bank.

2.3 Session III: Discussion of the SEE-MHEWS-A Implementation Plan

2.3.1 SEE-MHEWS-A Implementation plan was discussed including the proposed project management structure, partners and stakeholders involvement, regional cooperation and collaboration with other relevant projects and technical modules of the proposed system. The session was chaired by Klemen Bergant, Director of Meteorology and Hydrology Office of Slovenian Environment Agency and Milan Dacić, WMO Representative for Europe.

2.3.2 Directors or their representatives of Meteorological, Hydrological and Hydrometeorological Services from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (RHMZ and FHMZ), Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/99), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, and Ukraine declared during the conference

the intention to collaborate jointly towards the implementation of activities and projects leading to full operation of SEE-MHEWS-A. The Directors or their representatives agreed on the Conference Statement (Annex III) declaring their intention to collaborate jointly towards full implementation of SEE-MHEWS Advisory System.

- a. Greece stated to have the willingness to participate to the project, but at this stage do not have the authorization from the government to commit to any oral or written agreement.
- b. Representative of Republic of Moldova was not present at the conference, but the State Hydrometeorological Service confirmed their support to the project with the letter of the Director of the service prior the conference.
- c. The participation of other partners not present in the conference (Bulgaria, Jordan and Lebanon) will be confirmed after the conference.
- d. Republic of Serbia informed that they will not have the possibility to continue the participation in the project due to limited resources and engagement in other activities.

2.3.3 Project participants agreed that the Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be the main governing body during the implementation of the further phases of the project instead of ICSEED. This was considered as the most flexible and operational solution avoiding duplication in the project management structure. Provisional Project Steering Committee will be established comprising of Directors or their representatives of the participating Meteorological, Hydrological and Hydrometeorological Services of the project region. President of RAVI is invited to chair the PSC. WMO Secretariat will draft the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee and submit to the project participants for commenting and approval.

2.3.4 WMO Secretariat will set up a Project Office in Zagreb, Croatia in the premises of the Meteorological and Hydrological Service (DMHZ). Project Office will be responsible for planning, implementation and coordinating of WMO projects in the South-East Europe. The activities of the Project Office will be coordinated by the Project Manager, to be appointed by the WMO Secretariat. The establishment of the Project Office in the DMHZ reflects the intention of the WMO to be more visible and active in the region and to complement the long lasting efforts of the DMHZ in support of the regional activities. WMO Project Office will be funded by extrabudgetary resources supporting the whole region for the duration of the project.

2.3.5 The Project will be funded by external resources without direct financial contributions from the project partners. WMO Secretariat will continue mobilizing resources for the further phases of the project after finalization of the SEE-MHEWS-A Implementation Plan. Initial discussions of the possibilities for funding have been made with the European Union and Green Climate Fund. Project proposal was submitted to the World Bank with the aim to continue the next phase of the project implementation as soon as possible. Other funding sources will also be identified, including possibilities of cooperation with national development agencies such as JICA. The funding is likely to come from several sources, with the development process for SEE-MHEWS-A being covered by number of sub-projects. Eligibility for funding based on the rules of different development partners will likely result that the sub-projects will cover smaller regions of South-East Europe than the project region. Nevertheless, the sub-projects with different geographical coverage are aimed to be

designed in a way to benefit the whole region, for example by ensuring possibility of utilization of technical solutions, tools and observations by all the project partners.

2.3.6 Human resources of many of the project partners are very limited, which was expressed to be a concern for the project implementation. Engagement of experts from the project partners in the work of the technical teams proposed in the Implementation Plan is recommended, taking into account the possibilities and resources of the participating services. Human resources will be needed by the participating experts, especially initially, but working on the technical teams should also, in time, save resources as the regional expertise is utilized effectively at national level.

2.3.7 In the Implementation Plan, the governance of the system is foreseen to follow the establishment of the functionality for the operational phase of the system. To ensure sustainability, this issue should be thoroughly considered in the early stage of the project implementation.

2.3.8 The implementation Plan indicates number of agreements to be signed by the project partners during the implementation phase. Bilateral agreements are not always possible due to political reasons and therefore more general and flexible commitments may be needed to be agreed under the umbrella of the WMO.

2.3.9 The implementation Plan includes definition of types of users for the SEE-MHEWS-A system based on the technical capacities and resources of the project partners. The aim is that the number of users, who currently do not have significant capacities to contribute to the development of the system should progress in time so that the project participants become able to adequately use and actively contribute to further development of the system.

2.3.10 While the Implementation Plan provides a general road map for the implementation of SEE-MHEWS-A, technical solutions for the system will be designed in detail during the implementation phase. Utilizing of existing technical solutions and tools should be ensured as much as possible. It was agreed that the new systems or tools should not duplicate good and available existing ones (it is agreed that rephrasing to reflect this is needed in the Implementation Plan).

2.3.11 The proposed project will not include investments for infrastructure. The project is aimed to contribute in the direction of improving of the observations availability and utilization by assessing the current status of the observations and identifying the priority needs for improvement. Copernicus is preparing an analysis of the observation systems in European level for the European Environment Agency, which would be a good possibility for cooperation related to observational capacities.

