



United Nations
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Disaster risk reduction in Europe: Overview of European national platforms, Hyogo Framework for Action focal points and regional organizations/institutions

**Updated version of REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HYOGO
FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION: EUROPE ISDR/GP/2007/Inf.6**

20 May 2008



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This document represents an update to the review prepared by the German Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction (DKKV) with the financial and technical assistance of the UN/ISDR secretariat presented at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in June 2007 titled “Report on Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action: Europe”(May 2007).

The updates are aimed at providing an overview of Europe region national platforms and HFA focal points and thus expanding on the initial focus of the review on the Member States of the European Union.

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Background

1.1 Context

National platforms for disaster risk reduction (NPs) were an integral part of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (IDNDR), where they proved to be effective partners within the international structure. After phasing out of the IDNDR, they took the same crucial position within its successor arrangement, the International Strategy for Disaster risk reduction (ISDR). Therefore, NPs continue to be the pillars of the international initiatives to reduce the vulnerability to disasters at the national level. This important role of NPs was also recognised by the United Nations Secretary-General, who recommended in his report to the General Assembly in 1999:

“Given the success of national committees and focal points for the Decade in a large number of countries, the Secretary General strongly encourages all Governments to take the necessary measures to implement this appeal.” (see Secretary General’s Report to the UNGA A/54/497, 1999, para. 32)

However, while by far the majority of countries established NPs during IDNDR, most of them were dissolved at the end of the decade. Therefore, in numerous UN documents, resolutions and Secretary-General reports, governments were requested to re-establish NPs. Following are just two recent examples of resolutions by which the General Assembly:

- *“Reiterates its call upon governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster risk reduction and to strengthen them, wherever they exist, encourages the platforms to share relevant information on standards and practices, urges the United Nations system, in this regard, to provide appropriate support for those mechanisms, and invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster risk reduction in order to ensure such support;”* (A/RES/60/195, March 2006, para. 24)
- *„Encourages governments through their respective International Strategy for Disaster risk reduction national platforms and national focal points for disaster risk reduction, in cooperation with the United Nations system and other stakeholders, to strengthen capacity building in the most vulnerable regions, to enable them to address the socio-economic factors that increase vulnerability, and to develop measures that will enable them to prepare for and cope with natural disasters, including those associated with earthquakes and extreme weather events, and encourages the international community to provide effective assistance to developing countries in this regard;”* (A/RES/60/196, March 2006, para. 5)

Up to the date of this report, 43 countries have informed the ISDR secretariat in Geneva about an NP. The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) reiterates the importance of national platforms in reducing vulnerability and captures the commitment made by governments and the international community at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCRR) in Kobe. In paragraph 33(d) the members of the Inter Agency Task Force supported by the ISDR secretariat are requested to ensure support to national platforms for disaster risk reduction (DRR).

This document represents a by the UN/ISDR secretariat updated version of the **initiative launched in 2006 by the UN/ISDR and the DKKV**. The initiative addressed the following:

1.2 The Initiative

The UN/ISDR secretariat and the German Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction (DKKV) as implementing agency started a joint initiative to support NPs on the European level. The

focus of the initiative was on member states of the European Union and neighbouring countries. Thereby only structures have been considered which fulfil the formal criteria of the UN/ISDR secretariat. These criteria are as follows:

“Officially designated national platforms express the interests of various national and local stakeholders in disaster risk reduction (DRR). Through the legitimacy conferred upon them by their respective governments, national platforms can serve as effective instruments for promoting DRR at the international level based on their individual experience and in cooperation with the ISDR System.

The establishment or strengthening of a national platform should be formally announced directly to the Geneva Head Office of the ISDR Secretariat or ISDR Secretariat Regional Outreach Units in writing, through an official letter from official and diplomatic channels like the Office/Ministry responsible for DRR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or a Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva or New York, with a copy to the UN Resident Coordinator.” (UN/ISDR secretariat “Guiding Principles for National Platforms”, 2006)

The following project tasks and implied activities were formulated:

1. *Review of the functions and effectiveness of existing regional capacities and national platforms in Europe with the intention of developing and strengthening NPs networks and capacities within Europe and with other NPs. (Timeframe for task: August-October 2006)*
 - (a) *analyse the current situation and potential of European NPs (based on material available at the ISDR website – National Information Reports, WCDR preparatory papers and meetings with European NPs) providing an overview of the existing structures: countries, configuration of platforms, portfolio of NPs, priority areas of activities based on the Hyogo Framework’s priority areas (using the outline of the matrix of commitment and initiatives as per IATF/11 Strategic Direction document);*
 - (b) *collect information and documents on European NPs to provide substance to the update of the ISDR system website relative to the European NPs section;*
 - (c) *identify, develop and analyse lessons-learnt, good practices related to NPs in Europe (desk studies and meetings);*
 - (d) *identify the specific roles and added value of NPs in Europe among sectors (Education, Health etc.) in relation to disaster risk reduction;*
 - (e) *identify and map the regional capacities that could support the NPs networks (including UN and non-UN agencies, such as EC, CoE, OECD, UN/ECE, Euro-Mediterranean and other programmes) with a specific focus on EC.*
2. *Contribute substantially to the review of the current draft of NP guidelines and to the development of the training material “package” to build NPs capacities in collaboration with the package developer’s key players – UN/DMTP, UNSSC, etc. (Timeframe for task: October-December 2006)*
 - (a) *provide inputs and feedbacks to the revision of NPs guidelines (Timeframe August-October 2006);*
 - (b) *following revision of NPs guidelines organise an European NPs meeting to build on the revised guidelines and to move in advance on a common line for DRR within the context of the HF implementation within NPs Europe (Timeframe for task: October-December 2006);*

- (c) *provide substantive inputs to the development of training material “package” to build NPs capacities in collaboration with other key players – UN/DMTP, UNSSC etc. (Timeframe for task: October-December 2006).*

Analysis of the situation – overview of the existing structures

Data collection

As mentioned above, the project had a regional approach focusing on Europe, which was defined as the area of the European Union and neighbouring countries (including Switzerland). Besides information about officially established NPs, additional information was gathered with respect to the HFA focal point in the United Kingdom and the Austrian national platform of IDNDR pending to become re-established within UN/ISDR.

In the preparation of this report information has been gathered by

- Internet research on the websites of NPs;
- National reports submitted in preparation to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDR);
- Material provided by the NPs (e.g. annual reports);
- Interviews with members of the NPs; and
- Presentations given by NPs at various meetings and conferences, which took place before the project phase (August – December 2006):
 - Meeting of European National Platforms (Germany 22-23 January 2003);
 - Meeting of European National Platforms (Germany 01-02 April 2004); and
 - “World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction” (Kobe, 18-22 January 2005).
- This information was supplemented by information drawn from presentations given by NPs at various NP meetings, which took place during the project phase (August – December 2006):
 - “First Consultative Meeting on National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction” organised by UN/ISDR secretariat (Pretoria, 11-13 October 2006);
 - “Communicating Resilience” organised by the UK ACNDR (London, 14-15 November 2006);
 - “CEUDIP Meeting” organised by the Czech national platform (Cracow, 23-24 November 2006); and
 - “Meeting to discuss the launching of a European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction” organised by the French National Platform (Paris, 7-8 December 2006).

All these meetings allowed an extensive exchange of information. The meeting in Pretoria took place on a global scale and served as an important event to actively involve NPs into a structured system of participation in the further development of the international NP system. The following meetings were specifically addressing NPs within the territory of the European Union. They served as important events to discuss cross border issues of DRR, to stimulate the process of establishing additional NP structures and to identify upcoming areas in the field of DRR (e.g. adaptation to climate change). In Paris, important steps were made towards the launch of the European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for

Disaster Reduction, which started to become formalised at a meeting of the French, German and Swiss National platforms on April 23, 2007 in Basel.

The basis of information unfortunately was not the same for every reviewed NP. In some cases information was mostly collected from the website of the respective NP as it proved to be difficult to establish contact. The collected information was then circulated directly amongst the NPs, asking for comments and cross checking.

The information on national platforms can be found in separate fact sheets at the end of the report (Annex I). Because of unique circumstances in Austria¹ and the UK², fact sheets with information about these structures were also included in Annex I of the report.

Overview of national platforms and HFA focal points

1. Status:

The European regional coverage of the UN/ISDR secretariat includes, as per March 2008, 57 countries including EU and non-EU countries.

Within the EU, nine governments have informed the UN/ISDR secretariat about the existence of an officially designated national platform (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland) to date.

In addition to the national platforms, nine EU Member States nominated focal points for DRR (Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and the United Kingdom).

Outside of the EU, a national platform was designated in the Russian Federation and focal points have been nominated in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova (Rep. Of), Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Turkey and the Ukraine³.

2. Potential:

National platforms in Europe (within the context of the European Union) can work on four challenges:

- To integrate disaster risk reduction into policies at the national level;
- To integrate disaster risk reduction into the national development policy and humanitarian assistance as European countries are major donor countries;
- To integrate disaster risk reduction into the policies of the European Union as a regional body; and
- To integrate disaster risk reduction into development policy and humanitarian assistance of the European Union as one of the largest donors worldwide.

3. National platforms and correlation to IDNDR:

A number of national platforms already existed during the IDNDR. The Bulgarian and Hungarian National Platforms were established in 2001. Since the adoption of the HFA, Sweden and Italy have established a national platform, while several other countries (Bosnia

¹ National platform of IDNDR pending to become re-established within UN/ISDR.

² The focal point of the United Kingdom provided comprehensive information about its activities.

³ For a complete list of HFA focal points within the European geographical context see UN/ISDR secretariat website: www.unisdr.org/europe

and Herzegovina, Ireland, Moldova, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Romania and Slovenia) have informed the UN/ISDR secretariat of intentions to establish official national platforms in the near future. Since the creation of ISDR, the following changes have taken place in the below countries:

- *Bulgaria*: The Civil Protection Service of the Republic of Bulgaria under the Ministry of Defense was transformed into the State Agency for Civil Protection in 2001. In 2005 the Ministry of State Policy for Disasters and Accidents was established as a legal successor of the State Agency for Civil Protection. In April 2008 the Ministry of State Policy for Disasters and Accidents was renamed to Ministry of Emergency Situations.
- *Czech Republic*: In 2000 governmental funding was stopped and the committee had to change its legal structure to an association. Since 2006 moderate funding has been provided by the government again.
- *France*: The IDNDR Committee was closed at the end of the decade. In 2001 an interministerial committee was established and designated the official NP. The former IDNDR Committee restructured itself into an association and is now working with the official governmental structure.
- *Germany*. The name was changed from German IDNDR Committee to German Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction (DKKV). Except for this minor modification, DKKV was able to continue its activities without any break.
- *Italy*: A national platform has been established through a Decree signed by the Italian Prime Minister on 8 January 2008. The coordination of the National Platform falls under the Italian Civil Protection in collaboration with the Minister of Foreign Affairs on international issues.
- *Spain*: Following an interruption between 2000 and 2002, the National Commission for Civil Protection was nominated as the official ISDR National Platform in Spain. The Commission already had the role of the Spanish IDNDR Committee from 1990 to 1999.
- *Sweden*: The Swedish Rescue Services Agency has been the Swedish focal point for IDNDR and ISDR since 1994. Sweden established its national platform in September 2007. The platform is hosted by the Swedish Rescue Services Agency under the overall supervision of representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence.

