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## Kick-off report

The EU-funded Twinning project “Strengthening the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus”. was officially launched in Belarus on 12 March 2020. The Kick-off meeting was held at the University of Civil Protection of the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus.

In accordance with agenda (Annex 1) the Kick-off meeting started with interviews to Belarusian media (Annex 2) given by:

- Mr Aleksandr Khudoleev, First Deputy Minister for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus, Beneficiary Country Project Leader
- Mr Dirk Schuebel, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Belarus
- Mr Christer Michelsson, Ambassador of Finland to the Republic of Belarus and Lithuania
- Mr Robert Stocker, Austrian Project Leader



### Welcome addresses

Mr Aleksandr Khudoleev welcomed the participants and emphasized how Belarusian rescue services can benefit from the EU Twinning project which is another big stage in cooperation with European colleagues. The MES has been involved in implementation of over 10 EU projects worth of 20 million EUR, e.g. on cross-border issues.



Mr Dirk Schuebel reminded that EU Twinning instrument has been used for over 20 years. It’s an excellent platform for specialists speaking the same language and one of the most successful and most used tools for supporting the European Union's neighboring countries and regions.

Mr Robert Stocker focused on possibilities to share experiences and best practices between the civil protection services, e.g. Coronavirus and Syrian humanitarian crisis, practice of humanitarian aid.

Ms Aloisia Wörgetter, Ambassador of Austria to the Republic of Belarus, referred to good cooperation between Belarus and Austria in the past health emergencies when the countries worked well together, e.g. Tchernobyl NPP disaster.

Mr Christer Michelsson, informed that since 1998 Finland has been active in EU Twinning projects and participated in more than 200 Twinning projects. He is looking forward to the successful implementation of the first Twinning project in Belarus with Finnish involvement.

Mr Jari Honkanen, Finnish Junior Project Leader, pointed out that international projects are two-way benefit and serve as training opportunities for Finnish participating experts, who can share their knowledge and at the same time can learn from the other project partners.



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Project collaboration helps building new networks, essential for joint projects and cross-border cooperation.

### Project presentation

Ms Tatsiana Surykava, RTA Counterpart, started the presentation by describing the MES structure and functions. Then she spoke about the project team, main activities within 4 components, total number of STEs, missions and study visits.



Mr Esa Ahlberg, Resident Twinning Adviser, informed on the current progress, first missions completed and first feedback received, general course of project implementation. He said that the sustainability of the project is important, and the results achieved must be maintained after the project implementation.

At the end of the meeting both MS and BC Project Leaders wished to all members of the Twinning team active work in the coming 2-year period and efficient achievement of the project mandatory results.

After the meeting the guests had the possibility to take part in a guided tour around the University of Civil Protection of the MES.





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## Annex 1

# EU Twinning project “Strengthening the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus”

Kick-off meeting

**March 12, 2020 at 9:30**

University of Civil Protection of the MES  
25 Mashinostroiteley str., 220118, Minsk

### AGENDA

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
9:00	Registration	
9:30	Media event	
10:00	Welcome addresses	<p><b>Mr Aleksandr Khudoleev</b> First Deputy Minister for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus, Beneficiary Country Project Leader</p> <p><b>Mr Dirk Schuebel</b> Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Belarus</p> <p><b>Mr Robert Stocker</b> Austrian Project Leader</p> <p><b>Ms Aloisia Wörgetter</b> Ambassador of Austria to the Republic of Belarus</p> <p><b>Mr Christer Michelsson</b> Ambassador of Finland to the Republic of Belarus and Lithuania</p>
10:30	EU Twinning Project presentation: general overview, project participants, objectives, main activities within components, mandatory results	<p><b>Mr Robert Stocker</b> Austrian Project Leader</p> <p><b>Mr Jari Honkanen</b> Finnish Junior Project Leader</p> <p><b>Ms Tatsiana Surykava</b> Resident Twinning Adviser Counterpart</p> <p><b>Mr Esa Ahlberg</b> Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA)</p>
11:00	Q&A session	
11:30	Buffet lunch	
12:30	Optional one-hour tour around the University of Civil Protection	

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided from English into Russian and vice versa



