

The mission of Republic Hydro Meteorological Service (RHMS) of Serbia in the national system for the reduction of the consequences of natural disasters

RHMS of Serbia is the primary institution in Serbia, which is responsible for measuring, observation, collecting and providing information, products and services related to the weather, climate and water, as well as their application in the human activities that are under the influence of atmospheric and related phenomena. RHMS of Serbia provides continuous collection and archiving of reliable long-term meteorological, hydrological and related data series. It also enables the Government of Serbia to significantly contribute to the protection of the population and material goods of the consequences of atmospheric phenomena and events.

Targets of RHMS of Serbia are adequately defined by its functions, activities and services that Hydrometeorological Service provides. RHMS of Serbia is the main advisory body of the Government of Serbia when it comes to meteorological issues. In the name of the Government of Serbia, RHMS participate in the development of international cooperation in meteorology and related fields.

Mission of RHMS, as Serbian National Hydrological and Meteorological Service, in the national system for the reduction of the impact of natural disasters can be expressed through the forms of its contribution in the following domains:

- Protection of life and public/private goods;
- Preservation of the environment;
- Analysis of the level of exposure¹;
- Identification and analysis of hydrometeorological hazards² and vulnerability³;
- Strengthening of the resilience* in order to reduce indirect consequences;
- Estimation and identification of risk**, risk analysis, risk management and risk reduction;
- Promoting of the building of internal capacity***;
- Contribution to prosperous and sustainable development;
- Execution of international obligations;
- Contribution of international cooperation.

Defining and developing of HMWS are based on the fact that the RHMS of Serbia is:

- Primary national authority and the official source of information about the condition and weather forecasts, climate and water and
- Official institution for issuing warnings about meteorological, climate and hydrological catastrophe.

¹ Exposure is the total value of elements at-risk. It is expressed as the number of human lives, and value of the properties that can potentially be affected by hazards. Exposure is a function of the geographic location of the elements [Source: UNDP (2004): *Reducing Disaster Risk: a challenge for development. A global report* (M. Pelling, A. Maskrey, P. Ruiz, L. Hall, eds.). John S. Swift Co., USA, 146 pp.]

² Hydrometeorological hazards: Natural processes or phenomena of atmospheric, hydrological or oceanographic nature, which may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. [Source: ISDR Terminology of disaster risk reduction]

³ Vulnerability: Physical, social, economic, and environmental factors which increase the susceptibility to be impacted by hazards. Vulnerability engages resistance and resilience. [Source: ISDR Terminology of disaster risk reduction]

* Resilience: Capacity to recover the normal functioning and development after being hit by a disaster. A high resilience reduces indirect impacts of disasters, such as business and services interruptions in the aftermath of a disaster. [Source: ISDR Terminology of disaster risk reduction]

** Risk: Probable impacts, expressed in terms of expected loss of lives, people, injured property, livelihoods, economic activity disrupted or environmental damage. [Source: ISDR Terminology of disaster risk reduction]

*** Capacity: A combination of all the strengths and resources available within a community, society or organization that can reduce the level of risk or the effects of a disaster [Source: ISDR Terminology of disaster risk reduction]