

**Guidelines for creation
of Local Risk District**

ACHELOUS - Action of Contrast to Hydraulic Emergency in Local Urban Site

www.achelous.eu

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About ECHO

ACHELOUS is an EC granted project financed by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) via the Civil Protection Financial Instrument. This instrument was set up in 2007 and aims at supporting and complementing the efforts of Member States for the protection, primarily of people, but also of the environment and property, including cultural heritage, in the event of natural and man-made disasters, acts of terrorism and technological, radiological or environmental accidents. Furthermore, it intends to facilitate reinforced co-operation between the Member States in the field of civil protection.

The Civil Protection Financial Instrument covers all three main aspects of civil protection activities: prevention, preparedness and response. ACHELOUS PROJECT has been selected under the annual Call for Proposals for Prevention and Preparedness in Civil Protection in 2013.

About ACHELOUS

ACHELOUS is the chief of all river deities and the project idea has sourced by the Civil Protection department of the Municipality of Vicenza after a series of flood events occurred between 2010 and 2012 which showed a lack of organization at territorial level, in particular the necessity of disposing of a common procedure of action in emergency which was adopted by, not only a single municipality, but its entire neighboring area and which included into account the active role of citizens and volunteering organizations. During 2010 and 2012 flood events, citizens and volunteers expressed high interest in giving support to the emergency organizations, but a lack of organization and a plan on how to manage these important resources became a point of weakness for the entire emergency operation. Therefore it has been clear that something concrete needs to be done and that it could not be done with the experience and forces of one single local entity.

Nine partners from seven European countries work together in the project to develop efficient common procedures of action among the local Civil Protection Authorities of the area interested by the hydraulic emergency. During its 2-year duration, the project endeavors to increase integration and cooperation between territorial entities involved in civil protection activities and educate citizens towards a correct behavior and a clever use of the available information during emergencies.

More information is available at www.achelous.eu

Six Local Risk District have been established within the project in order to reinforce communication and Civil protection function coordination at local and project level, in order to plan actions focused on reducing the consequences arising from hydraulic and hydro geological issues throughout the project.

