



## PRESS RELEASE

May 24, 2011

**Subject: Initial Regional Conference for Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Coordination in Disaster Risk Reduction in South East Europe – invitation**

Dear,

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the **Initial Regional Conference for Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Coordination in Disaster Risk Reduction in South East Europe** to be held in the frame of the *Regional Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in South East Europe* project that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is implementing in cooperation with World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the European Commission, together with respective IPA beneficiary partners in the SEE region. The project received funding from the European Union.

The Initial Regional Conference is organized by Balkans Institute for Risk Assessment and Emergency Management (BIEM), in cooperation with UNDP, Departments of Emergency Situations of the countries of the South-East Europe and Save the Children Norway, South East Europe Regional Office.

The Regional Conference for Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction, hereinafter: the Conference, will be held on

**01 June 2011, from 09:00 to 16:45 hours**

**at Palace of Serbia (the SIV building), Belgrade**

The main objective of the conference will be to discuss disaster risk reduction issues in South East Europe in the context of regional cooperation and development of partnerships and capacity building in the region, with presentation of the Draft proposal for Regional Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction in South East Europe, developed by the UNDP consultant based on contributions agreed on at the 8 National Policy Dialogues held in the 8 IPA beneficiaries within the above-mentioned project.

At the conference, along with heads of emergency services from the countries of Southeast Europe, expect the relevant government representatives, international organizations and initiatives, as well as the academic community.

We hope that you will be able to support with your presence joint initiative that is the basis for further development in the implementation of common systems and mechanisms for the protection of human life, with emphasis on vulnerable groups, especially the protection and rescue of children, preservation of cultural heritage and property in case of natural or anthropogenic disasters in the region, in accordance with the guidelines of the global platform, the European Forum and the Hyogo Framework for Action in the field of civil protection and disaster risk reduction.

Sincerely,

Director  
MILICA KATIĆ

BALKANS INSTITUTE FOR RISK ASSESSMENT  
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT