

Monthly progress update

January 2021

Leveraging ASEAN Capacities for
Emergency Response (LACER)

EuropeAid/161170/DD/ACT/Multi



This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the LACER Consortium and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

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.

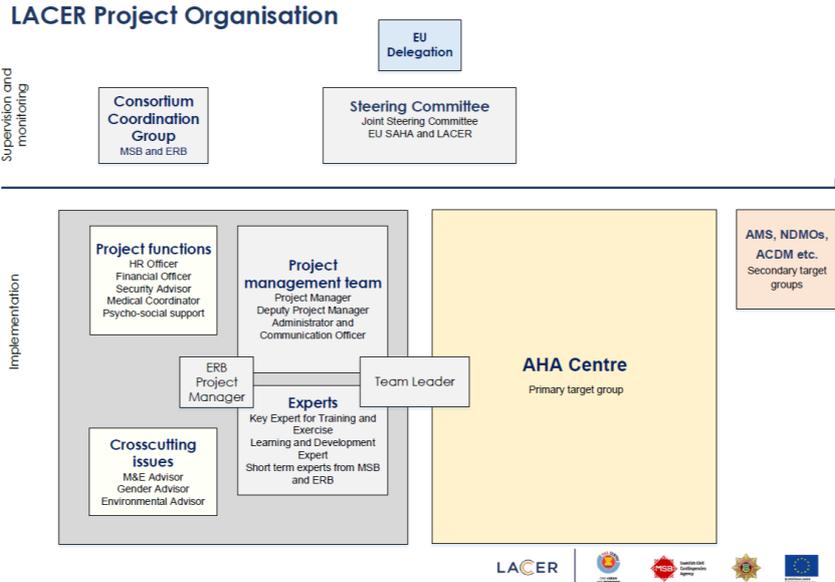
The project is implemented by a Consortium consisting of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agencies (MSB), as lead, jointly with the Estonian Rescue Board (ERB). It is a component of the overall EU programme “Integrated Programme in Enhancing the Capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanisms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

The project consists of the following four 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 months lifespan and started on March 1, 2020.

Fig 1. Illustration of the LACER project organisation structure



Project progress update for the period January 2021

The project is in full implementation phase, with several exciting ongoing processes as illustrated in the activity plan for 2021. All activities are fully aligned with the priorities in the AADMER work programme for 2021 – 2025. During the period there have been frequent contacts with the AHA Centre, as well as other partners to plan upcoming activities.

First ERCC webinar

On 26 January, a first webinar with the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) was arranged within the framework of the project. The webinar focused on the institutional journey from the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) to the ERCC – sharing experiences and lessons learned.

“Together we are stronger than separated”

Mr. Ionut Homeag, ERCC Team Leader highlighted collective response as more efficient than individual action. Strong support from the member and participating states, political and financial commitment and structured lessons learned processes were raised as some of the key factors. Useful experiences and valuable lessons learned on the institutional journey from the MIC to the ERCC, its developments and it they stand today, including acknowledging how successful response is achieved through communication and coordination was shared. The importance of training and the frequency of major emergencies as a way to test and boost capabilities and capacities was also stressed.

The some 40 participants showed great interest in the webinar with immediate positive feedback.



Upcoming webinars

The project plans to arrange follow-up webinars to cover related topics such as the duty officer function, and technical aspects. Discussions on identified needs are ongoing with the AHA Centre, the ERCC and other possible partners.

Learning and Development Expert

The project has recruited a learning and development expert, with special expertise on adult learning or andragogy. She also has profound knowledge of organising online activities, which will be very valuable especially in times of restricted travel possibilities.

Communication and visibility

During the reporting period the following communication and visibility activities have been carried out.

Date	Target Group	Activity
January	AHA Centre followers	Posts on the ERCC webinar were posted on AHA Centre social media.
January	Swedish public	Preparatory contacts have been taken for a slot on the LACER project in Swedish radio during February.