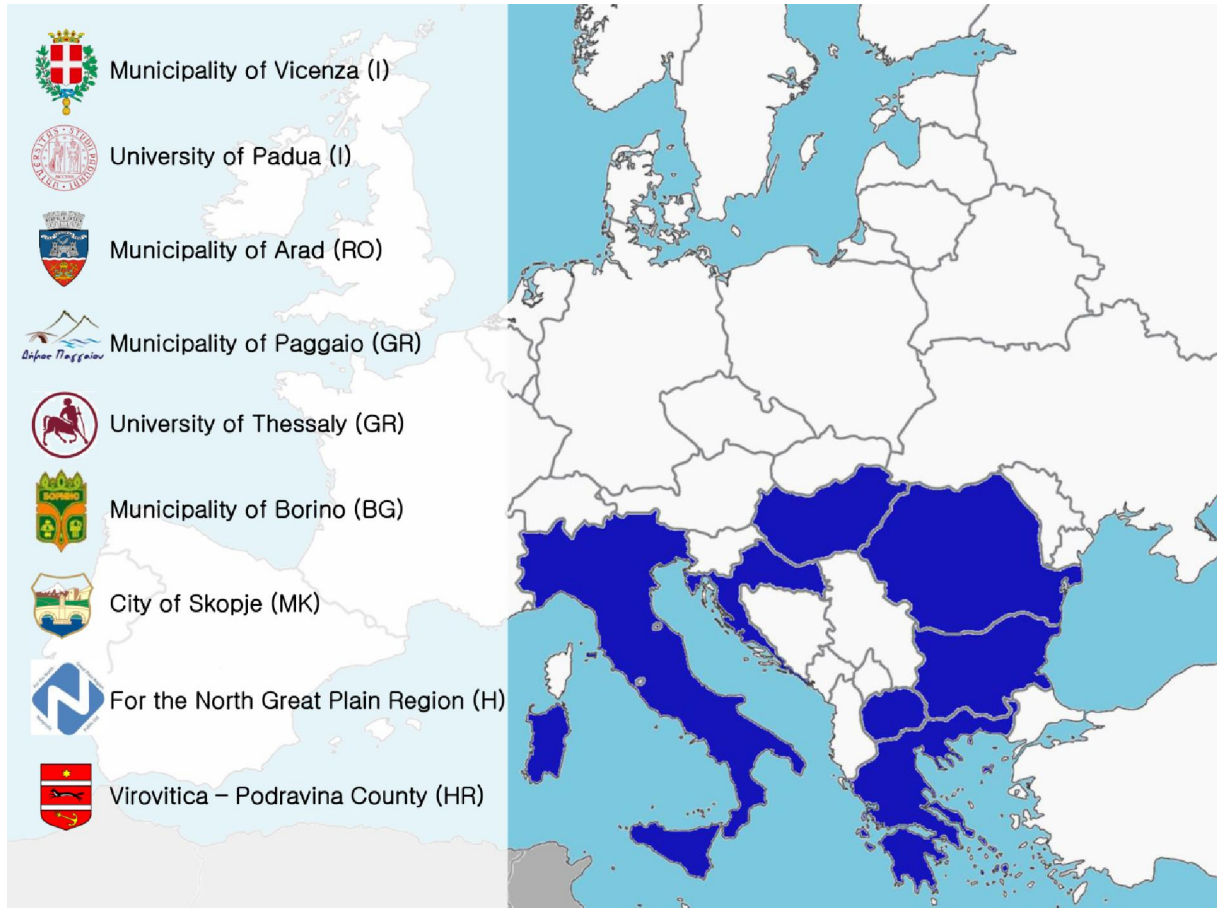
Local Risk Districts (hereinafter: LRD) have been established and one Central District that includes all 6 LRDs, with protection purpose of adverse effect of water. With the establishment of LRDs, basis for securing a joint partnership and cooperation for monitoring has been created, as well as preventive and curative joint actions in case of occurrence of adverse consequence of floods in the area of conditional units of local government.



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Project partners



Establishment of Local Risk Districts

Representatives of project partner institutions (local and regional governments) involved in the project ACHELOUS held meetings with potential partners with whom they have common history of floods in order to establish Local Risk District.

They presented the project to their future partners in LRD and their future obligations and activities if they join the Local Risk District.

