

# Sleet in Slovenia, February 2014

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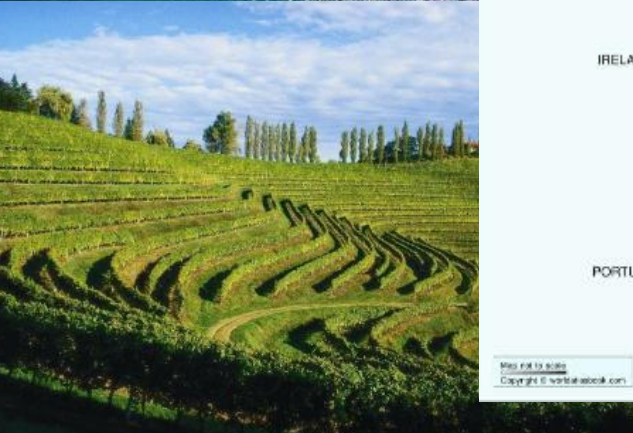
“Black Out”, Bolzano  
March 2015



# FACTS ABOUT SLOVENIA

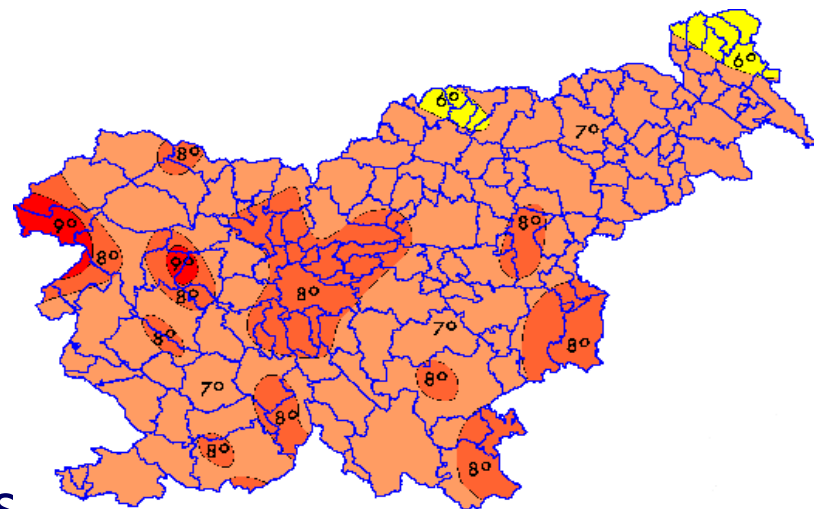


- Area: 20,273 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population: 2,055,496 (2012)
- Capital: Ljubljana
- central European position, neighbouring countries: Austria, Italy, Croatia, Hungary



# DISASTER RISKS IN SLOVENIA

- earthquakes
- floods
- forest fires
- landslides, avalanches
- road, railway and aircraft accidents
- industrial and other accidents involving hazardous material
- recently: weather related disasters (hail, storms, strong wind, **sleet**)





# LJUBLJANA EARTHQUAKE - 1895





# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – History

History repeats itself – years 1899 and 2014



# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – Natural phenomena

## HOW DOES IT OCCUR

- Low temperatures in the lower layers and near the ground
- Warm winds and higher temperatures in the higher atmosphere layers
- Raindrops turn into ice upon touching any kind of surface