2.3.12 Data availability and exchange is considered as one of the major benefits of the project with more data exchanged through existing and near future mechanisms. All the project participants should have an access to same data through the platform. Data policy issues are important, to be discussed and agreed during the early project implementation for different types of data. Data exchange should not be limited only to observations but also products. Cyprus reflected on their existing data exchange through OPERA programme, and stressed that they do not yet receive improved NWP products, which could be tackled through SEE-MHEWS-A project. Open data policies are becoming common practice (particularly under the influence of the European Union legislation), and should be taken into account when deciding on data policies. Countries already exchange data for example under the International Sava River Basin Commission activities, which should be taken into account when developing the system to avoid overlapping. Data categorization

or filtering may be required based on the purpose of the data utilization and security requirements, but this should be carefully considered, as it will require significant amount of work and resources. Data could be gridded if necessary, not to allow access to the actual original data (Copernicus already does data gridding).

2.3.13 Inclusion of WIS and WIGOS in the process of development of the SEE-MHEWS-A is essential. Setting up a virtual regional WIGOS centre could also be considered.

2.3.14 Communication issues are very important and the system should include mechanisms to allow very fast communication. Protocols for issuing warnings should be considered, in particular at the cross-border areas. Some project participants do not have strong internet connections, which needs to be taken into account during the implementation phase. Stakeholders that could help with communications will be important to be included in the process. EUMETCast system as a dissemination channel can be considered, but the viability will need to be further assessed.

2.3.15 Aim of the project should be that all the participating services would have the ability to use high resolution NWP model data. The Implementation Plan includes several scenarios for NWP and hydrological modelling, which need to be further explored during the implementation phase. For the hydrological modelling, the first priority should be to set up hydrological models to those project participants/river basins, which do not have existing modelling activities. Important is to include configuration, calibration and training in the hydrological modelling activities to ensure sustainability in the future. Second priority should be to improve the existing overall hydrological modelling capacities.

2.3.16 Cooperation with other current and future projects, programmes and initiatives in national, sub-regional and European level should be ensured to avoid overlapping and duplication of work. The project could be used as a good opportunity to extend the Meteoalarm. Extension of FFGS activities is included in the plan as discussed in the previous workshops covering Ukraine, Cyprus, Greece and Hungary, and possibilities should be considered to include Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/99) in addition to the above mentioned.

2.3.17 The implementation Plan identifies number of stakeholders potentially to be involved in project activities. The stakeholder participation is open to any institution, which is beneficial for the project implementation. Furthermore, stakeholder representatives will be invited to be members of the Project Advisory Group, with an invitation by the Project Steering Committee. Also project partners can be considered as stakeholders, especially those who host regional activities (such as DMCSEE, RIC, AMMC, SEEVCCC, Marine authority for South Mediterranean in Cyprus etc.).

2.3.18 Extensive cooperation with ECMWF for the development and operation of the system would contribute to the sustainability of the project implementation and SEE-MHEWS Advisory System operation. Currently not all the project partners are members or cooperating states for ECMWF and therefore the availability of ECMWF data and products for non-members need to be clarified. Utilizing the ECMWF computational resources is indicated as one solution in the Implementation Plan, which needs to be further discussed during the implementation phase. Once the computation and other requirements relevant to ECMWF are defined, the Project Steering Committee is recommended to send a request to the ECMWF Council

2.3.19 The participants agreed to provide further comments to the Implementation Plan by 15th of July 2017 for WMO to prepare the final consolidated version.

2.4 Session IV: Conclusions of Day I and way forward

- 2.4.1. The session was chaired by Ivan Čačić and Mary Power. Session IV opened a vivid discussion on numerous topics regarding the general aspects of the project, management structure of the project, sustainability issues, and the potential sources of financing. It also gave breath of opinions and recommendations on how to further shape the future of the project.
- 2.4.2. After the general and detailed discussions, the Co-Chairs with the WMO Secretariat Team proposed to consider the Conference Statement and opened discussion on possible text of the Statement, which is foreseen to be acceptable to all project partners.
- 2.4.3. The Statement reflected the opinion of the directors and their representatives on the following:
- interest to collaborate jointly towards implementation of the SEE-MHEWS Advisory System;
 - understanding and accepting the Implementation Plan as a living document;
 - establish Provisional Project Steering Committee;
 - striving to strengthen the observing networks under the WIS and WIGOS implementation;
 - support the development of the Global Multi-Hazard Alert System (GMAS) with SEE-MHEWS as a collaborative framework serving as its pilot project.

Second day of the Final Conference of the 1st Phase of the SEE-MHEWS-A project

2.5 Session V: Welcome addresses

The welcoming addresses of the second day of the Final Conference of the 1st Phase of the SEE-MHEWS-A project were given by Mr. Petteri Taalas, the Secretary-General of WMO, Mr. Klemen Bergant, PR of Slovenia with WMO and Director of Meteorology and Hydrology Office of the Slovenian Environment Agency and Mr. Ivan Čačić, the President of WMO Regional Association VI. The second conference day gathered Directors and their representatives from meteorological, hydrological and hydro meteorological services of the project region as well as representatives of stakeholder organizations and development partners.

2.6 SESSIONS VI: Introduction to the South East European Multi-Hazard Early Warning Advisory System (SEE-MHEWS-A)

2.6.1 Mr Ivan Čačić, Ms Sari Lappi, and Mr Milan Dacić delivered as introduction condensed presentations on the vision of SEE-MHEWS-A project, performance in its first phase, its main output the Implementation Plan, and the further prospects for the continuation and future.

2.7 SESSIONS VII: Stakeholders

2.7.1 Eric Petermann, Executive Director of EUMETNET discussed the existing programmes of the EUMETNET that can be beneficial for the implementation of the SEE-MHEWS-A. Existing activities relevant to SEE-MHEWS project are E-AMDAR (aircraft based readings), OPERA (weather radars), E-SURFMAR (sea surface observations), EMMA/Meteoalarm (aggregated MHEW map and warning information repository), C-SRNWP (coordination of LAM consortia) and EUMETCAL (education and training). E-AMDAR needs wider geographical coverage and higher density for the

East and South-East Europe as well as West Atlantic. SEE-MHEWS-A project is perhaps an opportunity to fill this gap as joining the E-AMDAR programme in order to access the flight-selection system (E-ADOS) is possible. Clear gap also exists for OPERA in the SEE, for which only six countries are currently members from the SEE. More members from the region would be very welcome, taking into account the challenges of the infrastructure, telecommunications and maintenance. Education and training should be considered as one of the pillars for a successful SEE-MHEWS project. EUMETNET is aiming to build a more comprehensive and ambitious education and training infrastructure as a follow-on to the current EUMETCAL programme. Funding the needed for this, also from non-EUMETNET members.

2.7.2 Alain Ratier, Director General of EUMETSAT in his video message stated that early warning systems are essential in protection of life and property and SEE-MHEWS-A process is extremely important in triggering regional cooperation aiming to expand best practices across the region. EUMETSAT wishes to confirm the support for SEE-MHEWS-A project as the provider of satellite data, which is one input for early warning systems. Most of the project participants have access to satellite data through EUMETCast stations deployed under the DAWBEE programme. EUMETSAT is also supporting the SEEMET training programme. EUMETSAT will also in the future continue to provide satellite data but potentially also other forecasting information through EUMETCast dissemination system.

2.7.3 Umberto Modigliani, Head of User Support from ECMWF noted the good progress of the development of the SEE-MHEWS-A in this relatively short period of time and reaching the consensus by the project participants. ECMWF has been actively involved in the SEE-MHEWS-A project providing support during the first phase of SEE-MHEWS-A project. ECMWF is very satisfied that Member States and Co-operating States of ECMWF are part of process. ECMWF can provide its forecast products to the ECMWF Member and Co-operating States and possibilities to utilize the ECMWF computing infrastructure and expertise have been already discussed for the further phases of the project. For this, there is need of a formal agreement of the ECMWF Council. Several frameworks exist on how to organize these kind of activities, which are beyond the core activities of ECMWF. Different possibilities for cooperation exist, and the needs of SEE-MHEWS-A should be clarified during the implementation phase and be followed by a formal proposal to ECMWF. If the computing facilities of ECMWF are used, the other tools could also be easily utilized (MARS etc.). ECMWF is looking forward discussing the possibilities of further cooperation and the definition of the role of ECMWF in the SEE-MHEWS-A process.

2.7.4 Jon Skoien from the Copernicus European Flood Awareness System, JRC, discussed the possibilities to cooperate with the Copernicus programme. Copernicus consists of a complex set of systems, which collect data from multiple sources (earth observation satellites, in situ observations) for processing the data and providing the users with reliable and up-to-date information through a set of services related to environmental and security issues. European Flood Awareness System (EFAS) is a part of emergency management services and includes more than 40 different forecasting and monitoring products (flood relevant hydrological and meteorological variables, hydrographs, flash flood information, notifications etc.). New developments are rapid mapping to provide fast geospatial information, possible to be activated for different countries, and nowcasting tools. EFAS currently covers most of the SEE countries, due be expanded soon.

2.7.5 Paola Albrito, Chief of Regional Office for Europe from the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction discussed the need to build capacity of national and local governments relevant to DRR.

She remarked the need to develop and implement a holistic approach towards disaster risk reduction: the Sendai Framework for DRR calls for monitoring and multi-hazard early warning systems which put the people, including responders and citizens, at the centre. The efforts to develop the best early warning system is vanished if we don't ensure that the beneficiaries of the message are reached out or if they are not able to correctly understand its meaning and accordingly take appropriate actions, as demonstrated by the 2005 Katrina Hurricane. UNISDR supports the development of such capacity, sharing knowledge and experiences, facilitating exchange of good practices among peers, providing technical guidance, tools and methodologies, delivering training on how to better implement the Sendai Framework, building on existing capacity and tailoring actionable measures to best fit the specific technical, financial, administrative and cultural context. UNISDR works with local authorities, the private sector and the civil society, through the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, to improve understanding of the general public and to trigger the cultural switch to achieve a risk informed society. By enhancing the coherent implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the new Urban Agenda, UNISDR contributes to the development and the implementation of actionable strategies which feature sharing of roles and responsibility across different stakeholders, according to each one mandate and facilitate the allocation and use of resources and capacities. UNISDR is ready to share details and cooperate in these activities. The SEE-MHEWS-A is aligned with the Sendai Framework and represents an important means to support the achievement of its target.

2.7.6 Davide Poletto, Project Officer from the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe discussed number of interesting synergies with UNESCO activities including implementation of UNESCO's Science and Culture programmes in EU countries, SEE and the Mediterranean area with multi-hazards risk reduction activities through dedicated actions/projects. UNESCO promotes scientific exchange and collaborative efforts in order to establish effective early warning systems for different hazards such as tsunamis, landslides, volcanoes, earthquakes, floods and droughts. UNESCO is the leader Agency of the UN system working in the promotion of Early Warning Systems for Geo-hazards (notably for tsunamis, earthquakes, landslides and in less manner, volcanoes). UNESCO is contributing to the establishment of an International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (IN-MHEWS), with the aim of facilitating knowledge sharing and capacity building for all-hazard early warning systems worldwide. This Network has been established with the support of UNISDR, but is led by WMO and UNESCO. WMO is taking the lead on the hydro-meteorological hazards, and UNESCO on geo-hazards (landslides, earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis). The network aims to contribute to reaching target "g" of the Sendai Framework for DRR. Cooperation with the H2020 I-REACT project, which will generate the first European-wide platform to integrate emergency management data coming from multiple sources, including that provided by citizens through social media and crowdsourcing could be considered during the implementation of SEE-MHEWS-A. Demonstrative activities aimed at using first I REACT 's prototypes, in particular geo-localised crowdsourcing services is planned in November/December in close cooperation with the International Sava River Basin Commission. In particular, meteorological services and emergency responders will be able to work together by interacting in a given flood case scenario from early warning to monitoring and response phases.

