

Call for applications:

BALTIC SEA REGION DM TRAINING

Introduction

The Baltic Sea region covers a significant area of northern Europe and its EU member countries represent nearly a fifth of the EU population. Over the past few years, issues of preparedness have emerged strongly in the region. The region shares common features and challenges, including similar risks of emergencies and crisis that can have national but also regional implications. Many of these risks are also noted to be growing. Against a changing risk landscape, there is a need to further develop regional preparedness dimension through enhanced quality and interoperability of response capacities as well as by stronger cooperation with Red Cross and authorities. Part of the process of developing the regional preparedness is to train Red Cross staff/volunteers on regional disaster management.

Against this background, the Red Cross National Societies in the Baltic Region have developed a Baltic Sea Region DM training. The training is for all the National Societies of the countries bordering the Baltic Sea, and there will be participants at least from seven different National Societies. The training will first take place under the EU financed BALTPREP project and will then feed into a Baltic Sea Region training module.

The training is an interactive learning opportunity and a chance to share knowledge and experiences between the different National Societies of the region. It will bring together different actors in disaster management field and promote good cooperation and a better understanding of the role of the different response actors in the field in the Baltic Sea Region.

Participants

The training aims to **build capacities of individuals from different background and through them the capacity of organizations on disaster management in general**, with an emphasis on issues specific to the Baltic Sea Region. Each participant brings his/her own professional technical competencies to the training, thus the aim is to have people participating from diverse professional backgrounds.

The profile of candidates for the Baltic Sea Regional DM training is at the “Tier 1 i.e. Officer level” of the IFRC Core Competency Framework. At the Tier 1 level the candidates are expected to display a practical understanding of effective day-to-day behaviors and able to function effectively as part of a Red Cross Red Crescent team.

The participants may in the future work in regional teams that are composed of Red Cross volunteers and staff that are usually members of their own national response teams, trained to work as a team and bring assistance to National Societies in their region, often with the benefit of relevant language skills and a solid cultural and contextual understanding. Teams are built around generalist relief experts and Team Leaders, with sectoral needs (e.g. health, logistics, water and sanitation) covered by sectoral experts.

Minimum requirement to be fulfilled by all participants:

- Good working knowledge in English, both spoken and written
- Active volunteer or staff of the Red Cross with a minimum of 2 years of experience in working/volunteering for the RC
- Good basic IT skills

- Ability to communicate effectively and to work as part of a team
- Motivation to participate in the DM development processes domestically

In addition, the candidates will be assessed based on their previous Red Cross/Red Crescent knowledge and experience, their operational competencies both domestically as well as internationally, their technical skills and education, and their cross-cutting competencies.

Learning Objectives

The training has the overall aim to enhance regional preparedness and response capacity for major accidents in the Baltic Sea region.

This is expected to happen if...

the knowledge and understanding of individuals (staff/volunteers of RC/RC) who participate in the training is strengthened on issues pertaining to the region

and if...

they are actively involved in the DM of their own National Societies as well as in DM regionally through for example being deployed in regional teams.

The training does not seek to strengthen the technical expertise of the participant in her/his technical expertise area, but rather to strengthen understanding and knowledge on the specific issues of the Baltic Sea Region and disaster management in general.

Contents

The training will cover the following topics:

- Baltic Sea Region context (specific risks, vulnerabilities, resources, capacities and systems)
- Key features of the Red Cross in the Baltic Sea region
- Working in teams
- Basics of IFRC rapid response system
- Short introductory sessions on e.g. psychosocial support, logistics, information management emergency evacuations
- Cross-cutting issues e.g. protection, gender and inclusion

Training methods

Training methods will include presentations, group work, sharing of experiences.

Timing and venue

The training will start on 25th of October and finish on 30th of October. Please note that active participation is expected during the whole duration of the training.

The training will take place in Latvia.

Pre-course training and assignments

Information on the required pre-course online trainings or other assignments will be sent to the selected participants. The pre-study materials include standard IFRC online DM trainings.

In addition, the participant(s) of each National Society are expected to conduct a discussion with the DM staff of the sending National Society before training. The participant(s) of each National Society are expected to prepare a short presentation based on the discussion. During the training a plan is to be made how the training will feed into the organization and the participants are expected to meet and discuss with the DM staff of the sending National Society.

Participation fee

The costs for travel (incl. international flights and local travel as instructed separately) and accommodation of each participant will be paid by the sending National Society.

Applications

All Red Cross National Societies (RCNSs) working in the Baltic Sea Region (Finnish RC, Danish RC, German RC, Polish RC, Estonian RC, Latvian RC, Lithuanian RC, Swedish RC and Russian RC) are welcome to propose candidates. RCNSs are kindly asked to recruit and nominate candidates as per the criteria defined for the participants (Annex to this document). After initial selection of participants, each RCNS is asked to send the candidates' full CVs with nomination information to Finnish Red Cross contact person. Available seats are three per country. Three participants from Finnish RC, Danish RC, German RC, Polish RC, Estonian RC, Latvian RC, and Lithuanian RC each are fully funded by the BALTPREP project.

In addition, Russian Red Cross and Swedish red Cross as well as all other Red Cross National Societies can propose additional candidates with their own funding. The final acceptance of additional candidates will be confirmed by FRC, and the maximum number of participants on the course is 35.

- The application period will begin 1st week of June (or later, each NS can define the date).
- The last day to apply is the 24th of August 2020 (or other, each NS can define the date).
- The selected candidates' full CVs with nomination information and motivation letter should be sent to Finnish Red Cross contact person *by 31st of August*.
- The selected participants will be informed on the selection results by 11th of September by the Finnish Red Cross. The Finnish Red Cross will send directly an invitation letter to the selected participants with a copy to the focal point of each National Society. The selected candidates will at the same time be informed with information on the pre-course work and e-learning.
- Each National Society is responsible for informing the other applicants on the results.

Please note that due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation the training might have to be cancelled/postponed. The training organizers will continuously assess the situation in Latvia and in the countries of the participating National Societies. The participants will be informed immediately, should the training be cancelled/postponed. All National Societies/participants are advised to ensure that the travel tickets they have are flexible and allow for cancellations.