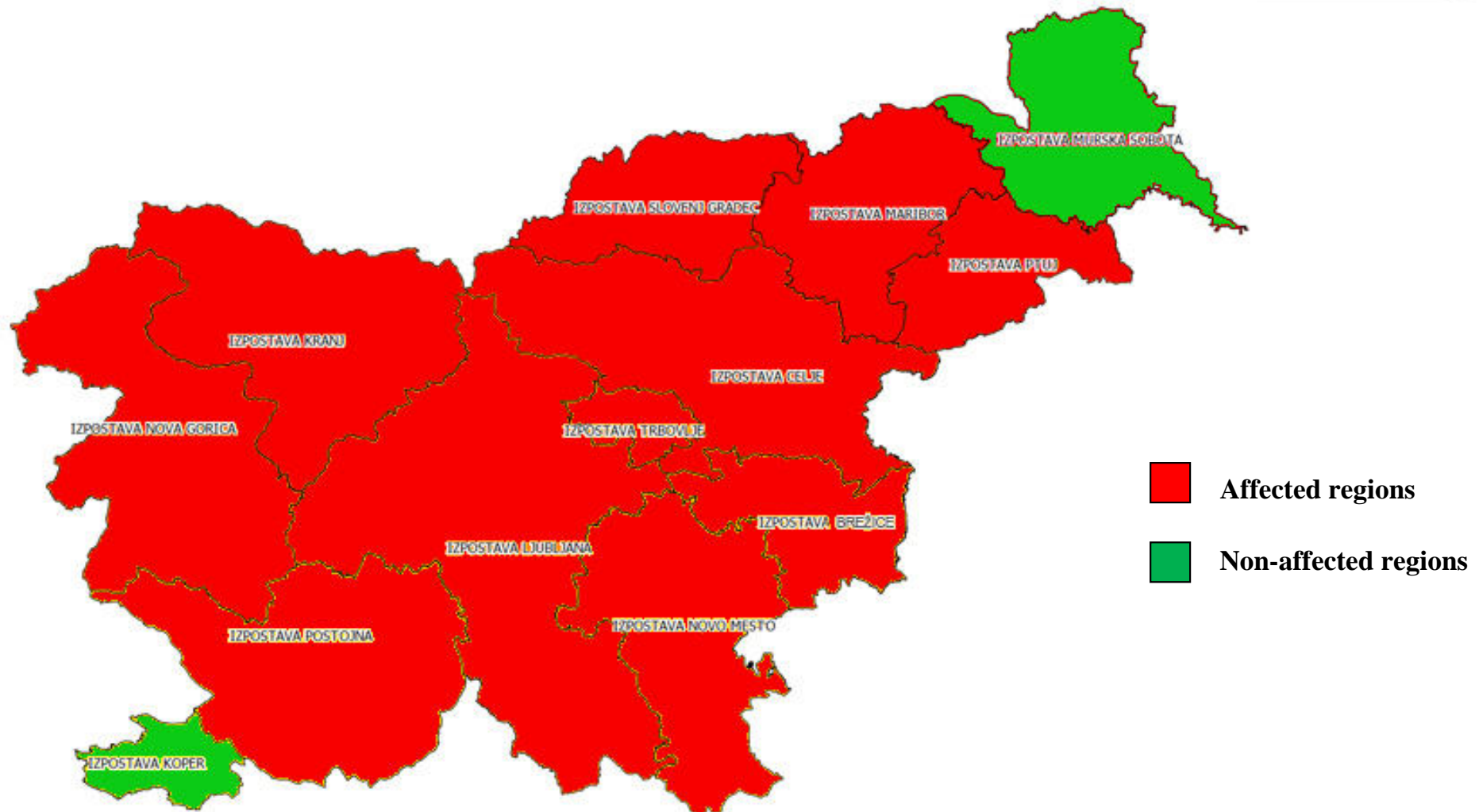
# SLEET IN SLOVENIA in 2014

## SLEET in FEBRUARY 2014

- **First major problems due to sleet occurred on Friday, 31 January 2014**
- **Because of the heavy burden and weight accumulating on different surfaces trees and electrical infrastructure started to collapse and fall down.**
- **On Sunday, 2 February there was widespread damage on electrical infrastructure and forests; thousands of households without electricity**

# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – Situation 2 February 2014

11 out of 13 regions and 160 out of 212 municipalities were affected







# SLEET IN SLOVENIA - CONSEQUENCES

- Over **3000 km** of electrical grid affected – **BLACKOUT**
- Long-term reconstruction of electrical grid
- **51 % of forests in Slovenia damaged (7 mio m3)**
- It will take decades to mitigate damage in the forests
- Damage on road and railway infrastructure
- Combined estimated damage is over **430 million €**