2.7.7 Martin Benko, PR of Slovakia with WMO and Chairmen of ALADIN Consortium General Assembly discussed the potential cooperation with ALADIN during the SEE-MHEWS-A implementation and operation phases. The main motivation for ALADIN support to SEE-MHEWS-A would be saving of properties and lives. Currently, six of the meteorological services of the project

region are members of ALADIN. Existing MoU allows cooperation with entities outside the consortium by a mutual agreement. WMO Representative for Europe sent an official letter of the possible cooperation, which was discussed during Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting in May 2017. Based on this meeting, it was recommended to inform all members of consortia of the possible cooperation and gather more information for the decision of which option will be implemented. Possible cooperation with the SEE-MHEWS-A project depends on a decision of the ALADIN General Assembly and if positive, Cooperation Agreement will be prepared. The SEE-MHEWS-A Implementation Plan includes three possible options of operating the prediction models, and the selection should be made before further formal discussions. Furthermore, it should be decided where the code will be installed, maintained and run, which entity will be the partner for agreement and what is the time scale of cooperation.

2.7.8 Jeanette Onvlee-Hooimeijer from HIRLAM Consortium, Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute expressed the willingness of HIRLAM to cooperate with the SEE-MHEWS-A project. Essential is to adopt a probabilistic approach to SEE-MHEWS-A products from the beginning including preparation of forecast products in probabilistic form, preparation of warning products in risk/decision-making form and training of forecasters in using and creating this type of information. Training issues are also very important (for example Eumetcal trainings and online training material). Setting up a high-quality multi-hazard forecast is only part of the process, but producing and communicating the relevant warning information in a form suitable for decision-making is equally important. Engagement with important users of warning information (e.g. local emergency services) at a very early stage of MHEWS development is also essential.

2.7.9 Alois Holzer, Director of Operations, European Severe Storms Laboratory. ESSL as an organization provides forecaster trainings focusing on severe weather. It also has experience in the evaluation of nowcasting and forecasting tools in quasi-operational practice at the ESSL Testbed. These tools include NWP (e.g. COSMO), radar and satellite (e.g., NWC-SAF) products. ESSL is interested to cooperate with SEE-MEWS-A project including organizing training courses on severe weather at a basic, intermediate and advanced level. These courses include on-site and remote trainings. They combine the acquisition of theoretical knowledge of storm systems and the use of data from radar, satellite, NWP and other nowcast systems in operational practice. Such courses always include practical forecasting exercises using real-time or past severe weather events. Furthermore, daily on-the-job remote training in teleconferencing sessions can be offered in synergy with the European Storm Forecast Support initiative of EUMETNET or ESTOFEX. Experts discuss the weather situation on a given day with forecaster participants in daily sessions using a prepared weather briefing that encourage international interaction at the forecaster level and enhance the spread of practical forecasting expertise. ESSL can host on-site training courses on related topics, such as hydrology, NWP, radar and satellite applications, to be carried out jointly with partner organizations. Probabilistic NWP-based forecasting and nowcasting products developed by ESSL in previous research projects could be also available for SEE-MHEWS-A. ESSL can provide consulting on the visualization and presentation of forecast and nowcast products and fields included in the MHEWS system.

2.7.10 Mirza Sarač, Advisor from the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) introduced the activities of the ISRBC that are relevant for the SEE-MHEWS-A. ISRBC in cooperation with relevant national institutions from the Sava River Basin, cooperating under the Framework Agreement for the Sava River Basin, in 2015 has established a joint platform Hydrological Information System for the Sava River Basin (Sava HIS), for the exchange and use of the hydrological

and meteorological information and data. Currently, the Sava countries are also in the process of establishment of Flood Forecasting and Warning System in the Sava River Basin (Sava FFWS) which will be finalized by the end of August 2018. Sava FFWS will be implemented as an open shell platform for managing the data handling and forecasting process, allowing a wide range of external data and models to be integrated. During the first phase of the SEE-MHEWS-A project both systems were presented and introduced to the project beneficiaries at the project workshops in Skopje and Budapest, showing the system capabilities as well as the Sava Commission's readiness of sharing a valuable experience achieved in entire process of the system development. ISRBC supports the SEE-MHEWS- A initiative and is open to transfer experiences gained through the development of Sava HIS and Sava FFWS to other SEE-MHEWS-A project beneficiaries, harmonizing the systems as much as possible in order to avoid duplication of work of the national data providers from the Sava River Basin, noting that the mode and extent of use of the systems within the SEE-MHEWS-A should be decided by the Sava countries.

