



Working Table III – Security Issues
Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative

DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE DPPI REGIONALIZATION

OR

HOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESSFUL AND SUSTAINABLE REGIONALIZATION OF THE DPPI

The purpose of this Discussion Paper is to facilitate discussion between the partnering countries from the SEE region and to present arrangements, actions, and measures pertinent to achieving successful and sustainable regionalization of the DPPI.

The DPPI was conceived as a regionally owned initiative that seeks to provide a framework for SEE nations to develop programs and projects leading to strengthened capabilities to prevent and to respond to natural and man-made disasters.

The DPPI has been and still is an example of regional ownership, with full involvement of regional countries under the SP auspices, supported by interested countries and international organizations and agencies.

It is expected that in the near future intra-regional and inter-country agreements and procedures, standards and disaster management concepts will be in place and that the objectives of the DPPI will continue to be pursued by the countries of the SEE.

The DPPI is currently in the transition period and as such, has a structure that almost completely relies on the donor's community and therefore, regionalization should be discussed.

The consolidation of actions as well as the formulation of further plans of the DPPI will depend on the degree of commitment and determination of the DPPI partners. The strengthening of the regional network as an appropriate forum to exchange ideas, benefiting from common experiences and lessons learnt, coupled, supported and assisted with the coordination efforts provided by the DPPI Secretariat, constitute an advantage for SEE countries and committed donors.

Transfer of DPPI to regional ownership, which means that all member countries are equally important actors and owners of the initiative, will require, apart from sufficient progress on the legal and procedural instruments mentioned above (intra-regional and inter-country agreements on procedures, standards and disaster management concepts), preparation of transforming the DPPI Secretariat into legal entity and the assuming of full political responsibility by the participating states.

Soon enough, donors will reduce their involvement and the initiative will almost completely depend on its beneficiaries and members. The countries are to make decision on how and in what direction the DPPI should go. It is crucial to establish a solid structure that would secure long-term and sustainable work of the DPPI.

Steps toward DPPI regionalization already undertaken:

1. the DPPI Executive Secretary has been selected and appointed;
2. the location in the region for the DPPI Secretariat has been discussed and decided; collaboration with the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the issues of hosting the Secretariat has been successfully initiated and put in place;
3. the DPPI Secretariat has been moved to the region (Sarajevo, BiH) and has resumed its activities in its full capacity;
4. the DPPI web site and e-mail addresses are in the process of regionalization, i.e. are to be moved soon to Sarajevo.

Steps yet to be undertaken with an aim to achieve successful and sustainable regionalization of the DPPI:

1. Political commitment of the countries from the region is crucial, both for the initiative and for the regionalization. In order to achieve that and to get political support, the DPPI network will be assessed and strengthened where needed by attracting political decision-makers to it. In that respect, the SP has initiated and commenced the DPPI Executive Secretary tour through the regional capitals, with an aim to meet and discuss the future of the initiative with most relevant political and expert counterparts;
2. The region countries, as the DPPI members, should most seriously consider contributing financially to the DPPI activities and operations, and to that end a legal framework would be needed;
3. Is it sufficient to reconfirm the DPPI 2002 Declaration from Bucharest as a basis for defining and obtaining full and undeniable political and financial commitment including articulation of the DPPI Secretariat as legal entity with diplomatic status in order to assume full regional ownership of DPPI or new Institutional Legal Framework is needed?
4. If new Institutional Legal Framework is needed, should it be Letter of Intent, Memorandum of Understanding or new Declaration?
5. Legal Working Group will be/should be established with a task to develop in next three months, i.e. till the end of January 2006, the most appropriate Institutional Legal Framework based on the principles presented in the DPPI 2002 Declaration for Bucharest, stating and defining the new roles of regional countries (beneficiaries and donors at the same time), DPPI and Secretariat and to propose it to regional countries for adoption and signing.

All parties will undertake every effort to ensure the success of the above stated activity. The countries from the region shall have, in the mean time, regular bilateral and multilateral consultations to discuss the progress of this activity. All parties undertake to work jointly to ensure the coherence of the outcome. All parties are committed to meet the obligations defined above in good faith and coordinate their actions and inform each other regularly and the DPPI Secretariat in order to make this activity a consistent and successful endeavor.

Developing, adopting and signing above mentioned Institutional Legal Framework the countries from the SEE region will create irreversible and strong foundation for successful and sustainable regionalization of the DPPI to SEE.

Prepared by:

Sergej Anagnosti
DPPI Executive Secretary

Sarajevo, October 3, 2005