4. Links with the national governmental systems:

Two of the NPs are Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) — the Czech Republic and Germany. All others are governmental bodies. The French system implies a twin structure with a governmental entity and an NGO working together. In Switzerland, a strong civil society component is integrated into the governmental system. In Bulgaria, Spain and Sweden the structures are purely governmental without any civil society component. The Hungarian platform is integrated into the governmental civil protection system as well, but it invites members from non-governmental organisations, science and media to its yearly meetings.

The way NPs are linked or integrated into the governmental system of their country determines the way they can influence national decision making processes. NPs, which are part of the political system can directly influence decision making processes. Civil society structures, on the other hand, have to focus on advocating and lobbying activities to create the necessary momentum.

All the reviewed NPs receive funding from their national governments. However, the amount and the scope of funding varies considerably between the different countries. In the Czech Republic and France, funds are provided by the Ministry of Environment. The NPs in Spain

and Hungary and the focal point in the United Kingdom are funded by the Ministries of Interior. In Germany the NP is supported by the Foreign Office and in Switzerland financial support is provided by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Development (each ministry provides 50% of the total funding).

5. Links to the UN/ISDR secretariat system (IATF, WCDR Kobe):

Representatives of the NPs in France, Germany, Spain and Switzerland have been regular participants in the Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) meetings in Geneva. In the preparation of the WCDR in Kobe, governments were requested to provide National Reports on the situation and activities of disaster risk reduction in their countries. Out of the 27 member states of the European Union, 16 countries submitted National Reports in preparation for the World Conference to the Secretariat (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom). Outside of the EU, 13 countries provided National Reports (Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Monaco, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro⁴, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine). All countries with registered NPs have been the authors of their own National Reports. This means that – if we consider NPs and focal points – close to 60% of the National Reports for the WCDR were produced by national ISDR structures.

The following chart highlights the similarities between the structure of the diverse NPs as well as their links to the international UN/ISDR secretariat system.

Type	Country	Founded during IDNDR	Core donors	Provision of National Reports	Participation at WCDR	Participation at IATF	Governmental body	Civil society entity
NP (EU)	BG		Ministry of emergency situations				X	
	CZ	X	Ministry of Environment	X	X			X
	F	(X)	Ministry of Environment	X	X	X	X	X
	GER	X	Foreign Office	X	X	X		X
	HUN		Ministry of Interior	X	X		X	
	IT	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	E	X	Ministry of Interior	X		X	X	
	S		Ministry of Interior	X	X		X	
	CH	X	Ministry of Interior/ Development	X	X	X	X	X

⁴ The State Union of Serbia and Montenegro existed between 2003 and 2006 and was therefore referred as such during the time the reports were submitted.

NP (non-EU)	RF	N/A	N/A	X	X	X	X	N/A
HFA focal point (EU)	UK		Ministry of Interior	X	X		X	
NPOf IDNDR pending to become re-established w/n UN/ISDR (EU)	AU	X	Ministry of Education, Science and Culture	X	X		X	X
AU = Austria, BG = Bulgaria, CZ = Czech Republic, F = France, GER = Germany, HUN = Hungary, I = Italy, RF = Russian Federation, E = Spain, S = Sweden, CH = Switzerland, UK = United Kingdom								

Within the portfolio of national and regional (European Commission) structures, there are several areas that incorporate DRR practices. The following chart highlights the involvement of different national platforms within these areas.

Type	Country	Environment	Interior	Foreign	Education	Land Use	Research
NP (EU)	BG						
	CZ	X	X	X	X	X	X
	F	X	X	X	X	X	X
	GER	X	X	X	X	X	X
	HUN	X	X	X	X	X	X
	IT	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	E	X	X		X	X	X
	S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	CH	X	X	X		X	X
NP (non-EU)	RF	X	X	X	X	X	X
HFA focal point	UK		X				
NPOf IDNDR pending to become re-established w/n UN/ISDR (EU)	AU	X	X	X	X	X	X
AU = Austria, BG = Bulgaria, CZ = Czech Republic, F = France, GER = Germany, HUN = Hungary, I = Italy, RF = Russian Federation, E = Spain, S = Sweden, CH = Switzerland, UK = United Kingdom							

6. Implementation of HFA:

The following chart gives an overview of the activities of national platforms within the priority areas of the HFA. NPs are multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder structures. Therefore, they provide a number of activities and projects with a limited period of implementation. The correlation is drawn from the broad description of general aims of the NPs.

	Priority area 1: Ensure disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority
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Main element of priority area	NP (EU)									NP (non-EU)	HFA focal point	NP of IDNDR pending to become re-established w/n UN/ISDR (EU)
	BG	CZ	F	GER	HUN	IT	E	S	CH	RF	UK	AU
Multi-sectoral policies and plans	X					N/A			X	X		N/A
Legislation	X	X	X	X	X	N/A			X	X	X	N/A
Community and volunteers participation	X		X		X	N/A	X			X		N/A
Capacity building	X				X	N/A			X	X	X	N/A
Gender						N/A				X		N/A

AU = Austria, BG = Bulgaria, CZ = Czech Republic, F = France, GER = Germany, HUN = Hungary, I = Italy, RF = Russian Federation, E = Spain, S = Sweden, CH = Switzerland, UK = United Kingdom

Main element of priority area	Priority area 2: Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning											
	NP (EU)									NP (non-EU)	HFA focal point	NP of IDNDR pending to become re-established w/n UN/ISDR (EU)
	BG	CZ	F	GER	HUN	IT	E	S	CH	RF	UK	AU
Early warning	X	X	X	X	X	N/A				X		N/A
Emerging risks	X		X	X		N/A		X		X		N/A
National & local risk assessments & monitoring	X	X				N/A	X	X	X		X	N/A
Regional risks				X		N/A		X		X	X	N/A

AU = Austria, BG = Bulgaria, CZ = Czech Republic, F = France, GER = Germany, HUN = Hungary, I = Italy, RF = Russian Federation, E = Spain, S = Sweden, CH = Switzerland, UK = United Kingdom

Main element of priority area	Priority area 3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels											
	NP (EU)									NP (non-EU)	HFA focal point	NP of IDNDR pending to become re-established w/n UN/ISDR (EU)
	BG	CZ	F	GER	HUN	IT	E	S	CH	RF	UK	AU
Education & training	X	X	X	X	X	N/A	X	X		X	X	N/A
Information management & exchange	X			X	X	N/A		X	X	X		N/A
Research	X			X		N/A		X		X		N/A

AU = Austria, BG = Bulgaria, CZ = Czech Republic, F = France, GER = Germany, HUN = Hungary, I = Italy, RF = Russian Federation, E = Spain, S = Sweden, CH = Switzerland, UK = United Kingdom

Priority area 4: Reduce the underlying risk factors												
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Main element of priority area	NP (EU)									NP (non-EU)	HFA focal point	NP of IDNDR pending to become re-established w/n UN/ISDR (EU)
	BG	CZ	F	GER	HUN	IT	E	S	CH	RF	UK	AU
Environmental & natural resource management		X	X	X	X	N/A	X	X		X	X	N/A
Land-use planning & technical measures				X	X	N/A		X	X	X		N/A
Recovery	X			X		N/A		X		X		N/A
Social & economic development practices						N/A				X		N/A

AU = Austria, BG = Bulgaria, CZ = Czech Republic, F = France, GER = Germany, HUN = Hungary, I = Italy, RF = Russian Federation, E = Spain, S = Sweden, CH = Switzerland, UK = United Kingdom

Main element of priority area	Priority area 5: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response											
	NP (EU)									NP (non-EU)	HFA focal point	NP of IDNDR pending to become re-established w/n UN/ISDR (EU)
	BG	CZ	F	GER	HUN	IT	E	S	CH	RF	UK	AU
Coordinated regional approaches developed and strengthened	X	X	X	X	X	N/A				X		N/A
Disaster preparedness and contingency plans prepared and reviewed periodically	X		X			N/A	X		X	X	X	N/A
Establishment of emergency funds with seed-funding for risk reduction and preparedness				X		N/A		X		X		N/A

AU = Austria, BG = Bulgaria, CZ = Czech Republic, F = France, GER = Germany, HUN = Hungary, I = Italy, RF = Russian Federation, E = Spain, S = Sweden, CH = Switzerland, UK = United Kingdom

Collect and update information and documents on European NPs

(See Annex I)

Lessons-learned & good practices

Lessons learned

Over the years networking and cooperation among NPs in Europe has improved. NPs in Europe are increasingly becoming actively engaged in events (workshops, meetings, conferences) organised by partner NPs. So far, practically oriented themes on cross border

aspects of DRR (e.g. floods, wind storms) worked best and were the most promising ones, providing concrete results.

However, in the future, political processes should become more prominent within the common agenda of the European NPs. The European Union as a political system provides a promising frame because of:

- The increasing impact of EU processes on national decision processes of Member States and neighbouring countries;
- The funding being provided by the European Union/Commission on internal processes;
- The EU being the major donor of humanitarian and development assistance worldwide; and
- An increasing recognition of the need to adapt to the effects of climate change within the European region.

Future joint activities of NPs in Europe should be focused on EU processes but interlinked with international developments. The rotating EU-Presidency of Member States could provide the framework for a direct access of NP initiatives to political decision making processes at the European Union level.

The strengthened ISDR system with its biannual meetings of the Global Platform will provide a further opportunity for joint regional presentations and efforts of NPs to the UN system

Both of these future activities require some kind of coordination among the NPs on a regional level. Only concerted activities of a number of NPs from different countries will provide the necessary weight to make an impact at the regional and/or international levels. Within the context of coordinating efforts amongst national platforms at the European level, a network was established in 2007 (Annex IV). The network is currently formed by France, Germany (Chair) and Switzerland. Monaco (NP to be), Romania (NP to be) and Sweden have shown an interest in joining the network.

To utilize the potential of NPs in Europe to advance on disaster risk reduction, a few steps should be taken. Governments and civil society need to increase their support to NPs. Additional NPs need to be established. The consolidation of efforts and exchanges among national platforms, within the context of a network of NPs, should facilitate the establishment of a regional platform on disaster risk reduction stimulating a high level political debate. The development and practicing of so-called “twinning” among existing NPs and NPs to be should be practised. This can be done within the European context as well as amongst NPs outside of Europe, therewith contributing internationally to a strengthened UN/ISDR system on disaster risk reduction. The European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction, the Council of Europe (EUR-OPA) and the UN/ISDR are actively supporting “twinning” of national platforms.

Good Practices

NPs in Europe are engaged in a range of activities, which provide for a number of good practices in the framework of DRR. The scope of the activities covers national, regional and international levels. Examples of activities linked to a number of different sectors can be listed as follows:

Czech Republic:

- Development of a new disaster legislation in the country which incorporates risk aspects into the defined legal framework; and

- Establishment of a network with neighbouring countries (CEUDIP), which aims at exchanging information with regard to DRR on a regular basis between the member countries and thus strengthening cross border cooperation in DRR.

France:

- Risk mapping of 5.000 communities in France;
- Integration of DRR into education; and
- Organisation of thematic conferences with participation of European NPs on disaster risk reduction.

Germany:

- Preparation of a German and European Union position on DRR for the WSSD;
- Preparation and organisation of the Early Warning Conferences “EWC II” and “EWC III”; and
- Facilitation of two meetings of European NPs; A study commissioned to ADPC on the potential for establishing NPs in three South and South-East Asian countries.

Hungary:

- Training of voluntary search and rescue organisations for international missions based on the INSARAG Guidelines adopted by UN OCHA.

Switzerland:

- Risk assessment in Switzerland; and
- Development of “Swiss strategy for the protection against natural hazards”.