2.7.11 Gregor Gregorič, Project Coordinator, Drought Management Centre for South-eastern Europe presented the 10 years of work of DMCSEE including the currently ongoing DriDanube project, which aims to improve the drought emergency response and cooperation among operational services and decision making authorities in a Danube region. Linking the DriDanube Drought User Service, which is a user interface to relevant databases (including remote sensing data and drought impact assessment models) to SEE-MHEWS-A Common Information Platform could be good possibility of cooperation. Furthermore, exchange of information on risk assessment and management strategies would also be beneficial. DMCSEE can distribute the questionnaires, prepared within DriDanube project, for the larger area under the umbrella of RAVI Task Team on Water scarcity and drought.

2.7.12 Drago Groselj, Director of Environmental Measurements Office, Slovenian Environment Agency presented the activities of Regional Instrument Centre (RIC) hosted by the Slovenian Environment Agency. The main activities of RIC include provision of traceability of laboratory standards for NMHSs, capacity building and training and organisation of interlaboratory comparisons. Currently RIC is active in improving the collaboration of meteorological and metrological communities via interlaboratory comparisons organised in RAVI with 18 NMHS participants.. Quality issues relevant to observations need to be addressed also within the SEE-MHEWS-A project, for example the previous project included procurement of kits with transfer standards for field verification of the instruments on the field. RIC can continue the collaboration for example with training on quality assurance and calibration issues.

2.7.13 Gerrit Bodenbender, Project Manager from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH introduced the ongoing project for improving flood risk management in the Drin River Basin. Within this project, hydrometric and meteorological stations have been installed or rehabilitated and hydrological planning model for the basin established. Furthermore, International Memorandum on Data Exchange between the four meteorological and hydrological services has been signed. The project developed local flood risk management and emergency response plans, adaptation plans for three capital cities and national adaptation plan. The project will establish a regional data repository center for data exchange and hydrological flow (flood) forecasting model of the Drin basin, which could be potential activities for collaboration with SEE-MHEWS-A project.

2.7.14 Amos Makarau, PR of Zimbabwe with WMO and President of Regional Association I, in his statement expressed that RAI is looking forward to see how the SEE-MHEWS-A addresses operation at the regional level and accommodation of the national MHEWS and handling of policies and legal aspects at regional and national levels with respect to national sovereignty and approved alerting authorities. SEE experience of tackling the issue of the single and legal authoritative voice until the last mile and transboundary issues, particular who will have the authority to issue such warnings are important. The real time operational link between the SEE-MHEWS-A and the Severe Weather Forecast Demonstration Project (SWFDP) and the Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) as well as the Common Alert Protocol (CAP), which are already active or being experimented on in other WMO Regions, including in RAI is important. Consideration of the fastest and most effective means of communications to all levels of beneficiaries is essential and may have implications on language as well as degree of technicality. RAI is looking forward of template or guide related to thresholds (such as colours) for use across the region and toolkit for the purpose of monitoring and assessing the implementation of the MHEWS. RAI is aiming to utilize the lessons learned by SEE in the process of development of the MHEWS-A so that RAI does not 're-invent the wheel'. RAI will support the move to have the MHEWS for South East Europe as one of the pilot projects for GMAS. It would be beneficial that project will also include those North African countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea as marine related hazards as well as sand and dust storm forecasts and warnings are very important to countries.

2.7.15 Michael Staudinger, Director of ZAMG discussed the EUMETNET MeteoAlarm as a contributor to the SEE-MHEWS Advisory System and INCA Project utilization for SEE-MHEWS-A. MeteoAlarm is continually working to expand the features as well as encouraging more countries provide information to the system. Harmonization of warnings is a challenging task, and in MeteoAlarm context the people centred approach has been followed, to avoid getting stuck to the discussion on which forecast is the best, but concentrating on provision of useful information to people on how and when to react in case of extreme events. Meteoalarm intranet useful tool for forecasters, to exchange experiences especially during extreme events. For provision of adequate and timely warning information in extreme weather situations, nowcasting is important to be included in the SEE-MHEWS-A. INCA nowcasting system, which combines radar, satellite, observations and NWP information for provision of forecasts for up to 12 hours is offered to be integrated to SEE-MHEWS-A.

2.7.16 Paul Davies, Chief Meteorologist from the UK Met Office discussed the often difficult experiences of transforming the organizations following the need to be more efficient, pressure arising from funding cuts and requirements to provide more efficient and appropriate warnings to public and private sector. In transformation of the organizations it is challenging to bring the people out from their comfort zone and long utilized processes and ways of working. Strong management policies, including change management need to be in place to support the people, importantly the forecasters. In change management, the awareness of change is needed following the desire to take action, improving the knowledge to make the change and finally resulting the ability to transform. These days we are often drowning in data, but lacking knowledge and therefore facing the challenge of how to transfer the wealth of data to usable services and products. With any development project, we need to make sure that emphasis is put also to the human factor through training and capacity building (30 % of the resources should be dedicated for this for any investments) in addition to technological developments. Making sure that the technologies are used effectively, therefore not concentrating only on the system development will increase the sustainability.

2.7.17 Harri Pietarila, Head of Expert Services from the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) presented the project experience of the FMI in the SEE region, which FMI would be interested to continue with collaboration in the SEE-MHEWS-A implementation. FMI opened its data on 2013, followed by the process of opening also the softwares developed in FMI in 2016 (approximately 30 softwares will be open). Several FMI Open Source Software are available for the SEE-MHEWS-A implementation including for example the high-capacity and high-availability data and product server for MetOcean data (SmartMet Server), tool for visualizing and editing meteorological data (SmartMet Workstation), tool for creating and disseminating warnings (SmartMet Alert), post-processing suite for meteorological data (HIMAN) and set of tools for the reading, interpretation, and writing of weather satellite data (PyTroll). FMI is also available to support the operational implementation of the software and delivering the related training and user support (separate agreement needed) and willing to discuss on the potential provision of technical assistance and training to support the overall implementation of SEE-MHEWS-A.

