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# Knowledge FOR Resilient soCiEtY

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THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT –  
CASE OF FLOOD IN ALBANIA

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## *Outline of the presentation*

- *Nature of Hazard in Albania*
- *Main approaches in case of disaster occurrence*
- *International Stakeholders in Albania*
- *Conclusions*





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## *Nature of Hazards in Albania*

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### *A. Natural Origin*

| Geologic    | Hydrologic        | Atmospheric    | Biophysical  |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Earthquakes | Flooding          | Snowstorms     | Forest Fires |
| Rock falls  | Torrential Floods | High snowfalls | Epidemics    |
| Landslides  |                   | Windstorms     |              |
|             |                   | Droughts       |              |

### *B. Man-made Origin:*

### *C. Technological Hazards*



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Hydrological system of Albania has a surface of 43.305 km<sup>2</sup> and includes 8 big rivers, 3 big natural lakes and a huge number of small lakes and reservoirs.

The flood of 1962–1963 is one of the biggest in Albania where 70'000 hectares of agricultural land were flooded.

Another flood occurred on 2002 covering 30'000 hectares of agricultural land

The flood of 2010 is the biggest of the last 50 years. 14'100 hectare and 4'600 houses flooded, affecting 59'600 habitants



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## Main Approaches towards disasters occurrence



### Proactive Approach = Ex-ante

Stakeholders plan and conduct activities before the natural disaster happens, such as mitigation and preparedness.



### Reactive Approach = Ex-post

Activities that have to do with responses and recovery, are conducted by stakeholders during and after natural disaster.



## Financing instruments for DRM



### Ex-ante financing instruments

Reserves,  
Budget Contingencies,  
Contingent debt,  
Facility and Risk transfer mechanisms,  
Insurance and Reinsurance,  
Alternative risk transfer instruments (CAT)

### Ex-post financing instruments

Budget reallocation,  
Domestic and/or external credit,  
Increase in taxes,  
Donor assistance



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## Challenges of Ex-ante DRM financing instruments in Albania

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No adequate stock exchange (CAT do not apply),

Low levels of Insurance and Reinsurance of life and property in high risked areas (the insurance companies do not provide service in such high risked areas),

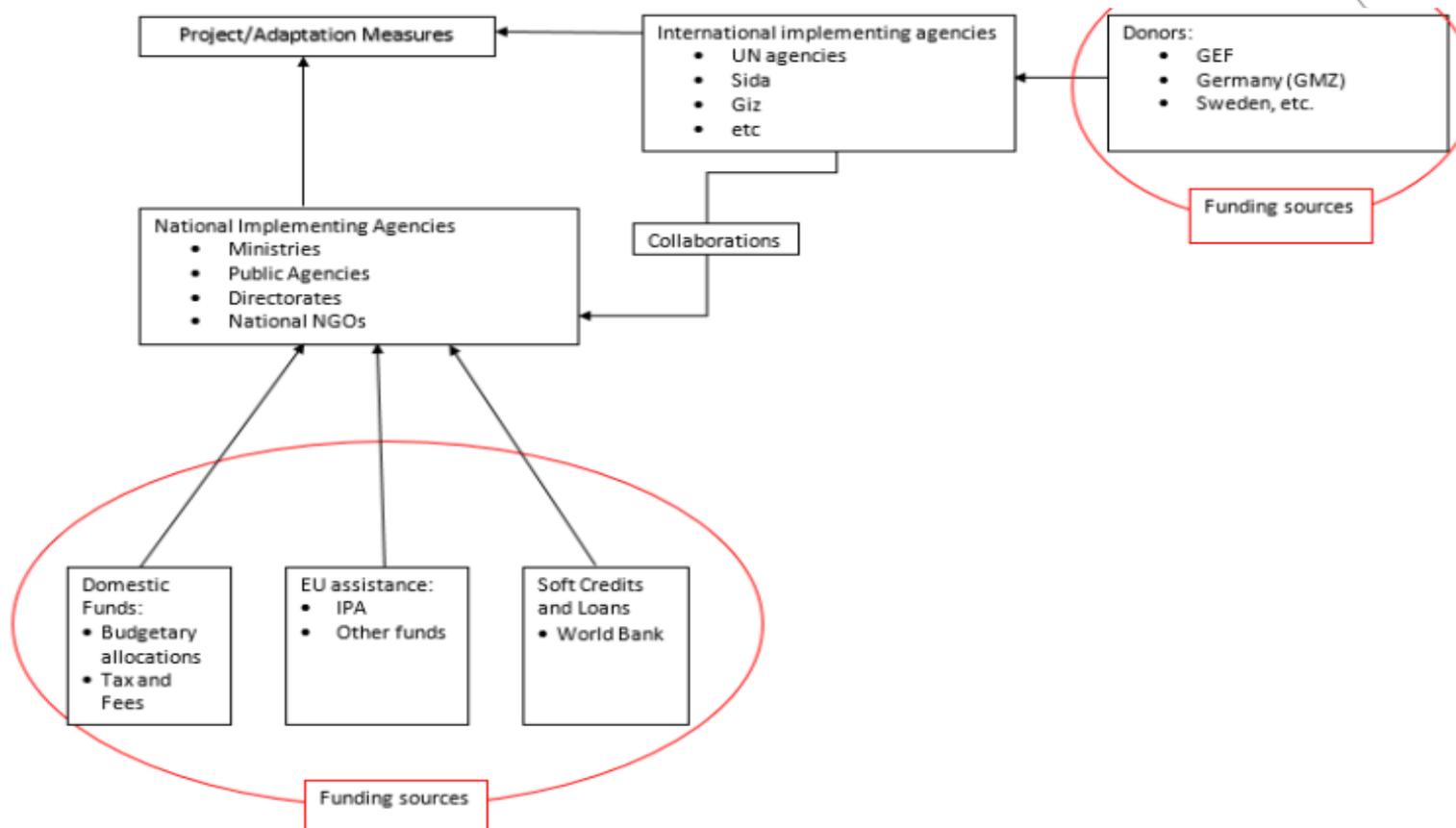
Only government contingency budget as an ex-ante financing instrument.