# SLEET IN SLOVENIA– Affected population

- **20 % of population without electricity** (over 7.500 transformer stations)
- Households without the electricity on 2 February 2014

Provider	No. of households
Elektro Ljubljana	70.000
Elektro Maribor	20.000
Elektro Celje	17.600
Elektro Gorenjska	3.800
Elektro Primorska (Postojna, Pivka)	5.300
<b>SUM</b>	<b>116.700</b>









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# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – National response

- Civil Protection Headquarters of the Republic of Slovenia – with the support of the Administration of the RS for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief coordinating the overall response of all actors; regional and and municipal CP HQ activated
- **Firefighters** (volunteer and professional), other **rescue services**, **Civil Protection units**
- **Electro companies** (SODO - electricity distribution system operator) and **other public bodies**
- **Slovenian Armed Forces and Police**
- **TOTAL: 55.000 rescue and other personnel**
- *3 casualties and 23 injured at the end of the intervention among rescuers, electrical company workers and army personnel*



























# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – Request for International assistance

- On 2 February 2014 (Sunday) Slovenian Government **requested assistance** through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism - the Emergency Response Coordination Centre: **100 power generators** (between 100 and 300 kW)
  - **First teams** (from Germany, Czech Republic and Austria) **with generators** arrived to Slovenia **already 14 hours after the request**
- On 5 February second request for 5 high power generators (1000 kW)
- Additional power generators were offered bilaterally by several countries, organizations and individuals
- The requested need of high power generators was reached on **10 Feb 2014**



















# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – Timeline

## 6 February 2014: Slovenia – Severe Weather – International Assistance



### Timeline of Events



Country	No. of Power Generators	No. of Personnel / Vehicles
Austria	27	117 / 45
Croatia	3	10 / 3
Czech Republic	1	6 / 3
Germany	17	64 / 26
Hungary	3	3 / 1
Poland	3	10 / 4
Romania	2	4 / 0

### SITUATION

- Heavy snow and freezing rain affected Slovenia over several days, since 31 January. As a result, extensive power outages were caused, which led the country to request international assistance through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.
- As of 5 February, 50 000 people were still without electricity, some for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive day. More than 3 600 fire-fighters, 300 Civil Protection Members, 1 000 representatives of the Red Cross, Caritas Slovenia and other NGOs, 400 military personnel and more than 1 900 representatives of responsible parties (electricity, municipal services, water supply, etc.) are working to mitigate the consequences.
- Worst affected is the south-western area of the country, especially the municipality of Postojna. The city of Postojna (16 000 inhabitants) is still without electricity and all electrical lines are damaged. Local authorities estimate that the power lines will not be repaired for another month in that region.
- The Base of Operation for foreign units is set up in the Protection and Rescue Centre in Logatec. There is still need for electric power generators, although the situation is improving.
- In addition to power generators, Austria provided Host Nation Support for foreign teams travelling through Austria to Slovenia. International teams are also supporting local rescue teams and performing other activities.

### Weather Forecast

- On 7 February, light rain and possible snow at approx. over 900m altitude is forecasted for the mountains in the west and strong winds mostly in the north-east. On 8 February, rainfall is expected over most of the country. (NMS)

# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – International assistance – Teams with generators

- Slovenia received assistance 172 generators from 11 countries (Austria, The Czech Republic, Germany, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and USA):
  - 100 high capacity generators - via the Union CP Mechanism
  - 72 generators (mainly low capacity) – bilaterally.
- The teams with generators deployed all over Slovenia
- All teams returned home till 28 February (gradually), some generators remained till May 2014
- Assistance - power generators for public and people's use only: public buildings (hospitals, municipal offices, kindergartens, remote villages and others in need, not for commercial use)





















# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – International assistance

## International assistance offered via the Union Civil Protection Mechanism

COUNTRY	NO. OF POWER GENERATORS	NO. OF PERSONNEL	DURATION OF THE MISSION
Austria	39 generators	424 persons	3–21 February
Czech Republic	3 generators	28 persons	3-23 February
Germany	22 generators	166 persons	3-28 February
Hungary	3 generators	drivers	5- 19 February
Poland	3 generators	18 persons	5- 23 February
Romania	2 generators	4 persons	7- 19 February
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>72 generators (68 higher, 4 low power)</u></b>	<b><u>640 persons</u></b>	



# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – International assistance

## International assistance offered bilaterally

COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION	NO. OF POWER GENERATORS	REMARKS
Croatia	3 generators	Croatian power company (HEP)
Austria	2 generators	Bilateral – cross border cooperation with Carinthia (for the Jezersko municipality)
Austria	11 low power generators	Cross-border cooperation with Carinthia (for the Solčava municipality)
Italy	5 generators (1 high, 4 low)	Cross border cooperation (Country Union of the FVG)
Italy	4 generators	Unione Italiana, donation
Italy	36 generators (1 high, 35 low power)	Cross border cooperation (Civil Protection of municipalities Čedad/ Cividale del Friuli, Marčon/ Comune di Marcon and Čenta/ Tarcento)
Austrian Red Cross	15 low power generators	Bilateral, cross-border cooperation
Maltese Knight Order	8 low power generators	Bilateral cooperation between AT and SI national cells
Serbia	5 generators (5 x 120 kW)	Bilateral cooperation - until May 2014
Slovakia	1 generator: 1 x 110 kW	Bilateral cooperation 11- 23 February 2014
USA	10 generators	Bilateral cooperation , donation
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	➤ <b><u>100 generators (14 higher, 86 low power)</u></b>	

# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – International assistance

## **Assistance of foreign teams not only with generators, but also:**

- Cleaning and other assistance to local rescue units
- Support in coordination of international teams and generators (daily movements of generators, personnel etc.), up-dating of lists etc.
- Other technical support, maintenance
- Field kitchen
- Toll exemption and support in Austria, Croatia for transit of assistance to Slovenia
- Friendly relations, exchange of knowledge, joint experiences
- Very positive attitude from the population and Slovene rescuers, electricians and all involved



# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – Second phase

18 February 2014: Slovenia – Severe Weather – International Assistance



## SITUATION

- Heavy snow and freezing rain started affecting Slovenia on 31 January and continued over several days. As a result, extensive power outages were caused, which led the country to request international assistance, also through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.
- During the first days after the request, 13 countries, namely Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, France, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and the USA, offered assistance. In total, Slovenia accepted 83 high power and 47 lower power generators via the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, as well as through bilateral agreements.
- Over 10-14 February, conditions significantly improved and the destroyed parts of the electricity network were repaired as fast as conditions allowed. Need for assistance is gradually being reduced and the return of the power generators and the accompanying teams is being coordinated with the countries of origin. (Source: Slovenian Civil Protection)

## Meteorological/Hydrological Forecast

- On 19 February, occasional rainfall is expected, mostly in the western part of the country. (NMS)
- As of 18 February, flow rates of the rivers in the country are high, but stabilising or declining. The National Hydrological Service has an Orange Alert for Floods along the river Ljubljana, where floods were detected on 14 February through the Copernicus EU programme (inset map). A Yellow Alert for Floods is also in effect in the area of the river Krka. (NHS)

# **SLEET IN SLOVENIA – International assistance – Main features**

- **Slovenia requested assistance through the EU CP Mechanism for the first time**
- **Coordination of international assistance: Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for CP and Disaster Relief – HNS Cell**
- **Assistance in a form of 172 power generators (also bilaterally)**
- **Duration of the international assistance: 3–28 February 2014 (some generators till May)**
- **640 foreign rescuers in total**
- **Intensive HNS Support**
- **No EU Civil Protection Team deployed**



# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – Request for Assistance

- Request for 100 power generators (between 100 and 300 kW), additionally for 5 high power generators (1000 kW)
- Clear and detailed/simple request for the type of assistance (number, power)
- No information on availability of power generators in other countries, no data in CECIS, no previous experiences
- Not knowing the manpower accompanying the generators

# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – Communications

- 2 February: request via CECIS, phone call to ERCC
- No pre-alert or information on emergency
  - Bilateral pre-information (phone call) on the up-coming request in CECIS
- Constant/daily contacts and information flow with ERCC (considerations for additional requests)
- Daily Situation Reports prepared by ACPDR and sent to ERCC
- ERCC SIT Reps and Daily Maps



# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – Communications

- Daily communication with embassies of sending countries, Slovenian representations abroad, international partners
- VIP visits
- Daily reports for media on international assistance
- Technical means for foreign teams – mobile phones, additional repeaters

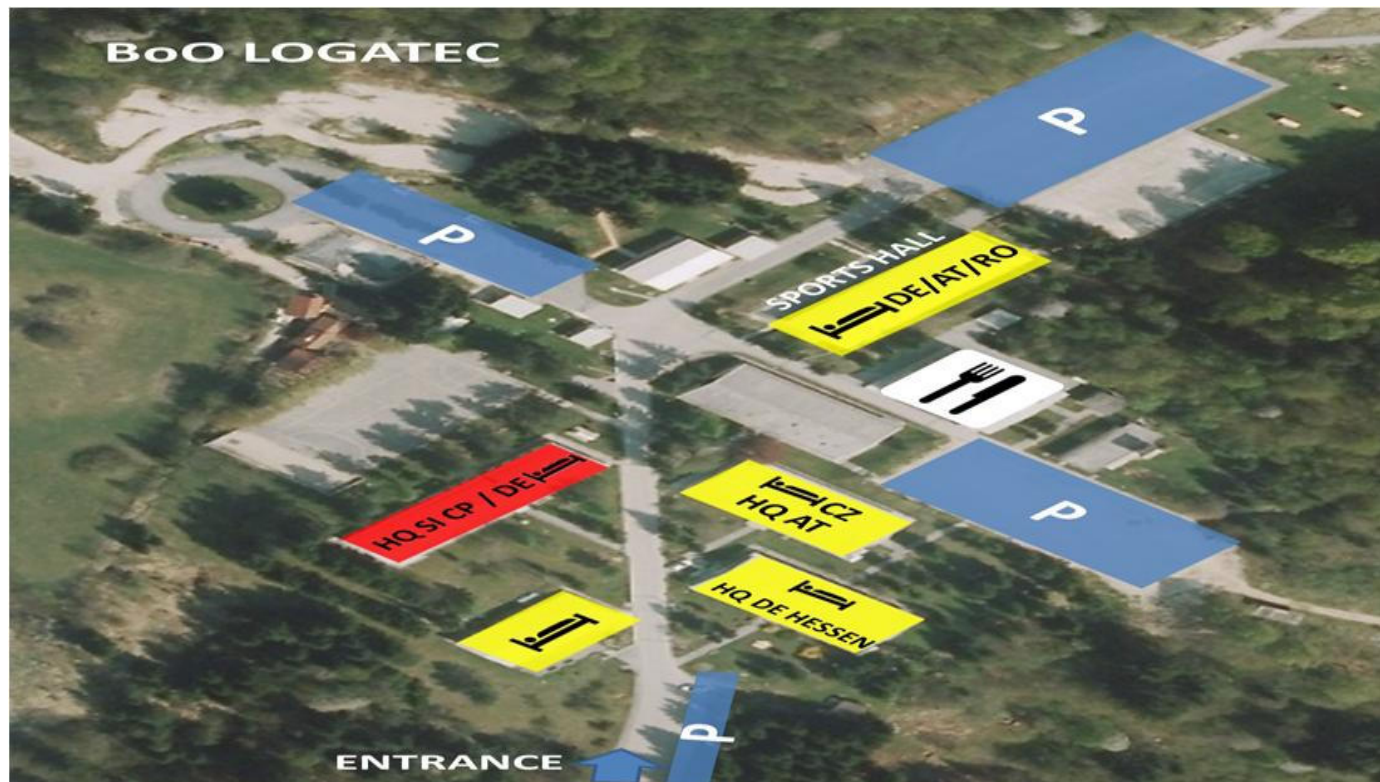
# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – Host Nation Support