2.7.18 Angela Corina from the Italian Civil Protection Department presented the key issues of the Italian early warning system, which is coordinated by the National Civil Protection Department (NCPD) including the governance, ICT developments and effective science based approach, tailored on civil protection needs. NCPD has built the relation with scientific community by establishing a national coordinated mechanism through a programme with Centers of Competence (Universities, etc.), which provide technical and scientific advices on topics relevant for civil protection, through “ad hoc” applied research. NCPD strongly support international cooperation, on the basis of joint interests and agreed common objectives and also specific risks shared, e.g. forest fire across Mediterranean, weather related hazards, or tsunami. Italy underlines the operational availability of the Tsunami Service Provider INGV, in the framework of ICG-NEAMTWS (established by the IOC UNESCO), to issue tsunami alert message for countries interested in the Mediterranean area. NCPD has numerous MoU with SEE countries and active collaboration on different programmes and initiatives, such as ProNews, with possible synergies with SEE-MHEWS. NCPD and WMO have an agreement that regulates the transfer of the open source platform Dewetra, for the risk assessment and monitoring, to the interested countries. NCPD and JRC have a similar agreement concerning the Flood-Cat, for loss data management, compliant with the requirements of the flood Directive.

2.7.19 Sezin Tokar, Senior Hydrometeorological Hazard Advisor from the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID/OFDA) presented the USAID-NOAA-WMO-NMHS partnerships in strengthening of MHEWS. USAID/OFDA focuses in disaster response during and after major disasters outside of US, but also provides support for early detection of the natural hazards and disaster preparedness. For many decades, there has been an increasing trend in occurrence of hydrometeorological disasters and these disasters have affected more people than any other natural disasters. However, the number of casualties related to these hazards is less than for other natural hazards, (e.g. earthquakes), even though the economic damages have been very significant. Disaster risk reduction activities, such as development of early warning systems, have been successful in decreasing the damages, especially losses of lives. USAID/OFDA has an end-to-end approach to early warning system development consisting of a warning and response system made up of many interconnected components. These systems aim to reduce the impact of hydrometeorological hazards by providing timely and accurate information that gives sufficient lead-time to prepare for and efficiently respond to hazards. Investments in user knowledge, capacity of forecasters and close coordination of all sectors and levels of governments are essential to the successful early warning systems. Current cooperation in the relevant to strengthening of multi-hazard early warning systems in hydrometeorological field include for

example the supporting the SEE-MHEWS-A project and cooperation within the Global Flash Flood Guidance System, Severe Weather Forecast Demonstration Project, Coastal Flood Inundation Demonstration Project, Associated Program for Flood Management and Weather Ready Nations. Furthermore, USAID provides technical assistance to NMHSs and capacity building and training activities relevant to early warning system development. USAID is interested to discuss the cooperation during the implementation phase of the SEE-MHEWS-A project, but the funding will depend on the availability of budget and evaluation of the Implementation Plan.

2.7.20 Daniel Kull, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist from the World Bank discussed the funding mechanisms of the World Bank aiming to reduce poverty, improving of services and promoting regional integration. World Bank is ready to commit 1.5 milj. USD as a seed funding for the SEE-MHEWS-A development process from the GFDDR trust fund. World Bank expects that this will contribute to real modernization and transformation of meteorological and hydrological services to service delivery institutions, which will not be a simple transition, but a long-term process. Complexity of the SEE-MHEWS-A might be a concern, and therefore the reliability of the developed systems will need to be ensured and excess complexity in technical and management issues avoided. Hardest part for projects in hydrometeorological sector is not the investments, but ensuring sustainability and operation of the developed systems also after the project implementation. Change management is very much supported as a method to overcome obstacles related to sustainability. Different levels of the services in the region should be taken into account, with the aim that all participating services, from the least to most developed, will benefit. National level investments are important to the World Bank, which will require identification of critical gaps in the services and infrastructure. World Bank is ready to support through national projects the efforts to fill the gaps and find investment solutions, not only in hydrometeorological sector but also in broader DRR framework. World Bank can also help to overcome political issues that may be raised during the process of development the SEE-MHEWS-A. Further funding will be needed for the development of the system and World Bank is ready to work with the SEE-MHEWS-A project management team to advocate the need for funding to other development partners such as the European Union. Pro bono inputs are also possible and identification and utilization of all potential funding possibilities, including national resources, is recommended. Private sector partnerships should not be ignored, as the public sector funding may not be able meet all the needs. Continued leadership will be needed by the Directors of the participating services to keep the process going including advocating the need of development of the hydrometeorological sector to the governments.

2.8 SESSIONS VIII: Conclusions of Day II and way forward

- 2.8.1. The session was chaired by Ivan Čačić, Amos Makarau, Mary Power and Milan Dacić. Session VIII concluded the conference with number of outcomes for continuation of the SEE-MHEWS-A process.
- 2.8.2. Resource mobilization for the further phases is the next important step and all possible funding sources should be carefully considered. Resource mobilization will continue beyond the initial phase to secure funds for full implementation of the system.
- 2.8.3. Technical developments for the system are not enough, but strengthening of expertise is essential to ensure sustainability. Change management is important for successful implementation of the system.
- 2.8.4. Agreements with potential stakeholders will be needed (e.g. NWP consortia, ECMWF) and should be negotiated early during the project implementation phase.