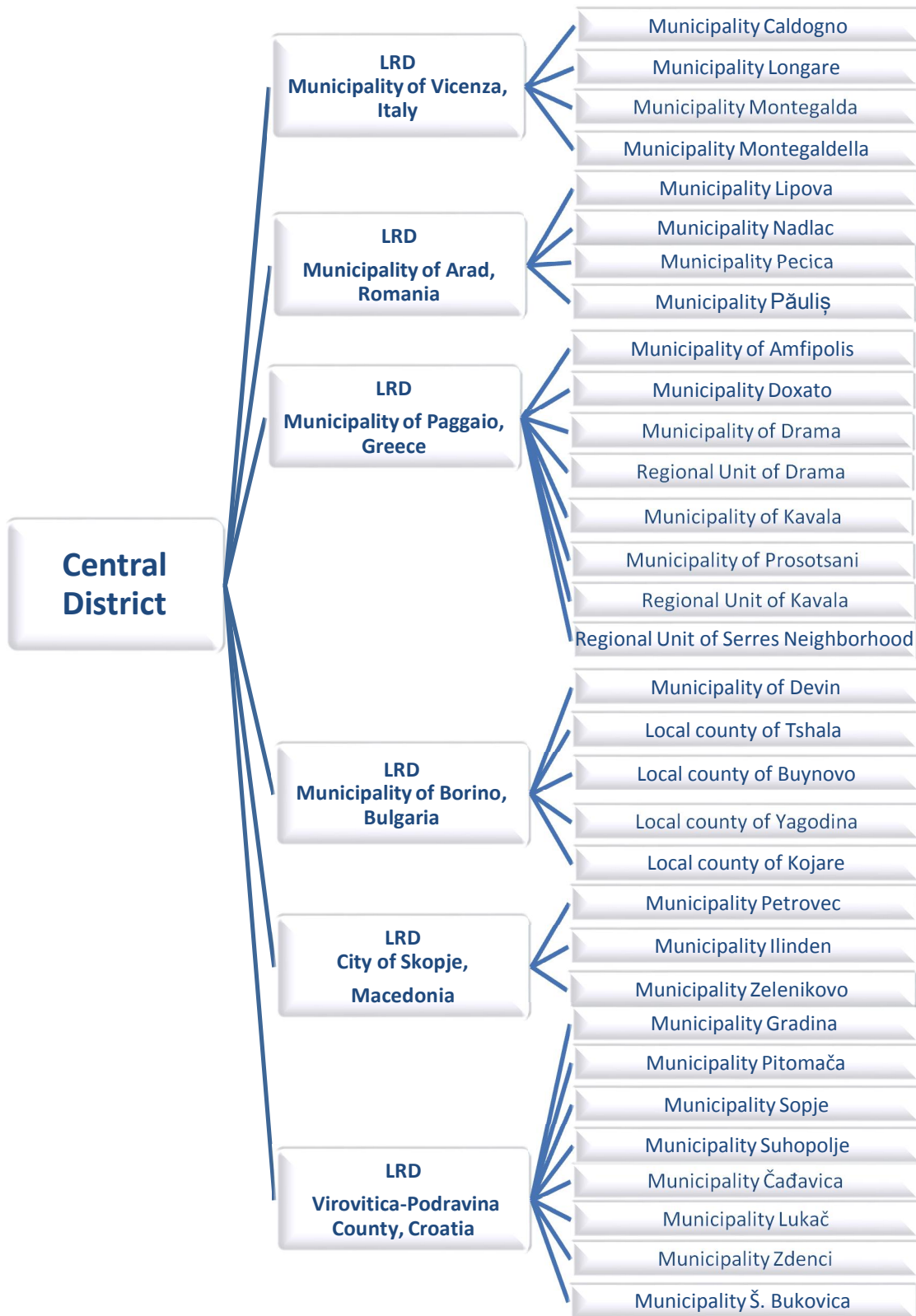
As the result of held meetings project partners in the project (Main partners in LRD) signed Agreement on establishment of Local Risk District with their partners. Members of LRD are following:



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The establishment of the LRD creates a basis for ensuring mutual partnership and cooperation for purpose of monitoring, as well as preventive and curative joint action in case of occurrence of adverse effects conditioned by floods in areas of local self-government units.

For the purposes of the project there is also established The Steering Committee which consist of 15 members who have their deputies. Members of the Steering Committee by position are County Prefect, Heads of Municipalities and Mayors of Cities covered by the project, and their deputies are persons who they independently appoint.

The Steering Committee forms: criteria for selection of partners in LRD, communication protocol within LRD and their role and responsibilities.

Criteria for selection of partners that are connected in LRD were following:

- Territory
- History of flooding in the area of project participants
- Hydrological base
- Number of members in Local Risk District
- Communication protocol

All Local areas connected in local Risk District are *territorially connected* and have *common history of flooding*:

