

Monthly progress update

June-July 2022

Leveraging ASEAN Capacities for
Emergency Response (LACER)

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Background

“Leveraging ASEAN Capacities for Emergency Response (LACER)” is a project funded by the European Union. The overall objective is strengthened resilience in ASEAN region through improved disaster risk management. The specific objectives consists of strengthened capacity and sustainability of the AHA Centre to achieve operational excellence in disaster monitoring, preparedness and emergency response, and enhanced mechanism for ASEAN Leadership to Respond-As-One through excellence and innovation in disaster management.

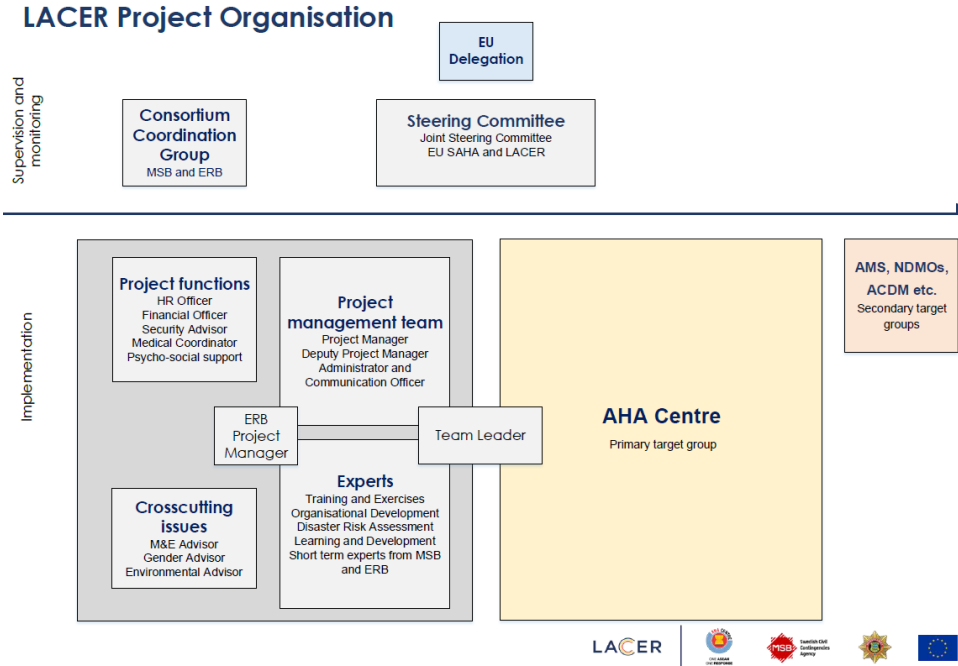
The project is implemented by a Consortium consisting of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), as lead, jointly with the Estonian Rescue Board (ERB). It is a component of the overall EU programme “Integrated Programme in Enhancing the Capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanisms (EU Support to AHA Centre)”.

The project consists of the following four outcomes organised as components.

- Component 1
Strengthened institutional capacity, corporate policies and management of the AHA Centre
- Component 2
Enhanced operational capacity of the AHA Centre in monitoring, preparing and responding to disasters
- Component 3
Increased preparedness and Respond-As-One capacities of ASEAN
- Component 4
Enhanced professionalism through standards and certification

The project has a 43 month lifespan and started on March 1, 2020.

Figure 1. Illustration of the LACER project organisation structure



Project progress update for the period June-July 2022

Essentially, the LACER project aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of the AHA Centre to become a highly professional and trusted organisation that effectively carries out its operational mandate in facilitating and coordinating regional disaster preparedness and response, sharing European best practices and facilitating and building sustained institutional ASEAN – EU exchange. The project aims to plan for, implement and sustain organisational development using a comprehensive strategic approach. In real terms, this means that the project will not independently deliver ready products to the AHA Centre, but is committed to building sustained capacities over time.

The project is in implementation phase. Some LACER activities have not been fully implemented during the project period, which has prompted a discussion on mutual expectations and prioritisation of outputs. A no cost extension was submitted for review on 8 April 2022, which seeks to extend the project implementation period until March 2025.

Strategic and Donor Coordination

In conjunction with the launch of three new partner funded activities at the AHA Centre (with Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland), the LACER Team Leader met with the Chargé d’Affaires of the Canadian Representation to ASEAN, Ms. Vicky Singmin, to discuss Canada’s first ever collaboration with AHA. The project, "Improving ASEAN's Humanitarian Assistance Capacity in Multi Hazards", has several potential synergies with LACER efforts, including a common interest in promoting more inclusive humanitarian response, developing new disaster risk scenarios, and ensuring gender equality in all collaboration. LACER hopes to support this project moving forward, in line with outcome (D) activities to develop regional risk assessment and analysis capacity of ASEAN.



On 21 July, the AHA Centre Resource Mobilisation Manager and LACER experts met to prepare a concept note for the AHA senior leadership, which will create a basis to launch routine donor coordination meetings. The concept note aims to describe the purpose of the forum, the frequency of meetings, partners to invite, and expected outcomes/activities. A draft is in progress.