Examples of good practices in joint efforts of NPs in Europe are:

- An initiative taken by European NPs for an agreement on cooperation between NPs and the UN/ISDR secretariat and for cooperation among themselves. This good practice has evolved into the establishment of the European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction. The network has so far succeeded in:
 - Providing comments on the EU Green Paper on Climate Change Adaptation. The comments provided were supported by the Czech NP, the Austrian Academy of Science and the Polish Institute for Hydrology in coordination with the UN/ISDR secretariat.
 - Organizing of the seminar “Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response: Two Separate Worlds in Europe?” on December 5-6, 2007 in Divonne les Bains (France). The seminar was organized by the AFPCN in collaboration with the DKKV and PLANAT.
 - Developing a project proposal to the EC call under the “Seventh Framework Programme Cooperation – ENV.2008.1.3.4 Natural Hazards in Europe: Coordinated Research Strategy between European and national levels” entitled “Complex Vision for Future Natural Disaster Research in Europe”. This was undertaken by DKKV in collaboration with GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam (GFZ) (Germany), Nationale Plattform Naturgefahren (PLANAT) (Switzerland), Czech National Committee for Disaster Reduction (CNCADR) (Czech Republic) and L’Association Francaise pour la Prevention des Catastrophes Naturelles (AFPCN) (France).
- The coordinated organisation of a thematic session (session 1.2) on NPs in Europe at the WCDR in Kobe.

- Presentation of the network at the Global Platform.
- Preparation of a joint presentation at the upcoming International Disaster Reduction Conference (IDRC).

Information about specific good practices was provided by the Czech Republic, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland.

For further information on Good Practices, please see Annex VII.

Identification of specific roles and added value

The NPs in Europe reflect very well the concept of NPs within the UN/ISDR secretariat framework:

“A national platform for disaster risk reduction (DRR) can be defined as a nationally owned and led arrangement in the form of a forum or committee of multiple stakeholders, which serves as an advocate of DRR at different levels, provides analysis and advice on areas of priority requiring concerted action through a coordinated and participatory process”. (UN/ISDR secretariat, “Guiding principles for National Platforms for Disaster risk reduction” 2006).

They serve as forum to bring together relevant stakeholders in DRR. Their strength is the plurality of their members, which enables them to provide expertise for all aspects of the cross cutting issue of DRR. The added value of this composition is the capacity to establish the link between different stakeholders, to bring them together, and to stimulate interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral activities. Even the NPs which are governmental structures are the host for inter-ministerial structures.

NPs thus provide the groundwork for putting DRR on the national agendas. In addition to the national component of their activities, cross border cooperation linked to catchment areas and/or river basins provide a regional perspective and added value to DRR in Europe. NPs fill an important gap covering key activities, which cannot be undertaken by regional entities, the UN or international stakeholders alone. The activities include integrating DRR into school curricula; setting research priorities on DRR at national level; monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the HFA; mobilizing/investing resources at local/national level; advocating developing of policy/plans/strategies; and identifying challenging areas and concerns. By covering these tasks, visibility of the work of NPs will be increased. Furthermore, the fact the European Commission and its Member States are one of the largest providers of humanitarian assistance and international development aid in the world adds an additional component, namely the international component, to the work of NPs in Europe.

With regard to the European Commission, besides the different Directorates Generals, a number of political instruments are in place to put DRR on the agenda. One of them is the European Parliament and another one is the rotating EU presidency, where Member States take the chair for six months each. Therefore, a number of opportunities arise for NPs to ensure that the disaster risk reduction agenda progresses vis-à-vis the EU presidency. The experience of DKKV in supporting Germany during the EU presidency on issues related to DRR provides a good practice for other NPs to undertake similar roles when their countries invest the role of EU presidency. Similarly, the opportunity arises for NPs and HFA focal points representing countries that are part of the next presidencies to agree on common issues related to disaster risk reduction that can constantly be raised during such presidencies⁵. On this regard the issue of adaptation to climate change has been highlighted as a potential one.

⁵ For the next two years the EU presidency will be Germany, Portugal, Slovenia and France, respectively.

An example of the involvement of DKKV in the framework of the German EU presidency was an initiative taken by the Federal Foreign Office to collect information on the integration of disaster risk reduction into the humanitarian assistance provided by the European Union. A study was carried out by DKKV on the 27 EU Member States plus the European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO). The study concluded:

“The overall response provided on the role and importance of DRR in humanitarian assistance was very positive. Because of their front-line role in disaster response, humanitarian actors have a particularly well-informed vantage point of the cause of disasters. Their humanitarian concerns define their interest in prevention and lead them to incorporate in future assistance measures as many elements as possible that can assist in avoiding the recurrence of similar disasters. This explains the overall positive views expressed by respondents to the proposition to integrate disaster risk reduction in humanitarian assistance. Points of special interest were the added value of risk information, the need for risk assessment whenever possible, the desire for more international advocacy of EU for DRR and the emerging issue of climate change.”

Nonetheless, there is wide recognition that such integration is not a substitute but rather complementary to disaster reduction falling within the scope of development cooperation. The definitions of prevention, mitigation and preparedness are useful in that they give a measure of interventions to be led with either humanitarian or development funding, implemented by either development or humanitarian agencies, whether multilateral or bilateral. The replies to the questionnaires used for this review express a clear understanding that the two sides of international cooperation, humanitarian and development aid, not only need to work together, but also have to coordinate their actions for the long-term benefit of communities at risk.

While it is recognized that the long-term goals of DRR fall broadly under development cooperation, there is a strong sense in many quarters that short-term humanitarian investments should continue to drive or accompany DRR activities.

This understanding was very much echoed by the fact that almost all respondents stated that DRR is included or could be included into their humanitarian assistance. At the same time the generic understanding of DRR, prevention and reduction, showed a pragmatic approach. Main challenges were seen in the linking of humanitarian assistance to development activities, the increasing of the understanding for the need of DRR, the collecting of relevant information, the need for more national platforms for DRR in Europe, and the strengthening of capacities of partners to integrate DRR into their projects.

A strong point was made by almost all respondents that they consider risk information as an added value for humanitarian assistance. A large majority considers risk assessment to be an integral part of humanitarian assistance, although it was recognised that it has to be balanced with the urgency of the needs.

All respondents but two affirmed the need for mainstreaming DRR into other policy sectors such as development. Examples were mentioned in education/training, rural development programmes, environmental sustainability programmes and others.

Climate change was clearly seen by all respondents as an emerging issue of growing importance for DRR. Most of the respondents already had some form of activity to address the impact of climate change in developing countries. The question raised by some respondents about the availability of fresh funding for expanded activities in this area will have to be addressed.⁶

⁶ “Integrating disaster risk reduction in European humanitarian assistance”; Report commissioned by the Federal Foreign Office, p 2-5.

The support provided by DKKV to the EU in highlighting the integration of DRR into humanitarian assistance, limited to six months, could be carried on by the European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction. The network could also play a role in providing technical support and/or advise on a number of EU initiatives related to DRR activities.

Another important stakeholder in DRR on the European level (beyond the geographical area of the European Union) is the Council of Europe European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), whose main focus is disaster risk reduction. The in Marrakech agreed on Five Year Work Programme addresses disaster risk reduction activities as specified in the Hyogo Framework for Action. The Agreement includes terms on specialised centres, which can be important partners to national platforms' activities and exchanges in Europe.

Advocating at these complex levels could be done more effectively if a number of NPs would join the European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction to move forward topics of common interest. Thus, an enlarged network of NPs will contribute to a more effective advocating for DRR at the regional level.

Although some national platforms have a strong focus on certain areas of DRR for a certain period of time, this focus does limit the broad portfolio of expertise they can provide. Generally speaking, a cross cutting approach could be identified. It could be said that "health" is a side issue in the portfolio of the NPs. As natural hazards do not stop at national borders, effective disaster risk reduction requires a "project" oriented approach rather than an administrative one. For instance, DRR in river catchments could be considered a cross-border activity. The international river commissions in Europe are good practices in this regard. Regional systems related to extreme weather events are another example of cross-border activity and can potentially set the groundwork for cooperation in DRR. The Convention of the Alps is another case study where countries joined initiatives to work together on common problems. Adaptation to climate change is on the agenda of a number of NPs and HFA focal points and could thus provide another important subject of joint initiatives for the years to come. In addition to joint initiatives on the regional/European level there are first examples of cooperation of NPs in Europe with NPs outside of Europe. The NP of France, for example, is cooperating and supporting the NP in Madagascar. This model of "twinning" between established structures and NPs, currently in the critical phase of being founded and becoming operational, could be applied regionally but also internationally and is highly advantageous. As already mentioned, NPs fulfil the important role of covering key activities which can hardly be undertaken by regional entities, UN and international stakeholders alone (e.g. integrating DRR into school curricula, setting research priorities on DRR at national level, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the HFA, mobilizing/investing resources at local/national level, advocating developing of policy/plans/strategies and identifying challenging areas and concerns). By covering these tasks, the visibility of the work of NPs will be increased.

Based on where NPs are rooted in the governmental system, so far the Ministries of Interior are the leading/coordinating structures in most of the NPs, followed by the Ministries of Environment. This is reflected by strong components in the interior sector of DRR. Major activities – partly on an international level – undertaken by NPs during the last years were, amongst others, related to:

- Education (Spain organised an international conference on education and disaster risk reduction. France and Germany developed materials on disaster risk reduction for school curricula);
- Risk mapping (France and Switzerland are carrying out risk mapping on the national level within their respective countries); and

- Early warning (Germany organising and hosting the Second and Third International Early Warning Conference, preparing inputs to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg).

Specific knowledge on these subjects was developed at the national platform with the most experience on the subject. These expertises can be utilised in the framework of activities carried out by other NPs in these sectors.

Regional capacities which could possibly provide support to the NPs

Regional political structures

NPs for disaster risk reduction in Europe are generally challenged by financial issues; this despite the fact that in many cases the NPs are considered “donor countries”. In addition to having highlighted some opportunities and synergies for collaboration among the NPs and regional partners above, information on regional political structures has been collected with the aim of identifying possible funding sources for NPs. The study focused on the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction, the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE), and the Central European Disaster Prevention Forum (CEUDIP). The information was collected by intensive Internet research on the websites of the diverse entities. Information was sent to the different institutions asking for feedback. However, in some cases reply has not been received yet.

In addition to the financial aspect, a strategic approach to generate support for DRR and NP is required. Comments of that nature are included at the end of each chapter on regional structures.

1. European Commission (EC):

Disaster risk reduction is a cross cutting issue involving many stakeholders. Consequently different aspects of disaster risk reduction are included into the portfolio of a number of Directorates-General (DG) of the EC:

- DG Research: Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7);
- DG Environment: Civil Protection Unit;
- DG External Relations: European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument;
- DG ECHO: DIPECHO;
- DG Development: integration of DRR in regional strategies of EC development activities;
- DG Information Society: Information and Communication Technologies;
- DG Regional Policy: European Regional Development Fund; and
- DG Enlargement.

These DGs not only provide considerable amounts of funding for different sectors and topics of disaster risk reduction within the European Union territory, but also for neighbouring countries to the EU as well as internationally. However, the funding provided could only be mobilized to support projects of NPs in disaster risk reduction. For the moment, institutional support to NPs out of the budgets of these DGs is not possible.