- 2.8.5. Cooperation with other relevant projects, programmes and initiatives is recommended (e.g. GIZ, ISRBC, I-REACT, RIC, DMCSEE, SEEVCCC).
- 2.8.6. Consolidated SEE-MHEWS-A Implementation Plan will be finalized after receiving further comments by 15th of July 2017. Inputs by the potential project stakeholders are important to complete the Implementation Plan.
- 2.8.7. WMO is committed to the SEE-MHEWS-A process and sees this initiative also as an important flagship project for GMAS. Furthermore, number of potential stakeholders expressed the willingness to continue or start the collaboration with the SEE-MHEWS-A project.
- 2.8.8. The agreed Conference Statement from the first of the conference will serve as an important document during the further resource mobilization phase.
- 2.8.9. Agreement for the presentation of the Consolidated Implementation Plan to the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development.

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South-East European Multi-Hazard Early Warning Advisory System

Final Conference of the Phase I of SEE-MHEWS-A Project

14 – 15 June 2017, Ljubljana

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2017 (open for the Directors of project region)		
08:30 - 09:00	<i>Registration</i>	
09:00 – 09:20	Session I: Opening Session of the day I Chair: Milan Dacić	
	Welcome addresses	Drago Groselj , Director of the Environmental Measurements Office, Slovenian Environment Agency Ivan Čačić , President of RA VI Mary Power , Director, Development and Regional Activities Department, WMO
09:20 – 10:45	Session II: Introduction to the South East European Multi-Hazard Early Warning Advisory System (SEE-MHEWS-A) Implementation Plan Chair: Alasdair Hainsworth	
	SEE-MHEWS-A Vision as part of the WMO GMAS process	Ivan Čačić , President of RA VI
	SEE-MHEWS-A Implementation Plan and next activities of the project	Milan Dacić , WMO Representative for Europe Sari Lappi , Project Manager, WMO/FMI Project Office Miroslav Ondráš , Senior Project Officer, WMO
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Coffee</i>	
11:15 - 13:00	Session III: Discussion of the SEE-MHEWS-A Implementation Plan Co-Chairs: Klemen Bergant and Milan Dacić	
	SEE-MHEWS-A Implementation plan will be discussed including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed project management structure, partners and stakeholders involvement; - Regional cooperation and 	All participants

	collaboration with other relevant projects; - Technical modules of the proposed system: observations, forecasting and modelling, and information/communication.	
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:30 - 16:00	Session III: Continued Co-Chairs: Kornélia Radics and Milan Dacić	
		All participants
16:00 - 16:30	<i>Coffee</i>	
16:30 - 17:30	Session IV: Conclusions of Day I and way forward Co-Chairs: Ivan Čačić and Mary Power	
		All participants
19:30	<i>Dinner at Grand Union Hotel hosted by the Slovenian Environment Agency</i>	

THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2017		
09:00 – 09:30	Session V: Opening session of the Day II Chair: Milan Dacić	
	Welcome addresses	Petteri Taalas , Secretary-General of WMO Ivan Čačić , President of RA VI Klemen Bergant , Director, Meteorology and Hydrology Office, Slovenian Environment Agency
09:30 – 10:00	<i>Coffee, group photo and press conference</i>	
10:00 – 11:00	Session VI: Introduction to the South East European Multi-Hazard Early Warning Advisory System (SEE-MHEWS-A) Chair: Eric Petermann	
	SEE-MHEWS-A vision and implementation plan, including next activities of the project	Milan Dacić , WMO Representative for Europe Sari Lappi , Project Manager, WMO/FMI Project Office Miroslav Ondráš , Senior Project Officer, WMO
	Conclusions of the Day I - discussions and envisaged engagement of participants	Ivan Čačić , President of RA VI

11:00 – 13:15	<p align="center">Session VII: Collaboration with potential project stakeholders in the development of SEE-MHEWS-A</p> <p align="center">Co-Chairs: Kleanthis Nicolaidis and Michael Staudinger</p>	
	Statements of the representatives of European Meteorological Infrastructure for potential contribution to the development of SEE-MHEWS-A	<p>Eric Petermann, Executive Director, EUMETNET</p> <p>Alain Ratier, Director General, EUMETSAT (video message)</p> <p>Umberto Modigliani, Head of User Support, ECMWF</p>
	Statements of the representatives of European and international organizations for potential contribution to the development of SEE-MHEWS-A	<p>Jon Skoien, Copernicus European Flood Awareness System, JRC</p> <p>Paola Albrito, Chief, Regional Office for Europe, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction</p> <p>Davide Poletto, Project Officer, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe</p>
	Statements of the representatives of NWP consortiums for potential contribution to the development of SEE-MHEWS-A	<p>Martin Benko, PR of Slovakia and Chairmen of ALADIN Consortium General Assembly</p> <p>Jeanette Onvlee-Hooimeijer, HIRLAM Consortium, Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute</p>
	Statements of the representatives of regional organizations for potential contribution to the development of SEE-MHEWS-A	<p>Alois Holzer, Director of Operations, European Severe Storms Laboratory</p> <p>Mirza Sarač, Advisor, International Sava River Basin Commission</p> <p>Gregor Gregorič, Project coordinator, Drought Management Centre for Southeastern Europe</p> <p>Drago Groselj, Director, Environmental Measurements Office, Slovenian Environment Agency</p> <p>Gerrit Bodenbender, Project Manager, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH</p>
13:15 - 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:30 - 16:00	<p align="center">Session VII: Continued</p> <p align="center">Co-Chairs: Nataša Strelec Mahović and Alasdair Hainsworth</p>	
	Statements of the representatives of collaborating NMHSs for potential contribution to the development of SEE-MHEWS-A, including the inter-regional	<p>Amos Makarau, PR of Zimbabwe and President Regional Association I</p> <p>Michael Staudinger, Director, ZAMG</p> <p>Paul Davies, Chief Meteorologist, UK</p>

