

19-21 September , Bucharest, Romania

Meeting Overview

More than 140 participants from over 58 countries and organisations working on urban search and rescue (USAR) gathered for the annual International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Team Leaders Meeting in Bucharest, Romania from 19-21 September 2018 (Participants list in **Annex A**). The meeting is convened to discuss technical issues on the INSARAG Guidelines, share updates and best practices to move INSARAG forward, and include relevant lessons learned from previous USAR operations and training exercises.

This meeting was hosted by the Department for Emergency Situations within the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs, through the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations and co-organised by Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in its capacity as the INSARAG Secretariat located within the Emergency Response Partnerships Section (**ERPS**) of the Emergency Response Support Branch (**ERSB**), Coordination Division (**CD**) of Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (**OCHA**) Geneva.

Summary of Presentations and Discussions

DAY 1 – 19 September 2018 Sessions

Official Opening

The Romanian State Secretary Mr. Raed Arafat, Head of Department for Emergency Situations, Ministry of Interior Affairs and Brig. Gen. Dan-Paul Lamandi, General Inspector of General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, Ministry of Interior Affairs opened the meeting and warmly welcomed the INSARAG Team Leader's Meeting 2018 participants to Bucharest and outlined the important work of INSARAG in preparedness and response.

Mr. Jesper Lund, Chief of the Emergency Response Partnerships Section(ERPS) and the INSARAG Secretariat OCHA Geneva, thanked the Government of Romania for hosting this important meeting and shared and outlined INSARAG's significant position as a model in the humanitarian response community with agreed quality standards for USAR response at all levels. He also highlighted the key issues that team leaders will be consulted on in the 3-day meeting.

Romania and the Secretariat facilitated the introduction of all the participants, and the agenda for the Team Leaders meeting was adopted (Meeting Agenda in **Annex B**).

1. INSARAG in 2018

Mr. Lund updated the meeting on achievements at the global level and reported on strategic directions from the INSARAG Steering Group(ISG) 2018 meeting and global developments in INSARAG.

2. Update from Working Groups Chairs- Work done

The 5 working group chairs and representatives of Training, Medical, Information Management, Light Teams and Guidelines Review Group presented updates on their assigned work:

- i. **Training Working Group (TWG)** - Mr. Dewey Perks, from the United States and Chair of the Training Working Group (TWG), updated the activities of the TWG. He reiterated the need for regions to take ownership of the conduct of new methodologies i.e. UC System and seek regional and global support as necessary, to have suitable members from INSARAG teams trained in the UC system.

- ii. **Medical Working Group (MWG)** - Dr. Rudi Coninx, from the WHO and acting Chair of the Medical Working Group (MWG), updated their activities (revision of the Patient treatment form, Defining Urban Search and Rescue Medicine, request to practice USAR Medicine letter), and stressed the close work and collaboration with the WHO Safe Hospital Program. The MWG developed a rapid assessment form to assess hospital structures, based on the Safe Hospitals form, to be used by USAR teams as part of their “beyond the rubble” activities.

Additional suitable members from the Americas and Pacific are welcome to apply to join the MWG.

- iii. **Light Teams Working Group (LTWG)** - Mr. Arjan Stam, from the Netherlands and the Chair of the Light Team Working Group (LTWG), updated the ongoing discussions among the LTWG. The Draft Checklist for IEC of Light Teams will be shared and consulted for feedback, and will finalise recommendations to ISG 2019 for endorsement. The IEC process for interested light teams will be in accordance to the same procedures if teams would apply for Medium or Heavy classification, in accordance to the Guidelines Vol II, Manual C -IEC/R. Suitable Light Teams may apply for IEC with approval from their country policy focal point directly, if their countries have no intention to seek for an INSARAG National Accreditation Process (NAP).
- iv. **Information Management WG-** Mr. Peter Wolff, from THW Germany, provided an update on the trial results on data collection (and analysis) in recent INSARAG earthquake exercises and pleased to report that teams are better prepared and willing to adopt new technologies. The new USAR Information Management “Dashboard” will be introduced once arrangements on the company supplying the software are finalised and agreed upon by donors. This will facilitate the work of information management in the UCC and more details on this platform leveraging on the use of software technologies, will be introduced to the INSARAG and UNDAC network.
- v. **Guidelines Review Group** -Mr. David Sochor from Switzerland, and Mr. Anwar Abdullah from Singapore, Co-Chairs of the Guidelines Review Group (GRG) introduced the activities of the GRG. The group will be working on seeking valuable feedback from the network through extensive global consultations to ensure that best practices and valuable ideas are captured for the guidelines revision due in 2020.