A number of opportunities arise therefore for NPs to ensure that the disaster risk reduction agenda progresses vis-à-vis the different political processes. The experience of DKKV in supporting Germany during the EU presidency on issues related to DRR provides a good practice for other NPs to undertake similar roles when their respective countries invest the role of the EU presidency. Similarly, it would be important for the NPs and HFA focal points to form the countries gaining the EU presidency. Another potential rests with the opportunity of NPs and HFA focal points representing countries that are part of the next presidencies to agree on common issues related to DRR that can constantly be raised during such presidencies⁷. On this regard the issue of adaptation to climate change has been highlighted as a potential one.

The European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction could also play a role in providing technical support and/or advise on a number of EU initiatives related to disaster risk reduction activities.

Possible areas of strategic cooperation

DG Research is the unit responsible for developing the knowledge base for EU policy via different research channels. NPs could build on these processes by advocating for stronger integration of DRR aspects into the research agenda of the EU. NPs should work towards establishing themselves as counterparts of DRR-related research for creating a structured two-way information flow between national research activities and research centres, and EU initiatives and activities. By doing so, the NPs would facilitate their members to become more closely involved into EU processes, thus allowing for a closer incorporation of national structures into EU research practices. Following consultation between DG Research, the UN/ISDR secretariat and NPs, the topic of DRR has been included in the 2008 research calls made by the EC. The call related to regional coordination on disaster risk reduction issues, making reference to the Hyogo Framework for Action and national platforms, has stimulated two proposals:

1. Proposal for funding under the topic “Seventh Framework Programme Cooperation – ENV 2008 1.3.4 Natural Hazards in Europe: Coordinated Research Strategy between European and national levels” entitled “Complex Vision for Future Natural Disaster Research in Europe”. This was undertaken by the DKKV in collaboration with GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam (GFZ) (Germany), Nationale Plattform Naturgefahren (PLANAT) (Switzerland), Czech National Committee for Disaster Reduction (CNCDR) (Czech Republic) and L’Association Francaise pour la Prevention des Catastrophes Naturelles (AFPCN) (France).
2. Proposal for funding under the topic “ENV.2008.1.3.4.1. Natural Hazards in Europe⁸: Coordinated Research Strategy between European and national levels” entitled “Securing population health and safety in natural extreme hazards (SPHYNX): A European network for health and civil protection in natural hazards emergencies: the case of flooding and droughts”. The proposal was presented by the UK Health Protection Agency in collaboration with institutions from the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.
3. Proposal presented by the French National Platform presented within the FP7 call. (Information on this proposal to be included in the final version of the document.)

DG Environment’s Civil Protection Unit may be the most promising candidate for generating political support to NPs in Europe. The creation of an institutionalised link between NPs and the Civil Protection Unit would require an extension of the mandate of the unit, which has

⁷ For the next two years the EU presidency will be Germany, Portugal, Slovenia and France, respectively.

⁸ The proposal was not elaborated by a National Platform but includes members of existing European National Platforms or National Platforms to be established shortly.

been so far limited to response and preparedness activities. Furthermore, DG Environment has commissioned a review on the EU Community Strategy on Prevention. A number of meetings and exchanges have been taking place between the consultants undertaking the review and the UN/ISDR secretariat with the intention of highlighting the importance of addressing disaster risk reduction issues within the EC/EU. The final draft version of the review will be available in April 2008 on the DG Environment Civil Protection Unit website.

DG Environment has coordinated efforts related to the Green Paper on Climate Change Adaptation. The document highlights the strong link between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction and the UN/ISDR secretariat have provided inputs to the document and are currently exchanging on this important topic at the European level.

DG External Relations can be seen as the international political wing of the EU. During international processes (such as the International Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe 2005) the DG External Relations leads the delegation of the European Union. Any attempt to mobilise the strong voice of the European Union internationally needs to be executed through DG External Relations.

DG ECHO provides emergency assistance and relief to the victims of disasters caused by the impact of natural hazards and/or armed conflict outside the European Union. DG ECHO has been very attentive to the disaster risk reduction dimension.

DG Development, one of the largest international donors, plays an important role in humanitarian assistance and development activities. DG Development is currently in the process of developing a EU Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in Developing Countries. The strategy will take the form of a Commission Communication to the Council and the European Parliament. The Communication is expected to be adopted by the Commission in October 2008.

DG Regional Policy together with the Regional Development fund of the EU is the key partner to address for integration of DRR into European regional development plans. In return, NPs could become important partners to DG Regional Policy by providing the required expertise for identifying needs and ways to integrate DRR into regional planning.

DG Enlargement is in the process of launching a DRR initiative. The initiative's budget is 2 million Euros for 2008 with similar budget allocations to cover 2009 and 2010. The initiative will include the development of a regional strategy to develop capacity in the Western Balkan countries (and Turkey) for data collection, processing and sharing. The programme will be implemented in close cooperation and in synergy with the World Bank and the UN/ISDR secretariat's Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme.

For further information on the above-mentioned regional capacities, please see Annex II.

2. Council of Europe (CofE):

In 1987, the Council of Europe established the "European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)", which provides interesting links in the fields of Research & Development, Education & Training and Solidarity activities. The Five Year Work Programme, which was adopted at the meeting in Marrakech (30-31 October 2006), places a priority on the activities of the Agreement members on disaster risk reduction within the context of the HFA for the coming years.

As the financial resources of the Agreement are rather modest, financial support to projects or activities of NPs via this channel is rather unlikely. Nonetheless, EUR-OPA is fully committed to the establishment of NPs and collaborates with the UN/ISDR secretariat, European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction and the HFA to support in moving this agenda forward. The same is true for any institutionalised link and/or contribution by the Agreement being provided to NPs.

Possible areas of strategic cooperation

The Council of Europe Major Hazards Agreement provides an important political structure for NPs. Through the specialised centres of the Agreement, expertise could be mobilised to support initiatives of NPs. At the same time NPs could play an important role in implementing the Five Year Work Programme by supporting its execution at the national level and providing inputs to the work of the specialised centres and the secretariat.

For further information on the above-mentioned regional capacities, please see Annex III.

3. Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD):

The OECD is a forum comprised of 30 member countries working together to address the socioeconomic and governance challenges of globalisation as well as to exploit its opportunities. Although none of the 262 committees, sub-committees, working parties, groups of experts and ad hoc groups, which currently perform OECD's activities explicitly works on disaster risk reduction, OECD has done considerable work on such issues.

Collaboration between OECD and the NPs should be further explored. OECD has recently agreed to develop guidelines for integrating DRR into OECD's Strategic Environmental Assessment Process. UNEP, the UN/ISDR secretariat and the ISDR system partners are currently reviewing this internal draft document. On its website OECD notes that unlike other international organisations such as the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund it does not dispense money. Nevertheless, OECD remains an important partner for cooperation. OECD's influence on decision making in its member countries as well as in other countries that cooperate with OECD on different issues, seems to be an important entry point for stressing the importance of disaster risk reduction on the international level.

Possible areas of strategic cooperation

Integrating DRR into OECD guidance notes, stimulating OECD partnerships with European NPs, and exploring collaboration between OECD and the EUR-OPA specialized centres.

For further information on the above-mentioned regional capacities, please see Annex IV.

4. *European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction:*

On April 23, 2007 heads of the French, German and Swiss National Platforms met in Basel and signed an agreement for the establishment of a European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction. The meeting in Basel built on the negotiations and the outcome of the Paris meeting in December 2006, organised by the French National Platform. Based on the discussions in Paris, common goals, specific objectives, a first work plan and a structure for the network were identified and form the agreement.

Possible areas of strategic cooperation

Cooperation and exchanges among national platforms can serve to stimulate political debate on DRR on the European level. Furthermore, "twinning" among existing NPs and NPs to be within as well as outside of the European region can serve to strengthen the UN/ISDR system on disaster risk reduction internationally.

For further information on the above-mentioned regional capacities, please see Annex V.

5. *Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE):*

On 16 March 2000, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe launched the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI SEE) in an effort to contribute to the development of a cohesive regional strategy for disaster preparedness and prevention. On

24 September 2007 in Zagreb, government representatives of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania and Slovenia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the institutional framework of DPPI SEE. Serbia signed the MOU in January 2008, and Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to signing the MOU after completion of its internal decision-making procedures.

DPPI SEE aims to pull together ongoing and future activities to identify and address unmet needs, in order to both improve the efficiency of national disaster management systems, and to endorse a framework for regional cooperation. DPPI SEE has been a primary example of regional ownership, with full involvement of regional countries cooperating under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe auspices, supported by interested countries and international organizations and agencies (such as the European Union, UNDP, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, NATO, the Swedish Rescue Services Agency and the Danish Emergency Management Agency).

Possible areas of strategic cooperation

Areas of strategic cooperation include strengthening of good neighborly relations and stability through the exchange of information, lessons learnt and best practices in the field of disaster management; enhancing of cooperation among DPPI SEE partners in view of European Union enlargement and the process of Euro-Atlantic integration for SEE countries; and supporting and encouraging countries in the region to develop, adopt and/or enforce state-of-the-art disaster emergency legislation, regulations and codes designed to prevent and mitigate disasters in line with guidelines and common practices accepted in the international community.

For further information on the above-mentioned regional capacities please see Annex VI.

6. Central European Disaster Prevention Forum (CEUDIP):

As the Czech Republic territory comprises sources of a good part of the Central European rivers, which are shared with its neighbors, the Czech NC DR took the initiative in the establishment and activities of the Central European Disaster Prevention Forum (CEUDIP) with a permanent Secretariat in Prague. *The Executive Secretary of CEUDIP was appointed Prof. J. Nemeč (CR), while Dr. Obrusnik (CR) was elected as a chairman of CEUDIP.* The first meeting of the Forum took place in 2000 in Warsaw; the second in Bratislava in 2001, the third in Bonn in 2002, the fourth in Balaton, the fifth in Prague and the sixth in Cracow.

In general, the forum is comprised of an exchange of information on the status of disaster prevention institutions and activities in early warning, media role, legislation, education and other subjects. It also intends to assist in the coordinated activities of international bodies such as the ISDR of the UN, WMO, and some NGOs.

Possible areas of strategic cooperation

New possibilities for enhanced activities of CEUDIP appeared after an enlargement of the European Union that now includes all CEUDIP member states. Therefore, one of the possibilities for getting better recognition and also funding for national platforms in the region through CEUDIP could be a proposal and participation in a common project funded from EU resources or with assistance from the WMO (World Meteorological Organization). CEUDIP helps strengthen coordination amongst Central European countries, particularly in exchanges related to floods and common regional hazards.

Organisation of a European Meeting

Strasbourg Meeting

A meeting, hosted by the Council of Europe (EUR-OPA) and the UN/ISDR secretariat in Strasbourg, took place on May 7, 2007. Representatives from 14 countries, the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the UN/ISDR secretariat came together to discuss:

- The outcomes of the collaborative initiative between the UN/ISDR secretariat and the German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV) draft proposal, in which both organisations had collected information, undertaken a survey and developed a strategic view on how the European national platforms could collaborate and strengthen their roles and capacities;
- The progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- The Preparation for the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on 5-7 June 2007 in Geneva.

Participants to the meeting were drawn from national platforms, HFA focal points and interested governmental agencies. The meeting agreed on the importance/usefulness of such meeting in order to:

- Exchange on challenges, achievements and common ways forward;
- Provide a forum for developing a common understanding on challenges of the region;
- Strengthen exchanges between sub-regions of both countries and organisations;
- Stimulate the enlargement/development of an European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction; and
- Review progress in the implementation of the HFA.

To find out more information on the meeting, please visit www.unisdr.org/europe.

Future Meetings

The organisation of meetings such as the above has been considered a good practice. A similar meeting is planned in Paris on 24-25 April 2008. The event will be organised by the Council of Europe (EUR-OPA) and UN/ISDR Europe in collaboration with the European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction, hosted by UNESCO.