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## Annex 2

### Kick-off meeting

#### List of participants

No	Organisation	Name	Position	Contact information
1.	Federal Ministry of Interior, Austria	Mr Robert Stocker	Head of Department, Crisis and Disaster Management, Civil Contingency Coordination, MS Project Leader	<a href="mailto:Robert.Stocker@bmi.gv.at">Robert.Stocker@bmi.gv.at</a>
2.	Ministry of Interior, Finland	Mr Jari Honkanen	Senior Specialist, International Affairs Unit, Junior Project Leader	<a href="mailto:Jari.Honkanen@intermin.fi">Jari.Honkanen@intermin.fi</a>
3.	AEI	Mr Dragan Kovačević	Project Manager	<a href="mailto:dragan.kovacevic@aei.at">dragan.kovacevic@aei.at</a>
4.	Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki	Ms Harriet Lonka	R&D Specialist	<a href="mailto:harriet.lonka@laurea.fi">harriet.lonka@laurea.fi</a>
5.		Mr Matti Kropsu	Border Security Specialist	<a href="mailto:matti.kropsu1@gmail.com">matti.kropsu1@gmail.com</a>
6.	Delegation of the EU to Belarus	Mr Dirk Schuebel	Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Belarus	
7.		Mr Berend de Groot	Head of Cooperation	<a href="mailto:Berend.de-Groot@eeas.europa.eu">Berend.de-Groot@eeas.europa.eu</a>
8.		Ms Natallia Stasevich	Project Manager	<a href="mailto:Natallia.STASEVICH@eeas.europa.eu">Natallia.STASEVICH@eeas.europa.eu</a>
9.	Embassy of Austria to Belarus	Ms Aloisia Wörgetter	Ambassador	<a href="mailto:aloesia.woergetter@bmeia.gv.at">aloesia.woergetter@bmeia.gv.at</a>
10.	Embassy of Finland to Lithuania and Belarus	Mr Christer Michelsson	Ambassador	<a href="mailto:christer.michelsson@formin.fi">christer.michelsson@formin.fi</a>
11.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Mr Vitaly Kniazev	First Secretary, European Cooperation Department, Directorate General for Europe and Northern America	Tel. +375 17 327 56 66 <a href="mailto:uos@mfa.gov.by">uos@mfa.gov.by</a>
12.	State Border Committee	Mr Andrei Konnov	Head, International Cooperation Department	<a href="mailto:belarussbc@tut.by">belarussbc@tut.by</a>
13.		Mr Taras Serediuk	Deputy Head, International Cooperation Department	<a href="mailto:belarussbc@tut.by">belarussbc@tut.by</a>
14.	State Customs Committee	Ms Elena Korol	Head of Sector on International Technical Assistance, General Finance and Control Department	+375 29 783 47 95
15.	NTA Centre of EU projects	Ms Svetlana Shotskaya	Chief specialist	<a href="mailto:svshotskaya@tut.by">svshotskaya@tut.by</a>





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16.	Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus	Mr Alexandr Khudoleev	First Deputy Minister <b>BC Project Leader</b>	
17.		Mr Andrey Sadovsky	UCP Press Secretary	
18.		Mr Andrey Yurzhyts	<b>Component Leader 1</b> , Head, Directorate of Emergency Prevention, Response and Civil Defense	+375 33 312 02 97
19.		Ms Larisa Basalaj	Chief Specialist, Directorate of Emergency Prevention, Response and Civil Defense	+375 29 618 20 38
20.		Ms Olga Shabailova	Head, Legal Department	+375 29 550 10 83
21.		Mr Ivan Palevoda	<b>Component Leader 2</b> Head, University of Civil Protection	<a href="mailto:ip@ucp.by">ip@ucp.by</a>
22.		Mr Sergei Pastukhou	Fiets Deputy Head, University of Civil Protection	+375 29 122 27 57
23.		Mr Denis Lemeshevsky	Sector on International Cooperation, University of Civil Protection	+375 29 826 90 56
24.		Mr Nikolay Olesiyuk	Sector on International Cooperation, University of Civil Protection	+375 29 384 06 67
25.		Mr Igor Khodanovich	<b>Component Leader 3</b> Head, National Crisis Management Centre	<a href="mailto:erc@mchs.gov.by">erc@mchs.gov.by</a>
26.		Mr Sergey Novik	<b>Component Leader 4</b> Head, Rescue and Emergency Response Management Department	
27.		Mr Alexandr Liudko	Head, International Cooperation Sector, Republican Special Operations Unit (ROSN)	
28.		Mr Dmitry Tkachuk	Head, International Cooperation Department	<a href="mailto:icd@mchs.gov.by">icd@mchs.gov.by</a>
29.		Ms Tatsiana Surykava	RTA Counterpart, International Cooperation Department	<a href="mailto:icd@mchs.gov.by">icd@mchs.gov.by</a>
30.	Ms Yulia Zuravleva	International Cooperation Department	<a href="mailto:icd@mchs.gov.by">icd@mchs.gov.by</a>	
31.	RTA office	Mr Esa Ahlberg	Resident Twinning Adviser	<a href="mailto:esa.ahlberg@haus.fi">esa.ahlberg@haus.fi</a>
32.		Ms Elena Vlasenka	RTA Language Assistant	<a href="mailto:twinning.mes@gmail.com">twinning.mes@gmail.com</a>
33.		Ms Elena Kachynskaya	RTA Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:elena.kachynskaya@gmail.com">elena.kachynskaya@gmail.com</a>
34.		Mr Dzianis Puhac	Interpreter	
35.		Ms Olga Pukhnaya	Interpreter	