Links to Documents, Presentations and Photos:

- a. All INSARAG Working Group meeting summaries and products are available in <https://www.insarag.org/global-structures/working-group>
- b. All presentations from the TL meeting 2018 can be accessed here: https://vosocc.unocha.org/GetFile.aspx?xml=5396tYzKrDw6BLn5eaT820idgeJQlknI_G1pOjFgGD7H010cx_I1.html&tid=5396&laid=1
- c. All Photos of the meeting, courtesy of Romania, can be found here: <http://portal.undac.org/pssuportal/portalrest/filessharing/download/public/XzUEGcqndwrUk27>

3. Break-out discussions – Session 1

Mr. Dewey Perks from the Training Working Group (TWG), Mr. David Sochor from the Guidelines Review Group (GRG) and Mr. Arjan Stam from the Light Teams Working Group (LTWG), moderated the break-out discussion topics together with members from the working groups and the INSARAG network.

The three break-out discussions were organised as listed below. All the participants were divided into 3 groups, and the groups rotated covering all the three topics:

- Station 1: Improving the (INSARAG)System and Checklist – TWG Lead (*Dewey Perks*)
- Station 2: Technical Guidelines Reference Library – GRG Lead (*David Sochor*)
- Station 3: Light teams Quality Assurance IEC Process – LTWG Lead (*Arjan Stam*)

The summary of the discussions is in Annex C1, C2 and C3.

DAY 2 – 20 September 2018 Sessions

4. **Presentation: National Accreditation Process(NAP) - ISG Approved Areas and Countries Implementation - As Local as Possible.** Mr Sebastian Mocarquer(moderator), Mr. Peter Goxharaj, Mr Christophe Debray and Mr Jesper Lund discussed the key developments related to the National Accreditation Process. INSARAG can be more effective in front line life-saving in sudden onset emergencies with trained national first responders adopting INSARAG standards. ***Countries are strongly encouraged to adopt these for strengthening national capacities as the first step, prior to any IEC intent.***

Full guidelines on the NAP can be found here: <http://www.insarag.org/capacity-building/national-guidelines>

5. **Presentation: Preparing for the First Light Team IEC – GEA Team-** Ms. Annika Eriksson(moderator), Mr. Arjan Stam, Mr. Cem Behar and Mr. Christopher Debray (representing France as the current AEME Regional Chair) discussed the key developments related to the Classification of Light Teams and the developments related to the First Light Team IEC, which would be go throughout the IEC Process – GEA Team, Turkey. The Draft Light Team IEC Checklist discussed in the meeting is attached in Annex C -2.

NGO teams from Canada and Germany (@Fire Germany; jointly with the Swiss Rescue IER in 2020-and reported by Switzerland) have indicated their intent to apply for the IEC of Light Teams. The Secretariat will register this when the request is consulted and approved by their respective National Focal Points, with an official request to the Secretariat from them.