Inputs to training material “package”

The training material package related to the establishment of national platforms was presented by the DKKV to the UN/ISDR secretariat based on a number of presentations, background documents and a draft agenda shared by the UN/ISDR secretariat. The training materials are currently being reviewed by the UN/ISDR secretariat in collaboration with the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI). The material is currently being reviewed and integrated in a Toolkit on disaster risk reduction for the use of local and national authorities. The Toolkit is being developed by the UN/ISDR secretariat and CADRI.

Fact sheets of European national platforms and HFA focal points**National platforms fact sheets****Bulgaria National Platform****Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES)**

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History

In 2001, the former Civil Protection Service under the Ministry of Defense was transformed into the State Agency for Civil Protection under the Council of Ministers.

The crisis situation that occurred after the severe floods in 2005 undoubtedly proved the necessity for purposeful state policy in that sphere. In order to guarantee the rights and interests of people in case of emergencies, in August 2005 the coalition government formed the Ministry of State Policy for Disasters and Accidents (MSPDA). Deputy Prime Minister Emel Etem was appointed Minister of State Policy for Disasters and Accidents.

The Ministry of State Policy for Disasters and Accidents developed a Concept on Disaster Protection that specified the main goals and principles of the state policy for population and national economy disaster protection; the structure and the main functions of the competent bodies and institutions, etc. The Concept Note on Disaster Protection was adopted by the Council of Ministers.

MSPDA became a successor of the former State Agency for Civil Protection as of 1 July 2006. The National Civil Protection Service Directorate General with territorial units in every region of Bulgaria was formed.

In 2008 the Ministry of State Policy for Disasters and Accidents was renamed to Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES).

Structure

The Ministry of Emergency Situations is organized into 10 Directorates (5 Directorates are part of the Specialized Administration and the other 5 are General Administration) and 2 Directorates General—the National 112 System Directorate General and the National Civil Protection Service Directorate General with its 28 territorial units.

Budget

The Ministry of Emergency Situations is a legal entity, funded by the state budget.

Aims

The general aim of the Ministry of Emergency Situations is to create an effective, efficient, technically adequate and materially integrated system for prevention, preparation, facing, management and recovery in case of crises and disasters.

For achieving its aims the Ministry of Emergency Situations gives central attention to the formulation and implementation of the following strategic prevention related policies:

- Development of administrative capacity on central, regional and local level for prevention, management, reaction and recovery from disasters and accidents;
- Establishment of a Forecasting and Early Warning System, including Space Monitoring Center;
- Establishment of modern fully equipped information and communication systems in compliance with contemporary EU requirements;
- Provision of the necessary supply component to the special equipment for search and rescue operations;
- Improvement of the National, Regional and Municipality plans for protection of the population;
- Risk assessment and development of mechanisms for critical infrastructure rehabilitation and renovation;
- Establishment of a system of volunteers;
- Development of standards, methodologies, guidelines, instructions and others for every step of the prevention, preparedness, management, reaction and recovery from disasters and accidents aiming at different target groups;
- Public awareness campaigns and elaboration of a national training program for different target groups.

Legal regulations

The legal regulations on protection in case of disasters are based on the Supreme Law of the country – The Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria. All activities on protection of the population are regulated by the Disaster Protection Law, the Crisis Management Law, the Law for Local Self-Government and Local Administration, the Law of Waters, the Law of Defense and Armed Forces, the Law of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Law for Administration and other special laws.

The main legislative act is the Disaster Protection Law adopted in 2006. It regulates the ensuring of life and health protection to the population, protection of environment and of property in the event of disasters. Here are registered the rules for coordination and managing the rescue and emergency recovery activities among the competent authorities that are to work together in the event of disasters – units of the created Unified Rescue System.

The Unified Rescue System

The units and services in charge of protection at disasters are all components of a “unified rescue system”, preserving at the same time their institutional belonging and their set functions and subject of activity. The Unified rescue system is the organization, coordination

and the management of the activities of those units, services and structures in preparing for reaction in the event of disasters, or at the occurrence of disasters and, when necessary - in simultaneous carrying out rescue as well as emergency recovering activities by two or more of its parts or units. Main components of the Unified rescue system are the Main Directorate of National "Civil Protection" Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the National "Fire Safety and Protection of the Population" Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Emergency Medical Aid Centers. The main components of the Unified rescue system ensure the constant readiness to receive messages on occurring disasters, their evaluation and immediate actions.

Space Monitoring Center

MES has established the first in Bulgaria Space Monitoring Center, which is intended to assist in the control over natural disasters and accidents on a national scale. The Center will assist in the processes of monitoring, evaluation and managing the risk of natural and man-made disasters and extraordinary situations. All received and processed data will enable the analysis and proper management decisions in the event of crisis, natural disasters, fires, landslides, floods, etc. The Space Monitoring Center will contribute to the successful integration of Bulgaria into the European information system.

Single European Emergency Call Number 112

MES is establishing the National System of the Single European Emergency Call Number 112. In this way the country will meet the European Union requirements for harmonization of the long-distance communication services within the Union and for higher efficiency of reaction by the specialized services. The national emergency calls system includes all centers for receiving emergency calls on the Single European Phone Number – 112, the national offices for emergency reactions – the "Fire Safety and Protection of the Population" National Service, the National Civil Protection Service DG, the Police, the Emergency Medical Aid and the National Medical Coordination Center. The specialized services phone numbers will work in parallel with the phone number 112. This service will be available twenty-four-hours and free of charge.

The first 112 Regional center in Bulgaria started operating in Sofia City in June 2007. Currently it employs 25 operators and 5 coordinators. The goal of MES is for the 112 number to be fully functional throughout the whole country by the end of 2008.

Activities

Prevention:

The aims, priorities and tasks of prevention activities are set in the National Program for Protection at Disasters which was adopted by the Council of Ministers. The Minister of Emergency Situations will develop the Program as well as annual plans for its implementation, together with the Ministries, the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Red Cross. The organized and coordinated actions towards avoiding or reducing the disasters consequences, and for providing temporary supplies of drinking water, foods and other means to survive for the population in the affected regions is set in the plans for protection at disasters, at municipal, district and national levels. By means of expertise the risks of disasters will be studied, evaluated and prognosticated, and potentially dangerous objects over the country territory will be categorized. Rules and order are provided for the usage and exploitation of individual and collective means for protection.

Training:

The Disaster Protection Law ensures the training and practice for the central and territorial executive authorities, the reaction forces and the population. The Ministry of Emergency Situations, together with the Ministry of Education and Science have taken measures for a better training in the field of civil protection in the secondary and higher schools. A National Training Center was established in the MES. Through funding from UNDP a new methodology for civil protection education for the secondary schools was developed. MES is the organizer of annual Republican Student Competition "Protection in Case of Disasters, Accidents and Catastrophes", as well as of the National /International Art Competition for Children's Paintings "Mission Rescuer".

There is also a Center for Professional Training of Rescuers, which was licensed by the National Agency of Professional Education and Training. Its educational and practice facilities are located in the town of Montana. All newly appointed rescuers are being trained there and after successfully passing the course of education they acquire a Professional qualification "Rescuer in Case of Disasters, Accidents and Catastrophes".

International Activities:

The international activities of the Ministry of Emergency Situations are being defined by the strategic goals of the government of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Ministry realizes its disaster prevention and response policy also on an international level through active participation in the EU, NATO, international organizations, regional and bilateral co-operation:

- The Republic of Bulgaria signed Memorandum of Understanding with the European Community on 29 November 2002 in Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium; Bulgaria is an active participant in the Community Civil Protection Mechanism from 2003.
- Bulgarian representatives took part in the activities of the Civil Protection Working Party (PROCIV) at the Council of the European Union.
- Active participation in the activities of the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee (SCEPC) and its planning boards and committees.
- Civil Protection Committee (CPC)
- The group of experts on warning and detection systems (GOEWDS).
- Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center (EADRCC)
- UNDP- Work on projects dealing with training, supply of equipment etc.
- Coordination with the UN OCHA.
- United Nations, secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR).
- Council of Europe (European and Mediterranean Major hazards Agreement EUR-OPA).
- Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative (DPPI) for South-Eastern Europe
- Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Participation in seminars, training courses and exercises.
- EU Exercise "Terrorist Act Consequences Management Training in South-Eastern Europe EU TACOM- SEE 2006", conducted in Bulgaria in July 2006.
- Strengthening of the contacts with countries from South-Eastern Europe and the Black-sea region.



Czech Republic National Platform

Czech National Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction

(_esk_ národní v_bor pro omezování následk_ katastrof)

www.chmi.cz

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History

Since 2000, the Czech National Committee for Natural Disaster risk reduction (CNC-NDR) succeeded the former Czech National Committee for IDNDR (United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster risk reduction), which was re-established in November 1997 following a gap due to the partition of the former Czechoslovakia.

Structure

Since 2002 the CNC-NDR is a registered NGO in Czech Republic. It has got about 30 members and the competencies and roles of the main “players” within the platform are defined. Out of these usually 15-20 members participate in the committee’s meetings, which take place 3-4 times a year. Currently the committee’s membership is drawn from specialists and managers from the following institutions:

- Office of Prime Minister
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Regional Development
- Headquarters Fire Rescue Service (Ministry of Interior)
- Czech Hydrometeorological Institute
- State Health Institute
- State Office for Nuclear Safety
- Red Cross
- various research institutes and universities
- Czech Association of Insurance Companies
- private companies
- individual members

Regional committees are supposed to improve activities with respect to disaster risk reduction at the regional level. The first of these regional committees was established in May 1999 in Ostrava for the Moravia and Silesia Regions.

Budget

From 1998 to 2002, the budget to implement national committee initiatives was supported by the ministry of environment. In 2004 CNC-NDR acquired the status of a non-governmental organisation and therefore can generate additional funding from members and through participation in various projects both in the Czech Republic and also based on international funds (e.g. in cooperation with CEUDIP). Until 2005, the CNC-NDR had to operate without core funding. Necessary travel costs and the organisation of meetings was covered by some member institutions. Since 2006, the Czech National Committee has been moderately supported by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic.

Aims

The National Committee focuses on both, disasters caused by the impact of natural hazards as well as disasters related to human activity (e.g. disasters caused by energetic “black outs”).

The committee’s initiatives aim at

- strengthening early warning systems and improving coordination between governmental, non- governmental and private sector stake holders;
- improving crisis management; and
- strengthening legislation on issues related to disaster risk reduction.





Activities

The committee’s initiatives include the following activities:

- Risk assessments;
- Training and education on early warning and emergency;
- International cooperation within the context of the ISDR;
- International cooperation within the Central European Disaster Prevention Forum (CEUDIP) and with other platforms especially from EU countries.
- Participation in international conferences on disaster risk reduction like the WCDR II in Kobe or the EWC II and III in Bonn
- involvement in WMO Disaster Prevention Programme
- formalisation of exchange of warnings with different German “Länder” (Bavaria and Saxony)

Beneath those activities, the Czech National Committee has been actively involved in the development of the following new laws, which define aspects and issues related to crises including disasters caused by natural hazards in a systematic way:

- Crisis Management Law;
- Integrated Rescue System Law;
- Related laws (Fire and Rescue Service, Water and Clean Air Acts).