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## MEDIA

N	Name	Media	Contact phone
36.	Ms Ekaterina Lis	TV channel "Belarus-1"	+375 29 733 73 84
37.	Mr Maksim Stoyan	Journal "Rescue Service"	
38.	Ms Angelina Dikun	TV Channel "ONT"	+375 44 517 07 05
39.	Ms Svetlana Sovko	BELTA	+375 44 588 34 81

### Materials about Kick-off in the leading media

#### TV

##### 1. ONT

<https://ont.by/news/mchs-belarusi-i-evrosoyuz-zapuskayut-sovmestnyj-proekt-budut-razvivat-sistemu-grazhdanskoj-zashity>

##### 2. Belarus 1

[https://www.tvr.by/news/obshchestvo/mchs\\_i\\_es\\_zapuskayut\\_tving\\_proekt\\_po\\_razvitiyu\\_sistemy\\_grazhdanskoj\\_zashchity/](https://www.tvr.by/news/obshchestvo/mchs_i_es_zapuskayut_tving_proekt_po_razvitiyu_sistemy_grazhdanskoj_zashchity/)

#### Internet-based News Agency BELTA

- <https://www.belta.by/society/view/mchs-i-es-zapuskajut-tving-proekt-po-razvitiju-sistemy-grazhdanskoj-zaschity-v-belarusi-382983-2020/>
- <https://www.belta.by/photonews/view/mchs-i-es-zapuskajut-tving-proekt-po-razvitiju-sistemy-grazhdanskoj-zaschity-v-belarusi-20166/>
- <https://www.belta.by/society/view/avstrijskij-ekspert-vysoko-otsenil-dejstvija-belarusi-v-situatsii-s-koronavirusom-382991-2020/>

#### EU and MES publications

##### EU Delegation to Belarus

- [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/belarus/76014/new-eu-belarus-twinning-project-launched-minsk\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/belarus/76014/new-eu-belarus-twinning-project-launched-minsk_en)
- <https://euprojects.by/news/a-new-european-mes-strengthening-twinning-project-has-been-launched/>

##### MES

- <https://mchs.gov.by/glavnoe/301966/>
- <https://ucp.by/university/news/novosti-universiteta/ofitsialnoe-otkrytie-twinning-proekta-sostoyalos-v-ugz-mchs/>

##### Social media:

- [https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B3&epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B3&epa=SEARCH_BOX)
- [#EUforBelarus #ЕСдляБеларусі МЧС Республики Беларусь](#)
- Twitter: BeITA, @Belarus\_News, Mar 12: Emergencies Ministry, #EU launch twinning project to enhance civil protection system in #Belarus
- Twitter: Aloisia Wörgetter, @AustriainBY, Mar 12: Эксперты из Австрии Flag of Austria и Финляндии Flag of Finland передают Беларуси программы по чрезвычайным ситуациям, прежде всего в области противопожарной деятельности. Сегодня официально стартовала двухлетняя программа #Twinning @EUinBelarus



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## **Annex 3**

### **Press Release**

#### **A kick-off meeting of the EU Twinning project "Strengthening the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus", 12 March 2020,**

University of Civil Protection under the Ministry for Emergency Situations  
Minsk, Mashinostroiteley Str., 25

Twinning is an instrument of the European Union (EU) aimed at supporting direct interaction between governmental bodies of EU member states and partner countries (beneficiaries), using joint expert potential of government bodies of EU member states and beneficiary countries in order to achieve specified mandatory practical results through implementation of activities on the basis of equal cooperation.

The twinning project "Strengthening the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus" is aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Emergency Situations to effectively address existing and emerging disaster risks in Belarus and will improve civil protection and disaster risk management services of the Ministry for Emergency Situations by applying best practices used in EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

The project activities are structurally divided into four components, which require expert cooperation in strengthening the legal framework in the field of civil protection, modernizing the methodology for emergency risk assessment, building capacity in the field of disaster data management and analytics, and improving preparedness and response plans for emergency situations and search and rescue activities.

The project involves 27 experts from Austria and 16 experts from Finland, representing government authorities, fire-fighting and emergency response services, research and educational institutions.

On the Belarusian side, the project is being implemented by the most experienced heads of institutions, directorates and departments of the Ministry for Emergency Situations.

The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by a consortium of Agency for European Integration and Economic Development, (Austria) and HAUS Finnish Institute of Public Management Ltd (Finland). The project has a budget of 1.2 million Euros, project duration is 2 years.