	collaboration	Met Office Harri Pietarila , Head of Expert Services, Finnish Meteorological Institute Angela Corina , Italian Civil Protection Department
	Statements of the representatives of development partners for potential contribution to the development of SEE- MHEWS-A	Sezin Tokar , Senior Hydrometeorological Hazard Advisor, USAID (via videolink) Daniel Kull , Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank
<i>16:00 - 16:30</i>	<i>Coffee</i>	
16:30 - 17:30	Session VIII: Conclusions of Day II and way forward Co-Chairs: Ivan Čačić, Amos Makarau, Mary Power and Milan Dacić	

**CONFERENCE STATEMENT
BY THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROJECT
SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING ADVISORY
SYSTEM
(SEE-MHEWS-A)**

We, the participants in the Project
South-East European Multi-Hazard Early Warning Advisory System (SEE-MHEWS-A)

Representing the Directors of Meteorological, Hydrometeorological and Hydrological Services from South-East Europe:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (RHMZ and FHMZ), Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/99), , the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova¹, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, and Ukraine,

met in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 14-15 June 2017, on the invitation of the Slovenian Environment Agency (ARSO) - Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning,

to discuss issues related to the Joint project actions to improve the sub-regional collaboration aiming at developing the South-East European Multi-Hazard Early Warning Advisory System (SEE-MHEWS-A), starting with the revision and consolidation of the draft Implementation Plan for SEE-MHEWS-A;

Noting that climate variability and change is one of the greatest global challenges of our time, which have and will have local and wide-ranging effects on the environment and socio-economic sectors, including, for example, on water resources, agriculture and food security, human health and safety, natural ecosystems and biodiversity and coastal zones;

Expressing concern arising from the increasing scientific evidence of the adverse impacts of climate variability and change including changes in the frequency, location and severity of weather, water and climate extreme events to which the countries in South-East Europe (SEE) are particularly vulnerable;

Recognizing that adaptation to climate variability and change in SEE is necessary in order to reduce their negative effects, which requires urgent and better undertaking based on and guided by the best available scientific knowledge and operational practice;

Acknowledging that the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Cancun, Mexico, 2017), its Leaders' Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference with the WMO Communiqué, agreed on and reaffirmed the need to determine and commit to practical measures for the reduction of economic losses to disasters and the resilience of people, communities, and countries, and called upon all actors to strengthen partnerships at local, national,

¹ Republic of Moldova was not present but affirmed by correspondence their support

regional and global levels in order to manage disaster risk, recognizing that it is essential for WMO to contribute to United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience by identifying effective strategies and actions needed to promote and strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;

Recalling the outcomes and recommendations of the meetings and workshops (October 2017, Zagreb, February 2017, Skopje, March 2017, Budapest and April 2017, Athens) of the 1st Phase of the SEE-MHEWS-A Project;

Expressing appreciation to the World Meteorological Organization, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and other development partners and stakeholder organizations for their continuous guidance and support to the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in dealing with disaster risk reduction, as well as for ongoing efforts to improve collaboration in South-East Europe.

Adopt this
CONFERENCE STATEMENT
as follows:

- We, the Directors of the Meteorological, Hydrometeorological and Hydrological services, and other participants representing the Directors from South-East Europe declare our intention to collaborate jointly towards the implementation of activities and projects leading to full operation of the South-East European Multi-Hazard Early Warning Advisory System (SEE-MHEWS-A), within the scope broadly portrayed in the SEE-MHEWS-A draft Implementation Plan presented at this meeting;
- It is understood that the Implementation Plan is a living document to be further modified taking into account our comments and technical specifications to be developed by the Project Technical Teams;
- We agree with the following conclusions from the Final Conference of the Phase I of 14-15 June 2017, by which we:
 - Commit to provide further required inputs to refine the draft Implementation Plan in order to achieve the consolidated Implementation Plan by 15 July 2017;
 - Agree to establish the Provisional Project Steering Committee and invite the President of RA-VI to chair this Committee;
 - Request the Provisional Project Steering Committee to consider and approve the consolidated Implementation Plan;
- We stress the need to complement climate change policies with actions to strengthen national weather, climate, water, and other observing networks under the broad framework of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), and to foster capacity building and development, including investments in infrastructure of NMHSs in South-East Europe;
- We request the WMO Representative for Europe to inform the WMO Secretary-General about this initiative as a new framework for collaboration among the meteorological, hydrometeorological and hydrological services in South-East Europe, and request further action of the WMO Secretariat and contributing stakeholders to support urgent enhancement of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in SEE;
- We support the initiative for a development of Global Multi-Hazard Alert System (GMAS) by providing the SEE-MHEWS-A collaboration framework as an example of sub-regional collaboration, and as one of its pilot projects components;
- We request the WMO Secretary-General to bring this framework for collaboration to the attention of the potential financing partners such as European Commission, and other potential development partners to seek resources and support for implementation of SEE-MHEWS-A;
- We request the WMO Secretariat to assist the President of RA VI to bring the information about this initiative to the attention of the WMO Regional Association VI (Europe) for

consideration by the delegates at the Seventeenth Session of the Association in February 2018.

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