Details on the developments on the Light Teams Classification can be found here: <http://www.insarag.org/global-structures/working-group/light-team-working-group>

6. **Discussion: IER in EU MODEX – Overview and Lessons –** Mr. Jacob Bolwinkel(moderator), Mr. Rik Telamon, Mr. Tasdemir Belit and Mr. Marius Dogeanu discussed the processes in their respective capacities as Exercise planner, IER TL, Upcoming IER team participating team on lessons in the IER experience in EU MODEX. Lessons to be reinforced include:
 - a. To avoid ambiguity in arrangements, early stakeholder engagements during exercise planning and dissemination of information and professional management of classifiers requirements on site,
 - b. focal point i.e. exercise control with authority and flexibility to add/modify the rescue scenario/inject be identified well in advance and engage the classifiers early on and be available to the team on site,
 - c. Advantages of EU cooperation, interoperability, road deployment opportunity for a bigger number of team members and not least, funding support/subsidy

The meeting welcomed this cooperation and acknowledges the strengths and benefits of this EU-INSARAG arrangements, while aware that there are still areas that can be further considered and improved. To refine the partnership and to future exercises, the meeting requested the EU to jointly with INSARAG develop the “INSARAG IER in EU MODEX Guidelines” for future teams and to bring together all stakeholders early into the exercise planning process.

7. **Presentation: Coordinating USAR operations in the Mexico Earthquake: Experience of the Álvaro Obregón 286 Building.”** Mr. Jose Manuel Martinez Murillo, Team Leader of USAR Jalisco, Mexico shared in Spanish on the key lessons from the Earthquake in Mexico and the coordination of USAR operations during the response. (special thanks to Mr Sebastian Mocarquer for interpreting the session to English) **More information on the response can be found here:** <https://proteccioncivil.jalisco.gob.mx/>

8. **Presentation: (INSARAG) and IEC/R Quality Assurance System - Managing Expectations.** Mr. Paul Burns(moderator), Mr. David Sochor, Mr. Dewey Perks, Mr. Chew Keng Tok, Ms. Marie Mure and Mr. Jesper Lund formed the panel to share and discuss ways to better managing the IEC/R Process and ensure Uniform Quality Assurance. The main points focused on how we can strengthen the work of INSARAG.

Recommendations for the IER Process discussed, include:

- 1) How engaged and involved is the team in the past 5 years – participation in INSARAG exercises, trainings, meetings, actual deployment, etc.
- 2) Improvements made to the “yellows” and Advisory notes;
- 3) New improvements and new updated technologies and equipment added;
- 4) Manpower changes, and evidence of leadership/skills continuity;
- 5) BoO establishment be made **optional**;
- 6) 36-hour Exercise – **NO** Change;
- 7) Pre-Greening Item 1-6 - Mentors responsibility;
- 8) **Regional ownership** and contributions critical to sustain the ever increasing IERs;
- 9) **Training** necessary for the EXCON Planning Group of the IER;
- 10) Possible “**Key Indicators**” be identified;
- 11) Advisory note as opposed to **colours**?

The Recommendations will be discussed at the regional meetings in 2018 and ISG meeting in February 2019.

9. **Break-out technical discussions -Session 2**

The three break-out discussions were organised as listed below. All the participants were divided into 3 groups, and the groups rotated covering all the three topics:

- Station 1: Establishing RDC Exercise – (Solveig Thorvaldsdottir, Tsukasa Katsube, Jacob Bolwinkel and Daniel Gheorghita.
- Station 2: Experience and Lessons from the KOBO/IM Courses, INSARAG ERE's and New Technologies for IM-USAR Operations – (Peter Wolff, Jeff Maunder, Martijn Boer and Luigi Bruno)
- Station 3: Establishing UCC – (Dewey Perks, Kira Chebakova, Greame Hall, Chew Keng Tok and Cristea Gugoasa.

The summary and recommendations from Session 2 Discussions are in Annex D1, D2 and D3.

DAY 3 – 21 September 2018 Sessions

10. **Technical Break-out discussions Session 3**

Ms. Aparna Tandom and Ms. Zeyneb Unal representing UNESCO's Disaster Response Mechanisms, Mr Peter Goxharaj, Mr. Marcin Kedra and Mr. Vlad Petre moderated the respective break-out discussion topics listed below. All the participants were divided into 3 groups, and the groups rotated covering:

Station 1: UNESCO and Protecting Cultural Heritage in Earthquakes – (Aparna Tandom and Zeyneb Unal)

Station 2: Structural Engineering Course in Poggioreale, Italy, Lessons learnt (Peter Goxharaj)

Station 3: Feedback to the 2020 INSARAG Global Meeting in Poland – What do we want to achieve at the technical level, and suggestions to the INSARAG Strategy 2020-25. (Marcin Kedra and Mr. Vlad Petre)

The summary and recommendations from the discussions are in Annex E1, E2 and E3.