New Activity Launch: LACER Support to Development of AIM-Net (D2.5)



AIM-Net
AHA Centre Information Management Network
2nd AIM-Net Meeting
Updated as of 20 Jul 2022

In June, the AHA Operations Department invited LACER to facilitate the relaunch of AIM-Net collaboration between AHA and ASEAN member states. AIM-Net is a regional forum and community of practice where ASEAN Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) practitioners can meet to coordinate and cooperate in strengthening EOC capacities, capabilities and practices. This network has two principle tasks: to assess information management and information systems interoperability needs at

the regional level, and to develop and reach consensus on information systems taxonomy, specifications, and standards. The LACER Team Leader is now working closely with AHA

Operations staff to co-design and facilitate a 3-day workshop tentatively set for 12-14 September in Jakarta, which will establish a work plan for AIM-Net in the coming years.

New Activity Launch: LACER collaboration on AHA Centre 10-Year Strategic Plan (B1.3)

Following a request from the AHA Resource Mobilization Manager on 7 July, LACER has agreed to support development of a ten-year strategic/vision plan for the AHA Centre. The LACER contribution will focus on helping to consider and plan for various conditions likely to emerge in the coming decade as well as consider potential tasks, resources, and other implications on AHA activities ahead. A concept note is being developed as part of the first phase, while LACER identifies suitable experts to participate in developing such a long-term framework. Within this context, LACER plans to launch activity B1.3 to organise an advisory mission on strategic planning.

Exchange of Experiences (C3)

LACER Deputy Program Manager Kriztin Solberg and Team Leader Charles Silva participated in the EU Civil Protection Forum in Brussels, 27-29 June 2022. Bringing together hundreds of leading DRM professionals from Europe and beyond, the Forum offered a unique opportunity to showcase the work of LACER and share experiences capacity development with a regional partner in Asia. Due to ongoing operations in Myanmar, AHA Centre staff was not able to join the Forum as planned.

The LACER team presented in panel VIII. *Enhancing cooperation with international partners / Europe in the World / Response* leading a dialogue on UCPM engagement outside Europe and the principles of good partnership. The event was well attended and included the following panellists:

- Peter Muller – Global Lead UNDAC (UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- Mailin Fauchon – Head of Augmented Logistics Intervention Team, UN World Food Programme
- Geir Ellingsen – Programme Officer – Emergency Preparedness and Analysis, European Commission, DG ECHO
- Brigitta Sáfár – Head of Disaster Management, Red Cross, Hungary
- Kriztin Solberg and Charles Silva – MSB (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency), LACER project (Leveraging ASEAN Capacities for Emergency Response)

Figure 2: LACER team at panel discussion





Thereafter the audience was divided for small group interaction, arranged according to “listening angles” provided by the DG ECHO organisers (see figure to left). Participants were asked in particular to comment on the following: what (inspiration) did you hear from the stories, especially in relation to the listening angle? What would you add based on your own experience?

The following draft key messages were suggested by DG ECHO organising team:

- International challenges are becoming more provocative. The Covid crisis as well as the Ukraine war have shown the impossibility of managing crises alone and the growing need for complementarity. Agencies increasingly must cooperate to meet challenges becoming more complex. Well-established and structured cross-border

cooperation across national, regional and local levels has a significant potential to contribute to a better mutual understanding. Mutual trust based on regular exchange and close cooperation is therefore an asset of paramount importance in cross-border crises.

- Collaboration between UCPM and international partners should not be a maintenance activity, merely replicating what was done in the past. Instead, it has to rise above and beyond that, by integrating new ideas in a cooperative and transparent manner, if we aim as a disaster management community to continue being relevant for contemporary and future cross-sectorial challenges.

In addition to the panel session, the LACER team participated in the following Forum events:

II. Civil Protection Forum Warm-up session “Europe in the World: The UCPM as a regional cooperation model”, 27/6 2022

III. Forum Session 1 - Opening Remarks by Commissioner Janez Lenarčič

IV. High Level Plenary Session: Where do we stand with European Civil Protection – Is UCPM fit for purpose

V. Special Plenary session on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine

VI. Plenary session on Prevention. The opportunity of prevention: knowledge and investments for a green and resilient future

VII. Plenary session on Preparedness The Covid-19 pandemic as catalyser for strengthening Europe’s cross-sectoral preparedness, featuring Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, Director-General of the Swedish Civil Contingency Agency



In conjunction with the Forum, LACER also organised a number of side meetings relevant to project activities. A brief dialogue was organized between the LACER leadership and DG ECHO's Thomas de Lannoy to review and share understandings of the financing mechanism for EU staff invited to participate in LACER activities.

