

# Monthly progress update

June 2021

Leveraging ASEAN Capacities for  
Emergency Response (LACER)

EuropeAid/161170/DD/ACT/Multi

LACER



*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.

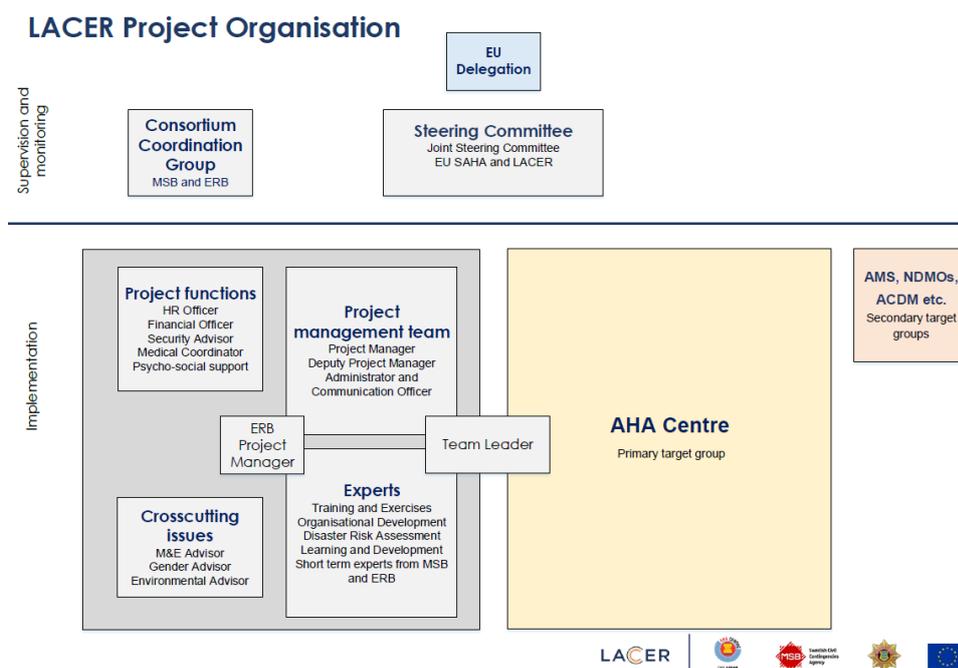
The project is implemented by a Consortium consisting of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agencies (MSB), as lead, jointly with the Estonian Rescue Board (ERB). It is a component of the overall EU programme “*Integrated Programme in Enhancing the Capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanisms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

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

Fig 1. Illustration of the LACER project organisation structure



## Project progress update for the period June 2021

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.

### Strategic planning and donor coordination – mapping & comparing institutional frameworks for the AHA Centre and ERCC

The second session on strategic planning was held on 15 June, attended by 24 persons including participants from all divisions of the AHA Centre and several members of the LACER team. The workshop was opened by Guillaume Barraut, responsible manager for EU SAHA and LACER at the EU delegation in Jakarta.

The purpose of the workshop was to present, map and compare the institutional frameworks, i.e. legislative requirements, guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the AHA Centre and the ERCC/EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). The analysis was confined to the five functions of the previously described DRM tool most related to the LACER project, namely: *risk assessment, monitoring, impact assessment, preparedness and response*. The AHA Centre presented their institutional framework relating to the function of risk assessments, and Peter Månsson did the same with regards to the ERCC/UCPM etc. These presentations were followed by group discussions where participants discussed the following items.

- What similarities and differences between the policies/SOPs of the AHA Centre and the ERCC/UCPM did you perceive?
- Are there any ERCC/UCPM ideas/processes that you find particularly interesting to adopt and why?
- Are there additional ideas/processes (beyond the ones present in the ERCC/UCPM policies/SOPs) that should be adopted and why?
- Are there anything in the current AHA policies/SOPs that are redundant or ought to be changed and why?

Similarities and differences between the AHA Centre and ERCC were then discussed concerning risk assessment, monitoring, impact assessment, preparedness and response.

The AHA Centre was encouraged to share the recording of the workshop and presentation about the ERCC/UCPM to further reflect upon the differences between the institutional frameworks of the AHA Centre and the ERCC/UCPM and potential avenues for enhancing the AHA Centre's framework with regards to the functions. The AHA Centre was also encouraged to generate a list of prioritised ideas on how to further enhance the institutional framework of the AHA Centre.

## Donor Coordination

The final workshop on strategic planning will focus on donor coordination. The purpose is to clarify in what respects (for which functions of the DRM tool) the AHA Centre receives support and from whom in order to detect potential overlaps and gaps that needs to be addressed. In addition, the workshop will leave room for discussions on aspects to consider when choosing partners and methodologies as basis for capacity development.

## Regional risks and emergency coordination

A concept note for two activities related to emergency coordination and risk assessment has been developed, namely D2.1 Presentation and discussion on European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) risk assessment guidelines and D2.2. Virtual study visit at JRC. The activities are planned to take place in August 2021. LACER is waiting for a reply from the Disaster Monitoring and Analysis unit at the AHA Centre.

On emergency coordination and evaluation of the emergency operating centre, (Activity D1.1), a concept note has been shared and is currently being discussed with the said unit in order to proceed with the next steps.

## Induction training

The induction training is planned to be preceded by a training of trainers with selected personnel at the AHA Centre acting as facilitators/trainers. The plan was to roll out one training of trainers in June and a follow-up training prior to the start of the induction training. However, this has not been possible to finalise since the HR focal point at the AHA Centre has decided not to prolong her contract.

## Recruitment of new Team leader for LACER

MSB is in the final stages of recruitment of the new Team leader. The final candidate will be presented to the AHA Centre for an interview.

## Communication and visibility

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

Date	Target Group	Activity
June		LACER project raised at the Meeting of Directors General for Civil Protection of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, 2 June 2021.
	The Column target audience	The article <i>"The AHA Centre and ERCC, sharing the same values and DNA - Pooling regional resources essential in disaster management"</i> published. Positive feedback from the ERCC received for the visibility.  An article on ERB <i>"The turbulent year 2020"</i> will be published in the Column.
	The AHA Centre, EU, other partners and stakeholders	A "Meet the experts" interview with Martin Sjöholm, Training and Exercise Expert, published on <a href="http://www.lacerproject.eu">www.lacerproject.eu</a> , and will possibly be published in the AHA Centre's the column and newsletter.