 <p><u>France National Platform</u></p> <p>Orientation Council for Major Natural Disaster Reduction www.ecologie.gouv.fr</p> <p>with the support of</p> <p>French Association for Natural Disaster Reduction www.afpcn.org</p> <p>Contact: Mr. René Feunteun</p> <p>Email: rene.feunteun@environnement.gouv.fr</p>	  
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History

In February 2001, after the important disasters in France and other European countries in the years 1999 and 2000 (floods, storms, etc.), the Interministerial Committee for Major Natural Disasters Reduction (CIPRNM) and the Orientation Council for Major Natural Disasters Reduction (COPRNM) were created, the second as the operational structure next to the first one.

In February 2003, the CIPRNM was integrated into the Interministerial Committee for Sustainable Development (CIDD). The COPRNM is maintained.

Meanwhile, the former French IDNDR committee became the French Association for Natural Disasters Reduction (AFPCN) whose president is member of the COPRNM.

The creation of ISDR made an opportunity for this council to be the ISDR correspondent with the support of AFPCN.

Structure

Established by Interministerial decree in February 2001 and re-established in August 2003 by Prime minister decree, the COPRNM is under the responsibility of the Minister of Ecology and Sustainable Development.

Members

1. President: a personality chosen by the Minister of Ecology and Sustainable Development,
2. Representatives of the ministries belonging to the Interministerial Committee for Sustainable Development,
3. Twelve elected members (six members of parliament, six mayors or presidents of communities),

4. Ten qualified personalities chosen by the ministries, among them the president of AFPCN (a special agreement exists between AFPCN and Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development).

The secretariat of the council is headed by the Delegate for Major Risks, who is the focal point for ISDR. The council meets once or twice a year on subjects studied by working groups.

Budget

Due to the nature of the mission (as described below), the running costs are not very high. They are supported by the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development.

Mission

The Orientation Council makes proposals and gives advice about subjects chosen by the Minister or those of its own choosing.

Its objective is to facilitate decisions through a prior coordination and a prospective approach in full respect of each partner's prerogatives.

According to their importance, decisions are taken inside each ministry or at Prime minister level in the classic interministerial way.

Aims

The general aim is vulnerability reduction by improved knowledge about phenomena, vigilance, land planning rules, education, formation and promotion of resilience.

Especially at ***the national level***, the main aim is to open the field of risk reduction to civil society through the reinforcement of the role of local communities and a larger emphasis on the responsibility of individuals.

At the ***EU level***, the aim is to develop a risk prevention approach and to promote a better common way of working based on spatial observation and information, with extension towards the Euro-Mediterranean level.

At the ***international level***, the aim is to develop exchanges, participate in integrating actions such as the tsunami warning system, and to contribute to the Hyogo Framework of Action.

Activities

In accordance with the mission, the council is mainly active in the area of brainstorming and the formulation of practical proposals.

It publishes reports on different practical subjects and organizes meetings (or participates) at international, national and local levels. Parts of those works are taken into account in newly established laws or rules.

In particular the council works in the following areas:

1. improvement of risks knowledge;
2. reinforcement of surveillance and forecast, observation, monitoring;
3. development of preventive information and education about risks;
4. integration of risks in land use planning and building;
5. vulnerability reduction through rules, risk prevention plan (PPR) and protective works;
6. analysis and development of expert methods in the area of natural risks through “lessons learnt” processes and the reinforcement of research on the prevention of major natural risks.

The council’s activities come within the framework of the national policy for natural risk management and contribute to define it. Due to the council’s composition, its activities are a synthesis of different sensibilities represented by the partners.



Germany National Platform

German Committee for Disaster risk reduction

(Deutsches Komitee Katastrophenvorsorge, DKKV)

www.dkkv.org

Contact: Mr. Karl-Otto Zentel

Email: zentel@dkkv.org / katastrophenvorsorge@dkkv.org

History

Following the launch of the IDNDR in 1990 the Federal Foreign office took the initiative to motivate different civil society actors to come together to establish a National IDNDR Committee. Following the end of the decade the German IDNDR Committee changed its name to German Committee for Disaster risk reduction (DKKV). It was possible to continue the activities without any interruption.

Structure

The DKKV is a registered association under private law and not a government authority. It currently has 39 voluntary committee members and about 20 long-term guest members from the area of policy, administration, science, the media, private sector and aid organisations. The member assembly meets once a year.

The committee is directed by an executive board (the chairperson is Dr. I. Schwaetzer, former Federal Minister for Regional Planning, Building and Urban Development) which meets 4-5 times a year pending on the needs. It is supported by a scientific advisory board and an operating advisory board. Both advisory boards meet twice a year.

DKKV disposes an office with a staff of 4 persons, which manages ongoing administrative and subject-area-related tasks.

Budget

The DKKV is financially supported by the Foreign Office.

Mission

The aim of DKKV is to integrate DRR into decision making processes in policy, private sector and administration. The goal is to enable society to reduce human, social and economic losses caused by natural disasters. Following this goal, DKKV is a component of the International Strategy for Disaster risk reduction of the United Nations, the successor of the International Decade for Natural Disaster risk reduction.

Its core mandates are:

- Linking science (theory) and practice;
- Linking national and international aspects and initiatives; and
- Linking public and private sector structures,

Activities

For the current action programme (2004-2009) DKKV identified the following topics within its general areas of activity:

1. Advising policy makers:

- EU-Mechanisms for disaster risk reduction
- European flood management
- Follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg, South Africa
- Preparation of the World Conference for Disaster risk reduction (WCDR) in Kobe, Japan
- Follow-up on the Millennium Development Goals and disaster risk reduction

2. Networking

- Strengthening a network of National Platforms in Europe
- Active contribution to the work of the ISDR Inter Agency Task Force on Disaster risk reduction via DKKV-members

3. Improvement of Disaster Management

- Analysing linkages between natural disasters and poverty
- Analysing linkages between natural disasters and conflicts
- Analysing linkages between natural disasters and global change
- Contribution to the reform of the disaster management law in Germany

4. Knowledge management

- Supporting the development of the International Early Warning Programme
- Integration of aspects relevant to DRR into school curricula and education
- Establishment and maintenance of databases on aspects relevant to DRR
 - Database on DRR projects
(<http://database-dkkv.dyndns.org/dbkad/ie/auslesen.php>)
 - Database on references to DRR in relevant EU documents
(<http://www.dkkv.org/DE/news/default.asp?h=15>)
 - Database on bachelor/master study courses on DRM in Germany
(<http://www.dkkv.org/DE/links/default.asp?h=6>)

5. Practically oriented advising for scientists

- Stimulating advice of practitioners to the scientific community

6. International programme for risk and vulnerability assessment

- Advocating activities to establish an international programme with the aim to develop international accepted standards on risk and vulnerability and analyse regions prone to natural hazards

The following main activities are planned for 2007:

- Start of a event series on aspects of global environmental change (“Bonn Dialogues on Global Environmental Change”) in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and the International Human Dimensions Programme on global Environmental Change (IHDP)
- Workshop on strong wind events across Europe
- Workshop on the role of DRR in adaptation to climate change
- Coordination of the German contribution to the Global Platform meeting
- Development of an analysis of DRR in humanitarian aid financing of EU member states



Hungary National Platform

National Directorate General for Disaster Management (NDGDM)

(Országos Katasztrófavédelmi Főigazgatóság)

www.katved.hu

Contact: Dr Katalin Cecei-Morotz

Email: hucivpro@katved.hu



History

The Hungarian National Platform for Disaster risk reduction within the ISDR-System was established in 2001. Since then it has been working within the unified national disaster organisation which had been created as a consequence of a reorganisation of the Hungarian disaster management system in 1999. In the first years of its existence the platform had mainly functioned as a supportive platform to the Central European Disaster risk reduction Platform (CEUDIP), which serves as the regional ISDR-body. In 2004, the Hungarian platform was reorganised and is now working under the National Directorate General for Disaster Management (NDGDM).

Structure

As mentioned above the Hungarian national platform for disaster risk reduction is an initiative of the National Directorate General for Disaster Management (NDGDM). It is not an individual body. Thus, the position of the President of the platform is taken by the Director General of NDGDM. Furthermore the Secretary of the platform as well as other positions are filled by heads of NDGDM as well. The members of the platform are drawn from different parts of society:

- governmental organisations: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Transport, Prime Minister's Office – Electronic Governmental Centre, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Water, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance
- non-governmental organisations: Hungarian Red Cross, Association of Hungarian Local Governments
- science institutions: Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Eötvös Lóránd University
- media: Hungarian News Agency
- private sector organisations: Budapest Chemical Works Ltd., Association of Hungarian Insurance Companies, Tisza Chemical Combine

Currently almost thirty members participate in the general platform, which takes place yearly. Additionally certain members of the Platform regularly meet in other occasions. For example, the Governmental Coordination Committee (KKB) of the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is responsible for the preparation of decisions related to disaster management issues of the Government. Hungarian ministries are members of the KKB, as well as of the National Platform as listed above. Another examples is provided by the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination (HUMSEKO) working group of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, in which the same competent ministries and civil, charitable organizations take part to coordinate humanitarian relief and assistance activities.

Activities

Activities of the Hungarian National Platform are comprised of numerous projects, some of them continuous (e.g. school education programmes). Activities, amongst others, include the following:

1. Updating the current civil protection duty system

Currently the existing Hungarian rules and regulations on civil protection are reviewed and their practical implementation is being assessed. The final objective is to have a more visible and simple regulating system in accordance to the international and national requirements, which enhances the effectiveness of professional performance.

2. Monitoring and public alarm system for industrial plants

The system will be set up between 2006 and 2012. Making use of the most up-to-date information and electronic devices the final objective of the system is to enhance the decision-making process among the emergency management forces. The strengthened decision making processes would substantially improve the protection of the population against major industrial accidents which are recognized as one of the most important threats to the inhabitants of Hungarian cities.

3. Use education to build a culture of safety and resilience

Currently the further education system for teachers is being reviewed with the objective of modernisation. Furthermore a series of youth disaster management sport competitions has been developed, which will be extended to an international scope in the future.

4. Information management and public awareness

NDGDM developed a new website, which aims at strengthening the disaster preparedness among the Hungarian population. Themed "Get Ready!" the website provides information on different emergencies and gives advice on how to behave in a certain emergency situation. The information on the website is tailored to different groups within society and the website functions as a contact point for the population.

5. Strengthening the effectiveness of international urban search and rescue assistance

Between 2004 and 2005 the NDGDM in collaboration with experts from UN OCHA conducted an initiative to train voluntary search and rescue organisations based on the UN INSARAG Guidelines. The project started with a training for trainers in 2004 and moved on to a training for different voluntary search and rescue organisations. The objective of the project was to improve the coordination of Hungarian search and rescue organisations with other organisations in a mission abroad. The project included a practical exercise based on an earthquake scenario. As an achievement of the project the participating USAR teams received their INSARAG accreditation from UN OCHA.



Italy National Platform

Italian Civil Protection

in collaboration with

Minister of Foreign Affairs on international issues

www.protezionecivile.it

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Information in regards to the structure of the Italian National Platform will be included as soon as received by the National Platform Coordinator.



Spain National Platform

National Commission for Civil Protection

(Dirección General de Protección Civil y Emergencias)

www.proteccioncivil.org

Contact: Mr Francisco Javier Velasquez Lopez

Email: dgpc@proteccioncivil.org

History

In October 1990 the National Commission for Civil Protection was attributed the function of the Spanish Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster risk reduction (IDNDR) (Royal Decree 1301/1990). In September 2002, two years after the phasing-out of the IDNDR, the Commission was nominated as the Spanish Committee for the ISDR (Royal Decree 967/2002).