- In order to effectively receive and coordinate international assistance **Host nation support (HNS)** was established in line with the draft national Manual on HNS
- **HNS Cell** as part of the Support team to the National Civil Protection Staff
- Upon arrival to Slovenia (every team met at border) international units were provided with:
  - **Liasion officer for each foreign team**
  - **Escort and tolls exemption**
  - **Accommodation and food for all units (Base of Operations and several other locations)**
  - **Fuel and spare parts for the power generators**
  - **Transport of relief personnel**

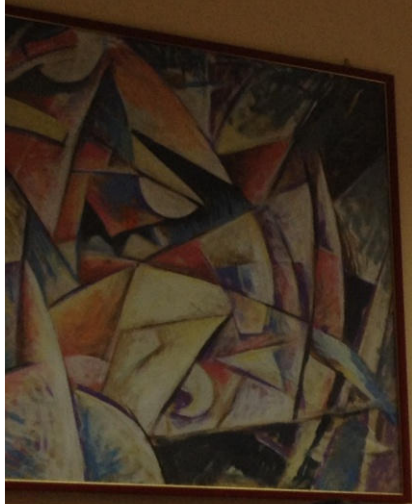


# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – Base of Operations

- The main **Base of operations** for international teams in **Logatec**
- Accommodation and food provided
- Service, maintenance for the power generators and vehicles
- HNS Coordination Headquarters manned by Civil Protection staff







OPERATIONAL MEETINGS  
8/2 2014 21.00  
SITUATION  
- general  
- weather  
- status of request  
- ...