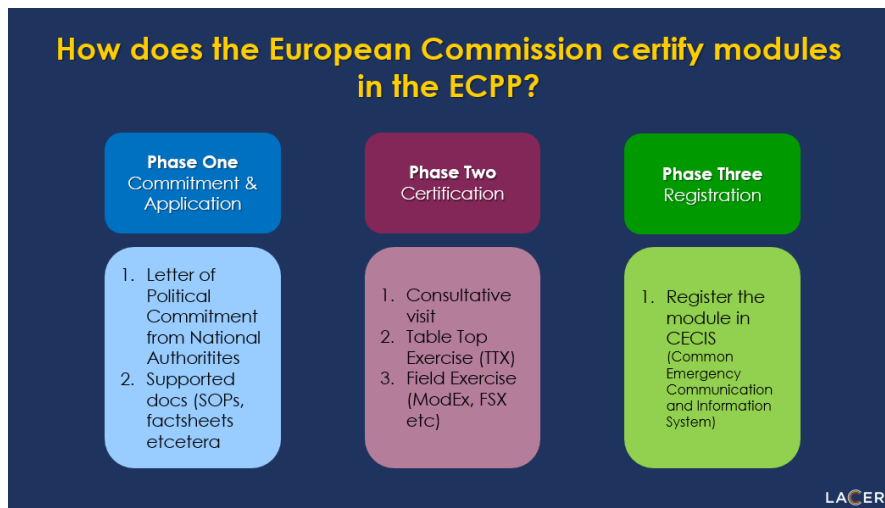
At the ERCC, the LACER Team Leader received a briefing from Laurent Diho, the expert responsible for design of CECIS 2.0. This started with a brief introduction to LACER project and functions of the ASEAN Web-EOC. Laurent Diho then presented the ongoing transition to CECIS 2.0, expected to be completed in November. This included the rationale for creating CECIS 2.0, the main objectives of the new system, an extensive discussion on the CECIS architecture based on the presented slides, with Laurent focused on sharing the new functions of the 2.0 architecture. The information received will form the basis of a coming activity which shares experiences between ASEAN Web-EOC and CECIS.

Deputy Project Program Manager Kriztin Solberg also received a showing of the ERCC's office and Operation room by Crister Brown and talked about the ongoing operations.

Component 4 Activities - Standards and Certification (H1.4)

On 7 June, LACER arranged a brown-bag webinar with the ASCEND team (ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management). The event attracted more than 40 participants from all ASEAN member states (first time for such broad participation!), AHA Centre and the ASEAN Secretariat. LACER experts Fredrik Zäll (leader of EU training package on DRM competencies at MSB) and Anna Gustavsson (expert in roster development) presented at the event, while the ASCEND team under Andrew Mardanugraha shared information on ASEAN's long-term project to develop regionally curated competency profiles and a system for assessing and certifying applicants which is mutually recognized across the region.

The webinar brought to light two key differences between EU and ASEAN approaches. First, ASEAN does not collectively undertake training leading to competency certification, while the EU process includes both training and certification. Secondly, ASEAN's focus is on individual certification while the EU approach prioritises the development and certification of modules which encompass both individuals and material assets. However, several key similarities were also identified. Both regional bodies are increasingly developing a dual system of deployable and non-deployable resources, which impacts the training and certification processes. In addition ASEAN has planned for the development of module based training and certification, like the EU approach, which is outlined in SASOP (Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements) but not yet realised.



“Engaging dialogue”, “an interesting sharing of experiences between ASEAN and EU”, and a “useful opening of a new channel of communication” were just some of the reflections shared following the LACER webinar. Based on recognition of substantial benefits from continued sharing of experiences, LACER experts and the ASCEND team agreed to continue collaborating on the issue of developing competency profiles, training and certification for use in DRM.

Communication and visibility

The LACER communications team maintained its continuous efforts to channel activities through social media. In conjunction with the successful GPDRR side event, multiple postings were made on LinkedIn as well as an article circulated on the project website and LinkedIn. Please see:

<https://www.lacerproject.eu/sv/news/global-platform-for-disaster-risk-reduction/>



LACER at the GPDRR 2022

LACER further published social media entries for the briefing on EU standards and certification together with the ASCEND team. For further details, see:

<https://www.lacerproject.eu/sv/news/webinar-on-european-training-and-certification-procedures/>

Related to participation in the EU Civil Protection Forum, LACER project and staff received several mentions in the printed program, while LinkedIn postings highlighted the results of the event.



Charles Silva • You
 Leader of humanitarian operations, civil protection and capacity development
 now • 5

The warm-up session of the 7th Civil Protection Forum entitled "Europe in the World: The UCPM as a regional cooperation model" took place on 27 June 2022 in hybrid form with participants from Western Balkans, Turkey, Eastern Partnership and Southern Neighbourhood countries. A key takeaway: the importance of building alliances, pooling response resources, and developing a full range of DRM measures has become something of a truism, but all the while we are still searching for a framework for these effects in southern Europe and also globally. These structures need to be established and rehearsed before the disaster strikes.
 #cpforum #lacerproject #ahacentre #msb



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