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ACTION
CLIMATE

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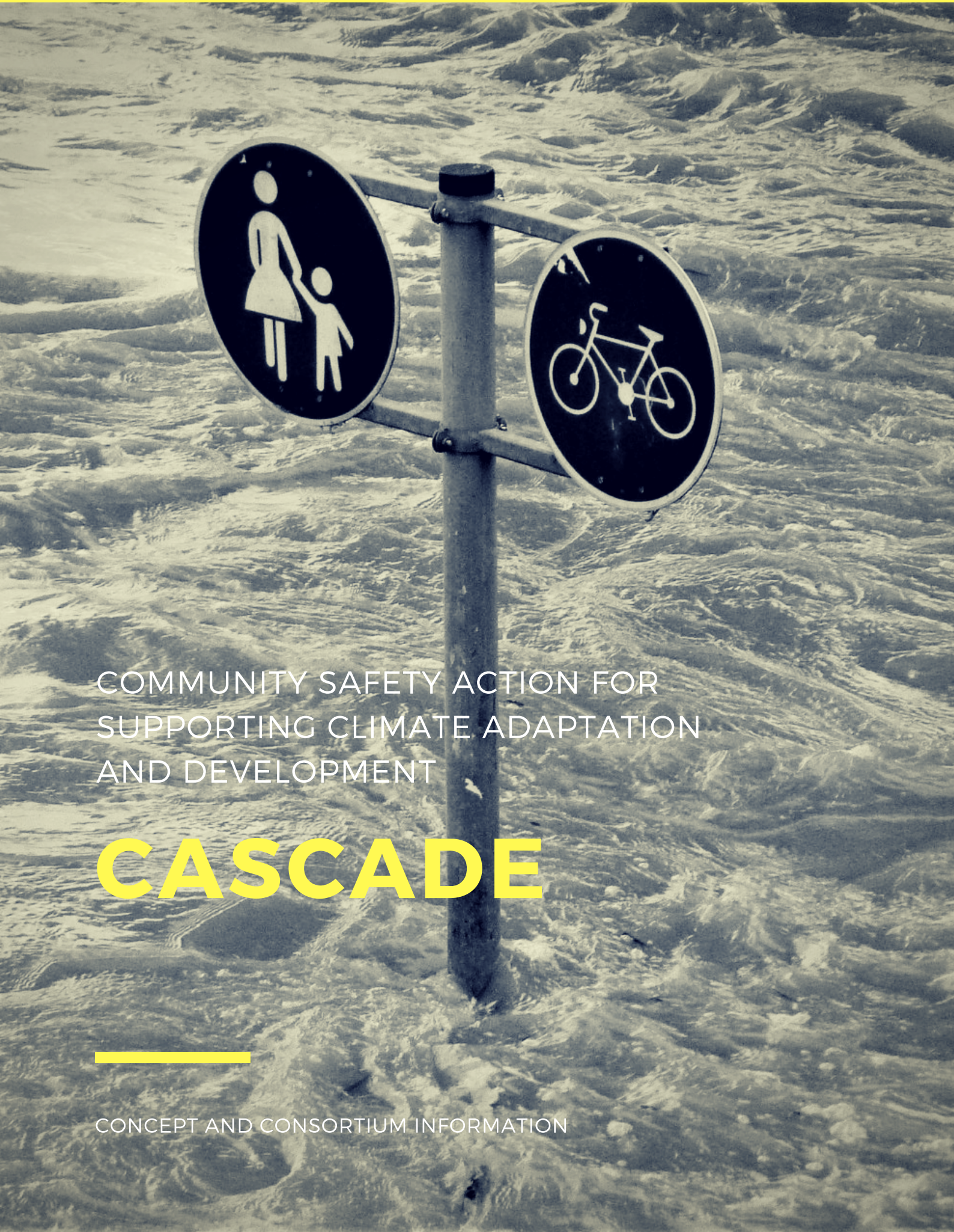


COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION FOR SUPPORTING CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND DEVELOPMENT

CASCADE

CONCEPT AND CONSORTIUM INFORMATION

CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS:

TOP PRIORITY FOR THE BSR AND THE EU

"Climate change is real, and it is happening right now – it is not fake news!" – Christos Stylianides, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, at the opening of the European Civil Protection Forum 2018.

The climate is becoming increasingly unpredictable and extreme, requiring new innovative tactics to prevent disasters, and address risks. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2015, marks the shift from disaster management, to disaster risk management.