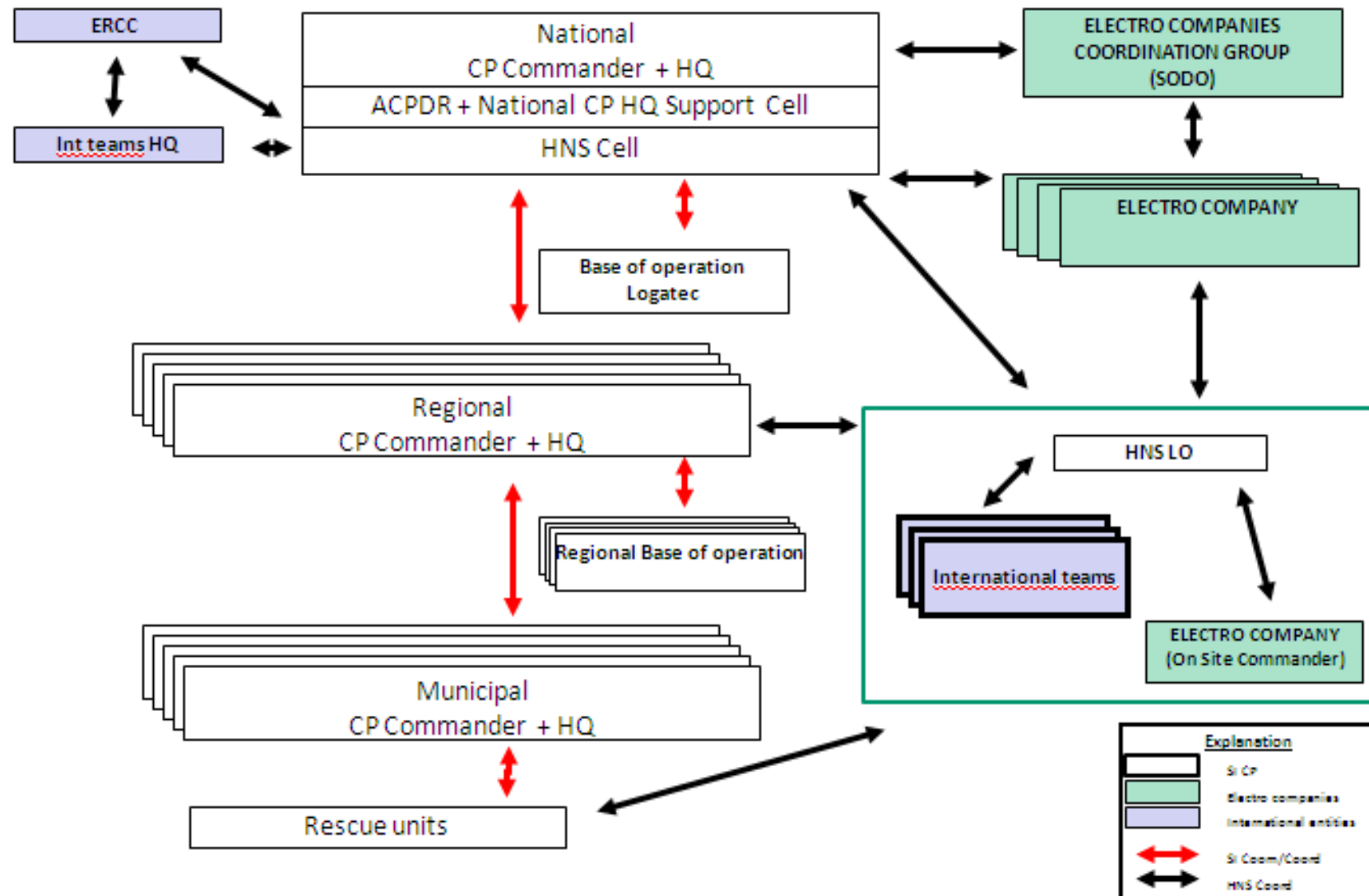


# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – Coordination

- Daily meetings/briefings with **heads of international teams and HNS officer**
- Coordination of daily needs **with electro distribution, daily redeployments of teams and change of locations of generators**
- Coordination **on site with electro-companies** (CP personnel present)
- **Liaison officer for each foreign team** (transport of relief personnel, fuel and spare parts for the power generators, liaison with local units)
- **Safety and security** of workers and security for generators

# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – Host Nation Support

## Host nation support structure















# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – lessons observed

- We cannot predict all scenarios (**use of generic plans and solutions**)
- **Rapid and effective assistance from the Union Mechanism Participating States and others** – helped to mitigate the situation, very appreciated by affected people – **THANK YOU!**
- It is necessary to send **personnel to operate with the technical in-kind assistance**
- Challenge: **tracking of generators**, moving frequently to another location – **system to be established, for future emergencies i.e. use of labels**)



# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – lessons observed

- **Good cooperation with ERCC – support with maps, dissemination** Room for improvement: use of CECIS, dissemination of daily reports
- **Differences between Union Mechanism trained – not trained personnel** (both international units and domestic-local coordination, liaison officers): list of personnel, equipment, daily coordination, final reports Room for improvement: more participants at EU CPM training (also specialised national courses on EU CPM focused on HNS) )
- Experiences and knowing each other from previous **joint trainings through the EU CPM Training programme**, IPA programmes and other projects – to be continued
- **Language barriers:** Room for improvement: foreign language training, additional personnel

# SLEET IN SLOVENIA – lessons observed

- **Good relations with neighbouring countries: HNS for transiting teams and assistance – keep and maintain it**
- **Cooperation with MFA, foreign embassies – continued awareness, information about the mechanism activities**
- **Test for Slovenian HNS support in real (previous exercises - the same location of BOO, same personnel – national and international) – to be incorporated in the national HNS Manual**
- **The importance of the Mechanism and cooperation within EU has been recognized by many stakeholders in Slovenia**
- **It's important to further train together in order to be ready for next emergencies.**



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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