- Municipality of Vicenza and its partners in LRD had flood in 1966 with catastrophic impact mainly in Vicenza that represented the most urbanized area and in 2010 other municipalities of the LRD due to the increase of the urbanization also they were strongly affected by the damages flood.
- Municipality of Arad had floods on 7 April 1932, 18 May 1970, 7 July 1975
- Municipality of Paggiao, and their partners Messoropi and Moustheni had floods in 1998, Eleftheroupolis in 2007. Three incidents of flash floods that caused serious damages. Tenaghi of Philippi is facing flooding for up to 3 months almost every year, the last 15 years.
- Municipality of Borino had systematic floods till 2013. In 2012 the tourist route "Medium-Devil trail - Devil's Bridge and Waterfall" is passable only to Caaka river gully - 1100 m. Because any damages due to floods, connecting wooden bridge was brought there and landslides on the tourist route. . In 2012, over 500 residents of Jagodina remain cut off from the world after more than 60 cubic meters rocks fell on the road. In 2012 residents of the village. Kiselchovo in Devin are cut off from other settlements, as the swollen river cut path to the village of 4.02.2015 of the great flood in Devin two people died washed away and their bodies have not yet been found. Levels of rivers and watersheds in the municipality decreased, the situation normalized; problems remain with damaged infrastructure due to heavy rains and flooding. The front of Devin artery is closed for movement of trucks due to collapse of part of the canvas. Huge stone landslide has intensified after the rainfall. It stopped the movement of heavy vehicles and one of the main streets in the city.
- City of Skopje and Skopje's Valley had floods in 1963 and 1979. In the contemporary circumstances, there is frequent floods' (up to 10 per year) raised by the heavy rainfalls and by the lack of infrastructure in some part of the City of Skopje and on the territory of LRD partners.
- Virovitica- Podravina County and its municipalities connected with Rivers Drava, in the Drava basin have floods almost every year when water level in the River Drava is high because of rains and damages for the tangible assets happen.



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Hydrological base

- Municipality of Vicenza: The risks connected to the bacchiglione overflow have been reduced thanks to the several infrastructural interventions. The river embankment was raised where was present some depressions. In the territory of Vicenza municipality was recently built a lamination basin and it's in progress the building of another bigger lamination basin in Caldogno, which is the most north municipality of the LRD. When this basin will be operative the LRD will have an high level of protection.
- Municipality of Arad: After the last flood, a strong damn has been built. On the right bank of the river the dam is 36.993 km long. On the left bank of the river the dam 9.930 km long
- Municipality of Paggajo: problem of the territory is that it is surrounded with Mountains and with human interference/activities during rains floods happen
- Municipality of Borino: the risks connected to the flooding and the river overflow has been reduced thanks to the several infrastructural interventions. These interventions - rehabilitation and reconstruction of retaining walls and culverts along the river Borinska- were made under project in the framework of the Programme European Territorial Cooperation "Greece - Bulgaria 2007 – 2013.
- City of Skopje and Skopje's Valley: Hydraulic risks are mostly solved by building high capacity dams and accumulations along Vardar riverbed and on its confluences. Most of the risks have hydrological basis (as a result of heavy rainfalls). Risk from lack of sewage infrastructure capacity, closely related to the capacity of the riverbeds of Vardar River and its confluences.
- Virovitica-Podravina County: high risks from floods are mostly solved by building high capacity dams and accumulations along River Drava. Most of the risks have hydrological basis (as a result of heavy rainfalls).

Role and responsibilities of main partner in LRD (partners in the project) are:

- Coordinate and organize the LRD Steering Committee meetings every 6 months
- Coordinate and organize one demonstration in the event of adverse effects of water. Every year one demonstration will be organized,
- Coordinate and organize educational workshops in the LRD area. Every year at least one educational workshop will be organized in each local self-government unit in the LRD area,
- Coordinate and organize the preparation and distribution of promotional materials in order to inform population with the procedure in cases of adverse effects of water.

Role and responsibilities of partners in LRD (partners in LRD) are:

- Assist in organizing and implementing the LRD activities
- At the written request of the County, allow the use of the premises of the City/Municipality for the implementation of activities,
- Inform all stakeholders in their LRD area and motivate them to participate in LRD activities

Legal service in Virovitica – Podravina County made the template of the Agreement on establishing the Local Risk District (LRD) from adverse effects of water that all project partners used as a template. Agreement establishes the existence of common interest for the establishment of a Local Risk District from adverse effects of water in the area of implementation of the project ACHELOUS - Action of contrast to Hydraulic Emergency in local Urban Site. It defines obligations of participants in LRD and time period of 7 years for implementing the Agreement.