The European Commission highlights in a report from 2017: "Whether of natural or man-made origin, disasters are becoming increasingly extreme and complex, exacerbated by the impacts of climate change in our interlinked economies, and are by nature irrespective of national borders. There is a need to support the improvement of European capacities to assess risk". CASCADE targets this need – to develop risk assessment methodologies focusing on climate change risks, tailor-made for the local level, and specifically for the Baltic Sea Region (BSR).

The EU Action Plan on the Sendai Framework from 2016 highlights: "The implementation of the Sendai Framework is an opportunity for the EU to take forward its disaster risk management agenda and to reinforce its efforts to increase resilience to shocks and stresses". In a report from 2017, the European Environment Agency stresses the need for cross-sectoral cooperation: "Climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) provide a range of complementary approaches for managing climate risks in order to build resilient societies". One key objective in CASCADE is to connect climate change professionals with civil protection experts.

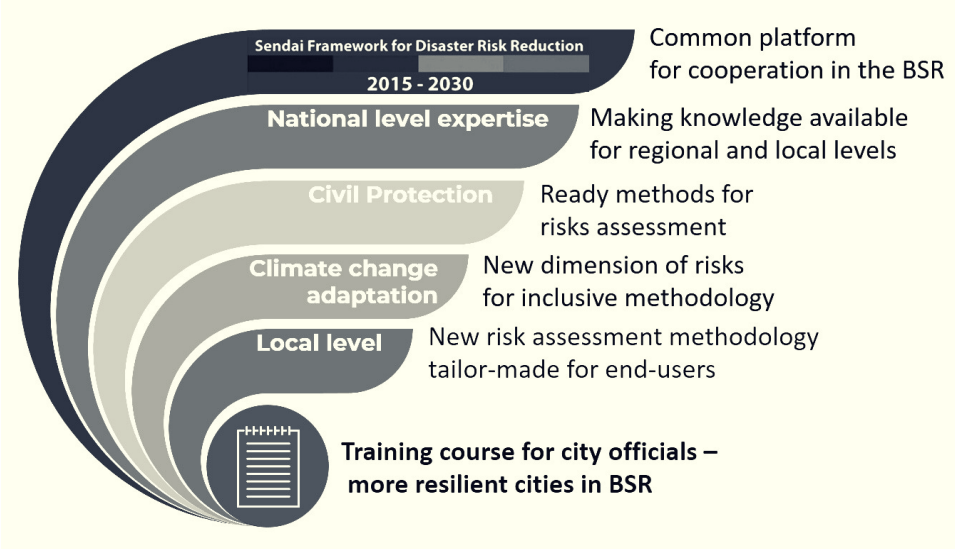
The EU Action Plan emphasises that "the Sendai Framework implementation also forms part of the EU's contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." In the Baltic Sea Region, CASCADE will contribute to the implementation of the Baltic 2030 Action Plan, and respond particularly to the call for enhanced regional cooperation in regards to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

THE CASCADE CONTRIBUTION

How the project will improve urban resilience

This methodology will be used in a training course for city officials, responsible for civil protection. If successful, the training can be replicated by all BSR countries.

Risks related to climate change are not only the concern for professionals engaged with sustainable development. It is becoming more evident each year that climate change is an emerging security threat, and a field in need of involvement from civil protection specialists as well as climate change experts.
CASCADE – Community Safety Action for Supporting Climate Adaptation and Development – will seek to improve urban resilience in cities and towns, as well as the overall macro-regional resilience. The expected outcome of CASCADE is to adapt existing risk assessment methodology to the climate change context and tailor it to the local level. This methodology will be used in a training course for city officials, responsible for civil protection. If successful, the training can be replicated by all BSR countries. CASCADE will also strive for initiating a region-wide policy dialogue on the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as an effective platform for cross-sectorial cooperation between different levels of governance and for greater policy coherence on climate risk assessments.



