

22nd May 2015

Global Crisis Response Support Programme Launched

3rd - 8th May 2015

Brussels, Belgium – Representatives from four Caribbean Community (CARICOM) agencies ([IMPACS](#), [CDEMA](#), [CARPHA](#) and [RSS](#)) and the Organization of American States ([OAS](#)) participated in the official launch of the Global Crisis Response Support Programme (GCRSP) in Brussels. The GCRSP is a programme which aims to build and strengthen crisis response and early warning capacity in the Latin American and Caribbean regions.

This event was the occasion for the initial programme steering committee meeting. During this meeting CARICOM, OAS, EEAS, the Foreign Policy Instrument (FPI.2) and the GCRSP project team agreed on the programme's general scope and on a tentative roadmap for implementing the programme. The initial capacity development activities will start at the end of June 2015 and are scheduled to run until December 2016.

During the week-long event OAS and CARICOM representatives had the opportunity to meet and build networks with relevant stakeholders from the European Crisis Response Mechanisms from EEAS and DG ECHO, amongst others. There was also the opportunity to attend the Civil Protection Forum 2015 where participants took part in various panel discussions and established connections with representatives from the EU funded project ASEAN-EU Emergency Management Programme (AEEMP) who were also present in Brussels.

Technical visits and dialogue sessions took place during the week at DG ECHO's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) and at the EEAS Situation Room. Additionally there were working sessions with the European Joint Research Centre's Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen (JRC-IPSC) on media monitoring and early warning systems. These activities established a good base to work with over the coming months.

The Global Crisis Response Support Programme (GCRSP) is a two-year capacity development initiative of the European Union to support Latin American and Caribbean regional organizations and their Member States to enhance their conflict and disaster early-warning capabilities through tailored human capacity development measures. The programme aims to improve the interconnectivity between crisis response centres and early-warning/situation awareness facilities within the region as well as strengthen cooperation with the EU Crisis Room and other EU institutions in the field of crisis response and early warning. Activities include training, workshops and technical information sessions in Europe covering risk and scenario analysis, early warning, conflict analysis, open source information, knowledge management, and other related topics. The GCRSP has a global approach; the present project however is focussing on the Latin American and Caribbean Region. GCRSP is funded by the European Union and managed by the EUNIDA network.

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