11. **Presentation: Romania General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations - National Disaster Response Arrangements.** The Romanian State Secretary Mr. Raed Arafat, Head of Department for Emergency Situations shared about Romania's Emergency Response arrangements.

12. Plenary discussion: Additional Suggestions and Assignments to the INSARAG Working Groups

Working Groups will continue the work as highlighted in their reports earlier, and support strongly on the work of the guidelines review and implementation. Training of IEC/R Team Leaders and Mentors will also be a key focus area in 2019, while supporting the regions in UC/IM trainings to prepare teams for their IER.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBER STATES

	<i>Country</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Tentative Date</i>
<i>2018</i>			
1	France	AEME Regional Meeting	17-18 th October
2	Indonesia	AP Regional UC Course	15-19 th October
3	Mexico	Americas Regional Meeting	5-6 th November
4	Azerbaijan	AEME Regional UC Course	5-9 th November
5	Armenia	AEME Regional ERE	5-7 th December
<i>2019</i>			
6	Poland	Preparation meeting for the Global Meeting 2020 in Warsaw in January 2019	15-16 th January
7	Chile	Team Leaders Meeting	TBC
8	Australia	AP Regional Meeting	TBC
9	Russian Federation	AEME Regional UC Course	TBC
10	Thailand	AP Regional ERE	TBC
<p><i>Members are strongly encouraged to share relevant training opportunities with the network and Inform the Secretariat when there are new events that we can share with the network from Http://insarag.org</i></p>			

14. Development of Team Leaders Meeting Summary and Closing Statements, Invitation from Members States on hosting the Team Leaders meeting 2019

Host Country and OCHA - INSARAG Secretariat

Mr. Chang (OCHA, ERPS) informed the meeting that the draft Key Points and Recommendations on the 3 discussion sessions are listed in the Annexes of the TL Meeting Summary 2018. ERPS will circulate the draft Chairman's Summary for comments in the coming week.

Host of TL Meeting 2019 – Chile, represented by Mr. Alejandro Artigas and Mr. Patricio Fuentes confirmed Chile's position to host the INSARAG Team Leaders Meeting in 2019 in Santiago, and welcomed all participants to the meeting.

15. Closing Remarks

Mr Winston Chang representing OCHA and the INSARAG Secretariat conveyed OCHA's appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Romania and the Department for Emergency Situations within the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs, through the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations for hosting and co-organising this meeting. He further thanked all working groups and facilitators for strongly assisting in facilitating and moderating the meeting sessions, and for all 130 participants who have come from 58 countries and organisations, for their very constructive feedback and consultations in the meeting.

Romania's State Secretary Dr Arafad congratulated the participants for the fruitful meetings in the last three days. He emphasised the importance of national capacity building and better coordination of USAR activities to minimise the damage caused by natural disasters and strengthening of the network. He expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone for participating and for their contributions to a successful meeting, and officially closed the meeting.

Participants Online Feedback: To help the INSARAG Secretariat and organisers plan for future meetings, all participants are also kindly requested to take a few minutes to fill in the Participants Feedback Survey through the following link:

<https://vosocc.unocha.org/VOLogin.aspx?suk=xxxslashVL25eFKjSf0YpSxxxslashc4KRu3wEq8axqSWh7529VBaPDBEcwwlSRqJ5XeI8NqBTLGpymfliOfiyz8kxdK5KV6XPGgxxequalxxequal>

Thank you in advance!

ANNEXES:

Annex A: Participants List

Annex B: Meeting Agenda

Annexes C1, C2 and C3: Summary and Recommendations of Breakout Session 1

Annexes D1, D2 and D3: Summary and Recommendations of Breakout Session 2

Annexes E1, E2 and E3: Summary and Recommendations of Breakout Session 3