Structure

The National Commission for Civil Protection is an inter-ministerial institution dependent on the Ministry of Interior. It consists of the following members:

- Chair: Minister of Interior
- Vice Chair: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior
- Secretary: Director-General of Civil Protection
- other members are representatives of the following authorities and political subdivisions:
- Economy (1)
- Science and Technology (1)
- Public Works (1)
- Education (1)
- Culture and Sports (1)
- Labour and Social Affairs (1)
- Agriculture, Fisheries and Alimentation (1)
- Public Administration (1)
- Health and Consumers (1)
- Treasury (1)
- Office of Prime Minister (1)
- General Secretary of the Prime Minister (1)
- Ministry of Defence (2)
- Ministry of Environment (2)
- Ministry of Interior (4)

- Council for Nuclear Security (1)
- Autonomous Communities (each 1)
- Cities of Ceuta and Melilla (each 1)
- Ministry of External Relations (1) (only if the commission functions as the Spanish ISDR-committee)

As indicated by the list of members most departments of the central government are involved. Due to the participation of representatives from the different political subdivisions, different levels of administration can be reached (central, regional, local).

The Directorate General for Civil protection serves as the technical secretariat of the commission and as such guarantees for the adequate implementation of adopted agreements, the preparation and distribution of documents and the necessary coordination between the different technical commissions and working groups. The Directorate disposes of a National Civil Protection School (ENPC), which serves as the national academy for civil protection in Spain. The ENPC offers practical and theoretical training courses and workshops.

Mission

The Commission aims at achieving an adequate coordination between the institutions of the central government administration and the administration of the regional governments with respect to civil protection. Thereby it guarantees effective action of the public forces with respect to the study and prevention of risk situations, disasters and public calamities and the protection and aid for persons and goods in such situations

Aims

- Be informed about criteria, directives and initiatives of the public administrations related to disaster risk prevention and mitigation.
- Promote initiatives from the different public administrations and the private sector to implement actions, which contribute to the improvement of disaster risk prevention and mitigation.
- Promote the development of a preventive social culture related to disaster risk.
- Be informed about and disseminate information on the programmes, reports, directives and recommendations issued by the institutions of the UN or ISDR.
- Promote the participation and coordination of different public administrations, private entities and specialised personnel in international cooperation projects related to disaster prevention and mitigation.

Activities

- Realisation of studies with respect to risk analysis as well as pilot projects with preventive character, which support disaster and emergency prevention planning.
- Preparation of construction norms and guidelines for behaviour aiming at prevision, prevention, civil protection and emergency planning with respect to different hazards (heat/cold waves, thunder storms, droughts, inundations, storms, earth/seaquakes, volcanic eruptions).
- Risk mapping

- Development of studies and programmes with respect to information of the population, promotion of self-protection capabilities, support of civil participation in civil protection activities and development of school education programmes regarding disaster prevention.
- Implementation of theoretical and practical training courses and workshops related to disaster risk prevention, risk analysis and emergency management (via ENPC).
- Development of a simulation programme for earthquake impacts on a municipal basis (SES 2002) in cooperation with the National Geographic Institute.
- Implementation of an education programme for forest fire prevention focussing on young people at school age (component of the worldwide disaster prevention campaign of ISDR "Disaster risk reduction begins at school 2006-2007") including online material for professional training of teachers.



Sweden National Platform

The Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA)

www.srv.se

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History

Under the supervision of representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence the Swedish national platform was formally established in September the 13th 2007.

Structure

The platform is hosted by the Swedish Rescue Services Agency. The structure of the platform:

- Steering committee
- Network of representatives
- Working groups

The National platform is constituted of an open network of authorities and organisations. Current members are:

- Swedish Rail Administration
- The National Board of Housing, Building and Planning
- Swedish Emergency Management Agency
- National Land Survey of Sweden
- National Food Administration
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
- Swedish County Administrative Boards
- Swedish Rescue Services Agency
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Swedish Forest Agency
- Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute
- Swedish Geotechnical Institute
- Svenska Kraftnät (provides transmission of power on the national grid)
- Geological Survey of Sweden
- Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
- National Road Administration

Mission

Commission from the Swedish Government to the Swedish Rescue Services Agency for the year 2007:

The Swedish Rescue Services Agency shall, in cooperation with stakeholders concerned, take measures in order to improve coordination of prevention for natural disasters and reduction of injuries and damages caused by natural disasters, and begin the establishment of a national platform. The measures should aim to fulfil the Swedish commitment regarding the Hyogo declaration and the Hyogo framework for Action.

Aims

Proposed aims are (to be developed during the first year of operation):

- Define national goals
- Develop a plan for the work with national disaster risk reduction
- Coordination and follow up of the stakeholders work with disaster risk reduction
- Progress reporting to UN/ISDR
- Act as a forum for knowledge transfer

Activities

To be defined during the first year of operation.



Switzerland National Platform

National Platform for Natural Hazards

(Nationale Plattform Naturgefahren, PLANAT)

www.planat.ch

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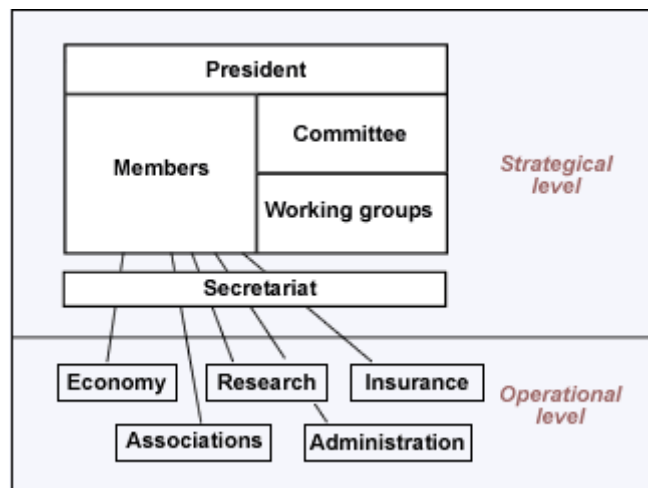
History

PLANAT was established by the Swiss Federal Council in 1997. Since then it has continued its activities without any interruption following the end of IDNDR.

Structure

PLANAT is a governmental structure. It has 20 members who are representatives of:

- Federal Central Government
- Cantons
- research community
- professional associations
- private sector
- insurance companies



The members are appointed by the Swiss Federal Council for 4 years. The next elections will be held at the end of 2007. The maximum period for PLANAT membership is 12 years for members who don't belong to the federal administration.

The president is nominated by the members and elected by the Swiss Federal Council. The members elect a committee constituted by 6 persons, which prepares the plenary sessions of the commission. It is supported and backed by a secretariat with 2 half time employees, based in Bern.

Temporary working groups are established on project basis. The size of the groups varies between 2 and 5 members. As per today three working groups are active on the topics "Strategy", "Information and Communication" and "International".

Mission

Natural hazards are a part of Swiss habitat. The national platform PLANAT was founded in 1997 with the aim to improve prevention. PLANAT has three main missions:

- 1) **Strategy** - PLANAT works on a strategic level on prevention:

The platform is highly engaged in protecting the Swiss population, its natural environment and considerable material assets effectively against natural hazards. Protective measures are reconsidered and documented on periodically.

- 2) **Awareness** - PLANAT works towards a long-term shift in handling natural danger-paradigms:

The committee promotes the shift from solely averting danger into a risk culture and makes sure that measures are being taken which are ecologically compatible, socially just and economically efficient. This cultural shift should make it possible to coherently discuss all prevention questions concerning natural hazards in the present and the future.

- 3) **Coordination** - PLANAT sees to avoiding duplication and to an improved use of synergies:

PLANAT exchanges knowledge and experience on a national as well as on an international level.

Activities

Motivated by a motion, which was filed in the federal parliament by the former Councillor of States Hans Danioth in 1999, the Swiss Federal Council (Swiss government) commissioned PLANAT to develop a comprehensive and interlinked strategy to improve the protection against natural hazards. It also intends to ensure comparable security standards throughout Switzerland based on extensive risk management. The aim is to protect people and their livelihood as well as important material assets.

Up to now, PLANAT has completed the first step of developing a comprehensive and interlinked strategy for improved protection against natural hazards, as well as the second step of analysing the current situation and proposing an action plan with measures. On 18th May, 2005, the Swiss Federal Council took cognisance of the synthesis report by PLANAT «Swiss Strategy for the Protection against Natural Hazards» and assigned the platform:

- to initiate the tasks, concerning risk policy, risk dialogue, monitoring of development, performance measurement and project management indicated in the motion for the next stage (2005 – 2008);
- to report to the Swiss Federal Council on the accomplished work; and
- to develop an action plan for resolving activities and measures as of 2008.

The third step constitutes the present activities of PLANAT until 2008 and will include the implementation of the concrete measures of the action plan. The strategy according to this action plans fits to the main strategic goals of the Hyogo Framework for action 2005 – 2015.

The focal points of the action plan for the 2005 - 2008 stage are as follows:

- **Further development of the “risk policy for natural hazards”:**

There are currently a series of different methods and tools for dealing with risks from natural hazard. The term “risk policy” means a universally valid model for dealing with security problems. It was developed in the technical field and should now find reinforced entrance in the field of natural hazards as “risk policy for natural hazards”. Integrated risk management recognizes risks of natural hazards based on this risk policy, allowing risk evaluation and reduction using the optimised combination of technical, economic, social and ecological protection measures. Specific guidelines as well as training will help consolidate integrated risk management. The “risk policy for natural hazards” will be further developed by specific studies. Examples of current projects under this focal point are the development of a practical guideline for risk management methodology and a summary of best-practices regarding the application of risk prevention measures.

- **Risk dialogue and responsibilities:**

A wide realized dialogue should strengthen a risk culture of risk awareness supported by all players. Also responsibilities, structure and schedule of organizations on risk aware management of natural hazards should be optimised. Not regulated responsibilities for certain fields of natural hazards (e.g. extreme temperatures, storm) should be clarified. The development of a risk communication concept is one of the current projects under this focal point.

- **Performance measurement:**

In future, risks of natural hazards and invested resources for measures of protection should be systematically recorded and evaluated on an on-going basis in order to check the cost-effectiveness ratio. Currently PLANAT is coordinating a project which aims at calculating this ratio for different natural hazards.

A global report of these activities, divided into 15 projects, will be established and given to the Federal Council at the middle of 2008.

The main priorities for action until 2008 are:

- **Public relations:**

PLANAT promotes the risk philosophy, whereby, depending upon target audience, different means are used. The most important medium for the promotion of the risk philosophy is the internet. The notoriety of PLANAT among non-experts has to increase with an intensified presence at events and conferences.

- **Projects work:**

PLANAT initiates or supports projects and actions, which cover the fields of "vulnerability", "risk" and "integral risk management".

- **Synergies**

PLANAT strives for a better use of synergies. The co-operation of organizations, which are active in the fields of prevention and intervention against natural hazards, has to be strengthened.

Fact sheets of national platforms (non-EU)



Russian Federation National Platform

EMERCOM - Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters

www.mchs.gov.ru

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History

In accordance with UN General Assemblies Resolutions and recommendations on the expediency to continue the policy of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction the Russian Federation has developed several measures on realization of International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.

These measures have resulted in the creation of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Russian Federation, which is consisted now from several governmental and public formations.

Structure

The core of the Platform is the Ministry of Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM of Russia). EMERCOM was set up by decree of the President of the Russian Federation on January 10, 1994. In fact, the Ministry came into existence on December 27, 1990 when the Russian Rescue Corps was established. Its task was to ensure prompt and effective actions when emergencies arise. In 1995, two federal laws were enforced "On Protection of Population and Territories from Natural and Man-Made Emergencies" and "On Emergency and Rescue Services and Status of Rescuers". They laid down the foundation of the government policy and administrative and legal norms in the realm of population protection, on the one hand, and rescuers, on the other hand.

