



EXTERNAL REVIEW OF THE GLOSSARY

Disaster Risk Management and Fire Safety

Natural and man-made disasters – floods, landslides, earthquakes, storms, hail, drought, wild and building fires are on the rise in the last decades in the Western Balkans. Human casualties, extensive damage to urban areas, negative impact on the environment and further weakening of the regional economy are alarms of increasing vulnerability. The K-FORCE project has recognized common regional needs to improve the resilience of the Western Balkans region to hazards and responded to them by creating and implementing six master, one doctoral, and 18 lifelong learning programmes. These programs are created to educate experts who will be competent to operate in prevention, reaction and recovery phases of the catastrophic events, and able to make sustainable financial plans for disaster preparedness, according to regional economy recourses.

The need for clarifying the terminology stemmed from the fact that the learning materials offered by the flexible ICT learning platform and the project On-line Library are written in English and regional languages. The K-FORCE team has recognized the need of developing a glossary of key terms because of the need to clarify concepts and to reduce the terminological confusion frequently encountered in this topic. **Disaster Risk Management and Fire Safety** is a field where partners – often with widely differing linguistic backgrounds – work together and need to use a common vocabulary. Over the years, however, definitions evolved in such a way that they bristled with faux amis, ambivalence and ambiguity. It had become urgent to clarify and refine the language employed and to give it a harmonious, common basis.

As a result of this, the ***Glossary of Terms in Disaster Risk Management and Fire Safety*** was prepared in the framework of K-FORCE project.

Selection of terms was done by all project partners with dominant role of P7-P11 who, through the implementation of their studies and projects, as well as through their extensive experience, had gained knowledge on key words and terms that are used specifically for the DRM&FSE profession.

The first draft version, prepared by an expert team from UNIZA, was presented at the meeting in Skopje, North Macedonia, in July 2018. At the same meeting I was nominated as external reviewer of the glossary. During the following meetings, the selection of terms and their definitions have been carefully discussed by all project members, the draft version was upgraded and finalized.

The final version of the glossary is a result of successful collaboration of all the project partners and represents the selection of key words and terms characteristic for the Disaster Risk Management and Fire Safety area in frequent use in the Western Balkans. It is a concise guide to the terminology and definitions, aiming to facilitate communication between the experts in the Western Balkans. The glossary includes



established definitions that have been published elsewhere as well as suggestions for additional terms where gaps or difficulties in understanding were identified by the K-FORCE consortium and provides definitions of **167 terms** in alphabetic order, translated from English into Serbian, Albanian and Bosnian.

As a result of successful cooperation, this glossary has become a “state of-the-art” of key terms used in this field and will facilitate and improve the dialogue and understanding among all those who are involved in **Disaster Risk Management and Fire Safety in** partner countries. It will serve as a valuable reference guide in education process and in practical work.

The Glossary is available on the Project webpage and in hard copy. I believe the professionals from public services and enterprises, as well as academic community and general public will find the K-FORCE Glossary of Terms in Disaster Risk Management and Fire Safety useful in everyday activities and communication in the Western Balkans.



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