



## Press Release

### International Mountain Day

December 11-12, 2011

#### **Due to climate change, the frequency and magnitude of natural disasters will exceed our previous experience**

Since 2003 the Member States of the European Union and United Nations celebrates "International Day of the Mountain" in order to inform people about the importance of mountains to life in general, and particularly as a source of renewable raw materials, water, inhabitants for biological diversity, recreation and tourism areas as well as areas with significant cultural diversity.

International Mountain Day provides the possibility of analyzing the opportunities and challenges in mountain areas as well as an opportunity to develop partnerships that will lead to positive changes related to the mountainous and hilly areas.

Recent scientific findings show that, especially in mountain areas, climate change will increase the frequency and intensity of natural hazards: avalanches, landslides, floods, mud, rock falls and floods. In order to protect in future the residents and mountain travelers, the functional chain of various process hazards should be analyzed. Protecting infrastructure against natural disasters is a major concern of European Union and all alpine countries.

In this context, the MONITOR II Project ("Practical Use of Monitoring in Natural Disaster Management") financed by European Funds, aims to improve the information needed by experts for emergency situations, by policy makers and the civil protection services in case of disaster.

In particular, Monitor II focuses on improving awareness of all actors involved in different phases of emergency management: Preparedness, Response, etc. Moreover, Monitor II Project promotes in an active way, international cooperation and coordination, as long as the project's largest rivers (Drava, Sava, Morava, Evros, Siret. etc) crosses the borders of many countries.

Monitor II is designed to establish communication between the countries involved and joint decisions regarding risk analysis and identification of dangerous areas, and early notice of the population. In this way the "Monitor II" Project will improve the availability, accuracy and dissemination of information

on risk maps and plans. Development of effective procedures for regular updating of these plans will result in a "real time information" in "emergency situations".

The alpine areas transport cover thousands of miles and lands that make the most problems. The company is continuously developing in areas affected by natural physical processes and it is expected that, due to climate change, the frequency and magnitude of disasters exceed our previous experience.

Management of natural hazards is a common challenge in South-Eastern Europe. Therefore, the main objective of Monitor II is to improve the provision of information required for disaster management by strengthening communication between experts in hazards, civil protection services and decision-makers, by improving information flow throughout the cycle risk management.

To be better prepared in case of a disaster caused by natural hazards, Monitor II Project (Practical Use of Monitoring in Natural Disaster Management'), funded by the EU, aims to improve the provision of information required for hazards experts, policy makers and civil protection services for prevention, preparedness and disaster management. To achieve this demanding objective needs to be addressed a wide range of legal, organizational and technological aspects.

By effectively linking assessment and risk mapping, early warning network and decision makers, Monitor II enhances the validity, reliability and communicability of hazards maps and plans. Development of effective procedures for a regular updating of these plans and their implementation will provide the immediate provision in case of emergency.

Thus, Monitor II contribute to the sustainable development of South East Europe by facilitating the design, analysis, implementation and evaluation of relevant policies and strategies aimed at protection against natural hazards in mountain areas at regional, national and local levels.

Monitor II brings together 12 partner institutions from 7 countries of South-Eastern Europe (Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia) and is financed by Transnational Cooperation Programme for Eastern Europe (SEE). The representative Institution in Romania is RNP-Romsilva. For more information on the objectives, activities and results please visit [www.monitor2.ro](http://www.monitor2.ro) and [www.monitor2.org](http://www.monitor2.org).