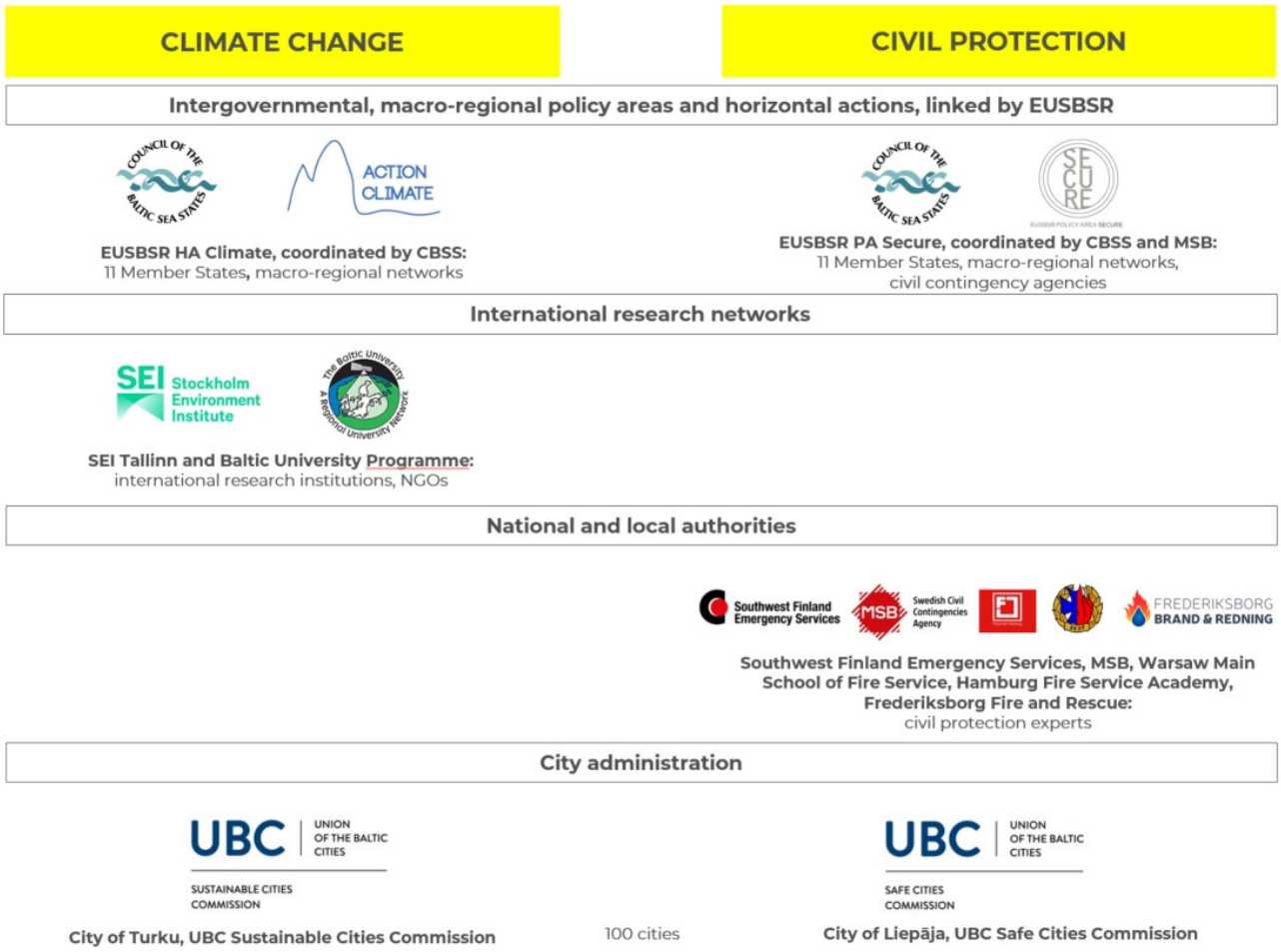
BACKGROUND

CONNECTIONS TO PREVIOUS PROJECTS

The concept and consequently project application were developed in the project CRCC – Making Communities Resilient to Climate Change: Cross-Sectorial Cooperation in Capacity-building – funded by the Swedish Institute (July 2016 - March 2018). The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) Secretariat, as the coordinator for Policy Area Secure and Horizontal Action Climate in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), has facilitated the development process of the CASCADE concept within the scope of the CRCC project. As the idea development chain above shows, the need for a risk assessment methodology specifically focusing on climate change risks was identified as a result of the conclusions from two previous EUSBSR Flagship projects. Based on recommendations and results of its predecessor 14.3 the project FROM GAPS TO CAPS further contributed to strengthening the macro-regional capacities for risk assessment and to establishing efficient crisis management schemes to cope with natural and man-made disasters in the BSR. The countries in the BSR have already committed to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, however, the focus on local level implementation is a challenge that will be jointly addressed by the project consortium.

THE CONSORTIUM

The working group behind the project has been established with funding provided by the Swedish Institute. It consists of climate change professionals and civil protection practitioners from several countries in the Baltic Sea Region. The Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) will root the project on the local level, while the Main School of Fire Service (SGSP) in Warsaw and the Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre (SEI Tallinn) will add the research dimension to the consortium. Southwest Finland Emergency Services, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Hamburg Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS), and Frederiksborg Fire and Rescue Service will support the project with strategic and practical knowledge on civil protection.
The CBSS Secretariat, representing the intergovernmental perspective, will contribute with insights both in civil security and climate issues in the region.



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