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Public participation and access to the information in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change (CC) issues

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Aarhus Convention and Aarhus Centres

- Over 50 Aarhus Centres in 13 countries in the OSCE region South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, Central Asia
- Aarhus Centres networking annual meetings at sub-regional and regional levels, trainings, publications
- ■7 Aarhus Centres in Tajikistan since 2004, that focus on specific environment and security problems in different geographic areas
- •Joint projects implemented by the Aarhus Centres across borders (e.g. activities of the Aarhus Centre in Khujand and the Aarhus Centre in Osh to address chemical waste problems)





Access to information on issues related to DRR and CC

- Training farmers on disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation tools in agriculture
- Conducting open consultation on DRR and CC for the local population / farmers
- Promoting energy saving measures and technologies through exhibitions and information sessions at local level
- Using local mass media to create awareness on DRR and CC adaptation









Public participation in decision-making related to DRR and CC adaptation

- Creation of local trust fund mechanisms to enable effective response to disasters and climate change
- Active engagement/leadership in developing DRR strategies at local level
- Conducting public hearings on policies and strategies related to DRR and CC adaptation at local and regional levels
- Advocating for cross border cooperation among local stakeholders on DRR and CC adaptation issues







Effective involvement of mass media

- Organizing "Eco Journalism Competition" focusing on DRR and CC adaptation among mass media representatives
- Conducting trainings on DRR and CC for local journalists and mass media representatives,
- Integrating DRR and CC issues into the work of news/education
 TV and Radio programs of local mass media
- Creating and maintaining information web-portal on DRR and CC at local and regional levels





Strengthening coordination on DRR at local level

Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team – **REACT**:

- Exchange of information dealing with DRR
- •Coordinating partners on DRR in the regions
- Capacity building of the REACT partners on DRR
- Assistance with risk assessments
- Emergency-related operations

<u>Aarhus Centre in Khujand, - REACT Focal</u> <u>Point in Sughd region, Tajikistan since 2011</u>





REACT is a strong and effective partnership and coordination mechanism between the government and the international, public communities dealing with disaster management in Tajikistan.



- ✓ Disseminate **information on DRR and CC adaptation measures** at local, national, regional levels
- ✓ Create awareness of local populations on community-based DRR
- ✓ Engage communities more actively in DRR and CC projects
- \checkmark Strengthen further capacities of mass media organizations on DRR and CC issues
- ✓ Attract more **media attention** to DRR and CC problems
- ✓ Strengthen **public participation mechanisms** in local disaster risk reduction planning and management (for example-using transboundary mud flow channel)
- ✓ Mobilize **civil society and local authorities- across borders** to act together for a common goal (for example- Aarhus Centres in Khujand and Osh)
- ✓ Share **best practices and lessons learned** on DRR and CC adaptation through **Aarhus Centres Network**





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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