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## Relying on Ex-post financing instruments for DRM



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## Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA)

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Provides financial assistance for specific investments in EU candidate countries like Albania and other Balkan countries

From 2014 to 2020 IPA has donated €649.4 million, of which 68 million set for environment and climate action and 92 million for agriculture and rural development.

EU reprogrammed part of its IPA allocation for assisting the recovery effort and aimed at restoration of flood control infrastructure, upgrading civil defense preparedness and recovering agricultural productive capacities.



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## World Bank

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The World Bank has been assisting countries to recover from catastrophes and to reduce vulnerability for 35 years financing more than 600 projects with more than US\$26 billion.

The assistance has been given after the disasters occurred but recently it changed focus toward actions on preparedness and mitigation.

Albania Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation project is one of most important in Albania.



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The project is based on the following components:

1. DRM and preparedness with the objective to support capacity building for emergency response through necessary equipment, and strengthening planning
2. Strengthening of hydro meteorological services to make accurate hydro meteorological forecasts important for weather-sensitive areas
3. The development of buildings, to reduce risks from seismic activities
4. Catastrophe insurance, to provide access to private insurance to households and SMEs



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## Albania Red Cross

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In 2010, 11,500 hectares and 4'100 houses were flooded, 4'600 people evacuated

30 volunteers were involved in evacuating people, raising awareness, collecting information

Red Cross branches organized local fund-raising campaigns. ARC was able to help 2'200 families

Each family got around US\$100 and the overall cost was approximately US\$300'000

In 2017 floods 1'575 persons were evacuated,

3'500 houses and 15'000 hectares of land were flooded,

Approximately 4'700 families (21'000 people) were affected,

450 volunteers were involved in awareness raising, collection of information, preliminary assessments.



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UNDP

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On January 2015 there were big floods in southwest of Albania.

EU, UN and WB jointly engaged in the development of a post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) in coordination with relevant instances.

The total population in the flooded areas amounts 397'316 persons. 15'000 farming households were affected and 9'993 ha of agriculture land damaged

The PDNA report estimated the damages and immediate needs to €110 million

UNDP acts as the implementing partner

raising awareness, providing capacity building for strengthened resilience through participation, social inclusion and integration of climate change adaptation measures in local development planning.



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## Conclusions

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International assistance is vital in facing risks from catastrophes.

Red Cross acts like a post actor and provides food and shelter to most vulnerable affected families

UNDP acts prone to disasters and after. It makes assessments of needs and damages, works with government institutions to prevent and mitigate risks

World Bank on the other hand has shifted its focus in preparedness and mitigation of risk rather than assisting after the occurrence

EU contributes according a prepared schedule and mostly to prevent and mitigate risks. EU remains the biggest in budgetary terms



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Thank you  
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