Template of the Local Risk District Agreement

Main partner with the official seat in _____, VAT No: _____, represented by
_____ (title and the name), (hereinafter: _____),

and

Partner in LRD _____ with the official seat in _____,
VAT: _____, represented by Mayor/Head of City/Municipality
_____ (hereinafter: the City/Municipality)

have concluded the following:

AGREEMENT

on establishing the Local Risk District (LRD) from adverse effects of water

Article 1

This Agreement establishes the existence of common interest for the establishment of a Local Risk District (hereinafter: LRD) from adverse effects of water in the area of implementation of the project ACHELOUS - Action of contrast to Hydraulic Emergency in local Urban Site, which started on 1st January 2014. The project is funded by the European Commission in which (**Main partner**) participates as a partner together with another eight participants from 6 EU countries. The establishment of the LRD creates a basis for ensuring mutual partnership and cooperation for purpose of monitoring, as well as preventive and curative joint action in case of occurrence of adverse effects conditioned by floods in areas of local self-government units.

The project will be implemented on the territories of



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Article 2

As part of the project and achieving the goals set forth in this Agreement, the parties shall establish a joint coordinating body - LRD Steering Committee - which will carry out the activities defined by this Agreement.

The Steering Committee consists of 15 members who have their deputies. Members of the Steering Committee by position are county prefect, heads of municipalities and mayors of cities covered by the project, and their deputies are persons who they independently appoint.

Article 3

The final beneficiaries of the results of this Agreement are residents of LRD areas.

Article 4

(Main partner) agrees to:

- Coordinate and organize the LRD Steering Committee meetings every 6 months
- Coordinate and organize 1 demonstration in the event of adverse effects of water. Every year 1 demonstration will be organized,
- Coordinate and organize educational workshops in the LRD area. Every year at least 1 educational workshop will be organized in each local self-government unit in the LRD area,
- Coordinate and organize the preparation and distribution of promotional materials in order to inform the population with the procedure in cases of adverse effects of water.

The Agreement implementation coordinator and his deputy are appointed by the (Main Partner) on which a special decision will be adopted.

Article 5

Cities / municipalities agree to:

- Assist in organizing and implementing the LRD activities from Article 5 of this Agreement.
- at the written request of the (Main Partner), allow the use of the premises of the City / Municipality (partner in LRD) for the implementation of activities under this Agreement,
- inform interested stakeholders in their LRD area and motivate them to participate in LRD activities

Article 6

The parties to this Agreement agree on the deadline for fulfilling the obligations assumed under this Agreement for a period of 7 years to the day of the signing of the same.

The parties to this Agreement agree to jointly pay all costs incurred by the implementation of this Agreement.





Article 7

The Main Partner and partner in LRD are the owners of all the results obtained in the implementation of this Agreement.

Article 8

Any disputes arising out of this Agreement the parties shall resolve amicably, and if an agreement is not reached a decision is taken by the competent court.

Article 9

This Agreement is done in five (5) identical copies, of which three (3) copies being for the (Main Partner), and two copies being for the partner in LRD.

In _____

Class:

Reference number:

Partner in LRD

Head of Municipality/Mayor

(Main partner)

Title



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Local Risk District within project Achelous defines common language and procedure within its partners. Communication within the main partner and partners in LRD had improved but also trough organization of protection and rescue exercises communication protocol within civil protection authorities in the territories included in LRD had improved.

Qualifications of local and regional authorities to manage, organize and execute operations in cases of floods and educating the population how to behave in the event of a disaster with creation of Local Risk District had improved.



**The creation of the present document has been coordinated by
Virovitica - Podravina County**

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