Another important element of the Platform is the Governmental Commission for Prevention and Elimination of Emergencies and for Ensuring of Fire Safety. The Commission was created in 2003 in accordance with the Decree of the Russian Government. It is the coordinating body for provision of joint actions of the executive power bodies, state and other organizations during realization of common state policy in the field of prevention and elimination of emergencies of natural and technological characters. The Commission is working in interaction with the federal executive power bodies, local management bodies, involved organizations and public associations, and with respective international and intergovernmental organizations.

Chairman of the Commission is Minister of Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM of Russia). The Government of the Russian Federation confirms members of the Commission. At

present representatives of the following executive power bodies are members of the Commission:

Ministries of:

Internal Affairs;
Transport;
Agriculture;
Economic Development and Trade;
Education and Science;
Regional Development;
Information Technologies and Communication;
Industry and Energy.

Federal Agencies:

on Nuclear Energy;
of Communication;
of Forestry;
of Navy and Inland Water Transport;
on Education;
on Science and Innovations;
on State Reserves;
on Health and Social Development;
on Special Construction;
on the Use of the Interior of the Earth;
on Railway Transport;
on Technical Regulations and Metrology;
on Water Resources;
on Air Transport;
on Building and Housing and Communal Services.

Federal Services:

on Intellectual Property, Patents and Trade Marks;
on Ecological, Technical and Nuclear Inspectorate;
on Labour and Employment;
on Hydrometeorology and Monitoring of Environment;
on Inspectorate in the Field of Protection of Consumers Rights;
on Inspectorate in the Field of Transport.

Meetings of the Commission are conducted on necessity but it is obligatory to have one meeting in three months.

In order to cooperate with international intergovernmental and Russian public organizations and religious faiths and also for the attraction of communities to the realization of the state policy in the field of disaster prevention, protection of population in case of emergencies of natural or technical characters the Public Council was established in 2006. The Public Council consists of people who are well-known in the country and who represent the interests of various strata of society – in total – 31 persons. Among the members of the Public Council it is possible to mention: President of the Journalists Union Mr. Gusev P. – Chairman of the Public Council; Honoured Artist of Russia Mr. Lestshenko L.; Chairman of Russian Red Cross Mrs. Lukutsova R.; Chairman of Russia Independent Ecological Inspectorate Mr. Anikeev V.; Chairman of Russian Alpinists Federation Mr. Volkov A.; General Director of the Insuring Company “INGOSTRAKH” Mr. Grigoriev A.; Chairman of All-Russia Voluntary Fire Society Mr. Gruzd S.; Art Director of Moscow Theater of Miniatures Mr.

Zvanetsky m.; Rector of Moscow University Mr. Sadovnichii V.; Archpriest of Moscow Patriarchy Dmitry.

The Council has four commissions:

Commission on the public expertise of projects of federal laws;
Commission on realization of measures of legal and social protection of active and retired personnel of Emercom of Russia;
Commission on cooperation with other public and religious organization;
Commission on law and order.

Activities

Topics of Commission meetings in 2007-2008 were: "Readiness of Housing and Communal Services for Autumn – Winter Period"; "Provision of Fire Safety in Schools and Buildings with People of Restricted Mobility (hospitals, old peoples home etc.)"; "Protection of Forests from Fire"; "Organization of Joint Exercises on the Response to Emergencies".

HFA focal points fact sheets



United Kingdom HFA Focal Point

The Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS)

www.ukresilience.info

Contact: Steven Barnes

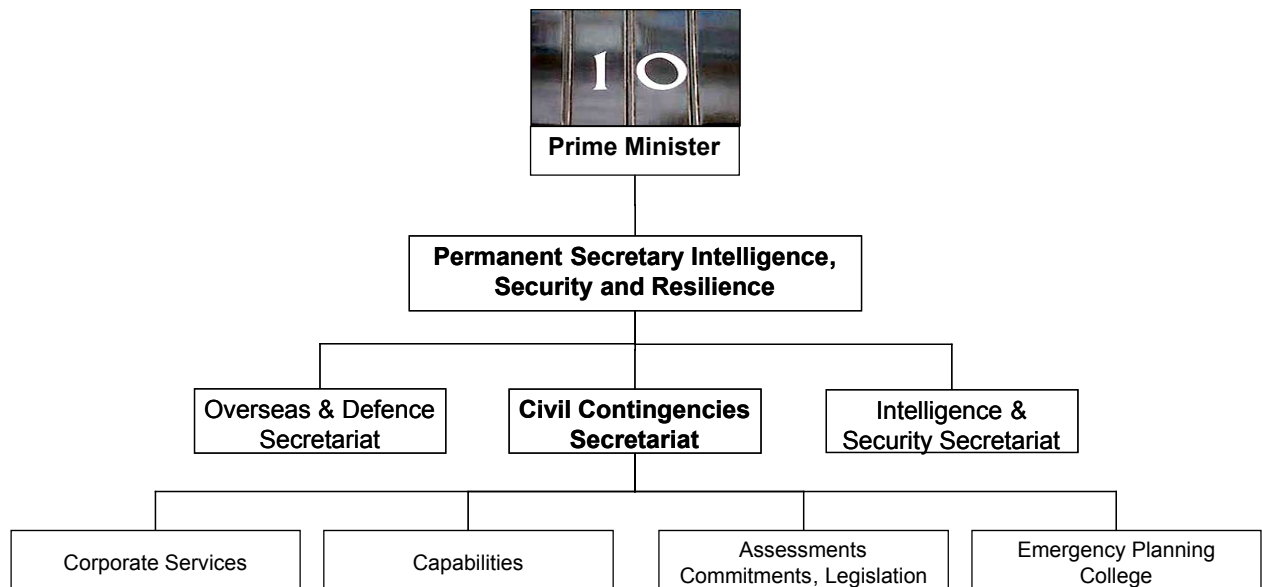
Email: Steven.Barnes@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

History

Serious flooding, the Fuel Crisis in 2000, and the Foot-and-Mouth Disease outbreak in 2001, exposed serious deficiencies in the UK's civil protection arrangements. The Civil Contingencies Secretariat was established in July 2001. Since then, CCS has worked to improve the UK's preparedness for, and response to, emergencies.

Structure

The Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) sits within the Cabinet Office at the heart of central government. It works in partnership with government departments, the devolved administrations (Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland) and key stakeholders to enhance the



UK's ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

Mission

CCS has a number of specific objectives:

1. **Spotting trouble, assessing its nature and providing warning**

Not all emergencies are predictable. But, for those that are, the earlier an emerging crisis is detected, and the more accurately its likely size and shape are assessed, the better the response will be put into place. This objective covers the measures needed

to ensure that, working with Departments and a wide range of other organisations, CCS can spot, assess and warn of trouble and thus facilitate the provision of the most effective response, drawing on lessons from past experience.

2. Being ready to respond

This objective covers the preparedness of all of those who might have a role to play in the response to a major disruptive challenge. As well as ensuring that CCS itself is ready, it is also about tracking the preparedness of organisations at national, regional and local levels, in the public sector and outside, using the Civil Contingencies Act to develop and embed performance audit and management regimes across all responders, rooted in formal preparedness assessments. CCS also aims to ensure mechanisms are in place so that the UK is as well placed as it can be to respond to threats which horizon-scanning shows may be at higher risk of occurring.

3. Building greater resilience for the future

This objective covers action at all levels, from local to international, to build stronger resilience capabilities. It thus covers the processes led by the CCS to drive the delivery of resilience capabilities. It also covers international work to develop closer relations in the resilience field through which we can build mutual resilience. This includes bilateral work, and action in the EU and in NATO to seek to build greater resilience capability in partner countries, as well as the EU's own ability to manage a crisis.

4. Providing leadership and guidance to the resilience community

CCS aims to tell those involved in delivering and building resilience across the UK what the secretariat is trying to do, where it is trying to get to, how it will get there and how it will know that it has succeeded - in short, to build consistency and coherence across the UK. Some key means are already in place, especially via the Capabilities Programme and its outputs and the Civil Contingencies Act. CCS will be focusing on the development of a 'National Resilience Strategy' and reviewing the national exercise programme.

5. Effective management

This objective covers the way in which CCS manages itself, and its effective management of Cabinet Office processes. Some of it is routine but nonetheless important. CCS aims to sustain reputation as effective managers of people and money, and as efficient operators of Cabinet Office processes.

Activities

The ten most significant achievements over the past four years are:

1. Establishing a UK-wide horizon scanning capacity

Emergencies in the early years of this century showed that the UK was missing the warning signs, failing to prevent emergencies and being caught unawares when they occurred. CCS now works with a range of organisations to deliver a Forward Look, which helps to identify and prevent potential emergencies.

2. Establishing a national risk assessment process

The UK now has a national risk assessment process, which identifies risks over a five year period and forms the basis for decisions about emergency preparedness. This risk assessment process involves a wide range of organisations, and is the first time that the UK has a systematic and all-inclusive approach to risk analysis.

3. Delivering improved performance and outputs across the civil protection area through the Capabilities Programme

Although government departments and other organisations have always had emergency plans, CCS established and now leads a Capabilities Programme which provides central direction and co-ordination to emergency preparedness. The Programme has delivered a step change improvement in departmental preparedness and joined-up working.

4. Establishing the UK's first national exercise programme

For the first time, the UK now has an exercise programme which co-ordinates the range of exercises which have always taken place within government. The CCS-led programme adds value by minimising duplication, improving the quality of exercises, prioritising key risks and ensuring the sharing of lessons.

5. Supporting a new Regional Resilience Tier

CCS was closely involved in the work during 2003 and 2004 to design and establish a new Regional Resilience Tier in England. Managed by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the tier improves co-ordination and communication, and acts as a bridge between central government and the local level.

6. Delivering a Civil Contingencies Act

By the turn of the century, the legislative framework for civil protection was widely regarded as out of date and unfit for purpose. CCS developed a Civil Contingencies Bill and took it through Parliament, working closely with a wide range of stakeholders inside and outside government. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and its associated non-legislative measures provide robust, modern framework for civil protection right across the UK.

7. Securing the right resources for civil protection

CCS has played a crucial role in securing the right level of resourcing for civil protection work. The level of funding for national security and emergency preparedness will double between 2001 and 2008. CCS was particularly closely involved in building a new financial deal for local authority civil protection work, overseeing a 120 per cent increase in funding.

8. Transforming the Emergency Planning College

An integral part of CCS from the outset, the Emergency Planning College has undergone a period of transformation. Between October 2003 and July 2004 the College underwent a renewal project which included two new accommodation blocks plus a new training block. And the courses have been extensively remodelled to improve the value added.

9. Playing a key role in helping to co-ordinate the Government's response to emergencies

CCS has played an important part in the response to emergencies which have arisen since its establishment. These have included the London bombings, the Asian Tsunami, industrial action and major public protests. Perhaps the most notable was the Fire Strike of 2002, during which CCS played a pivotal co-ordination role in support of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), providing crisis management advice, assessments and consequence management.

10. Enhancing the UK's international civil protection networks

International partnerships have taken on a new prominence since CCS assumed responsibility for the UK's interests in international civil protection networks. CCS has delivered increasingly active participation in EU, NATO and other international forums and supported an enhanced international profile for UK civil protection work.

Current concerns

- Pandemic flu
- Avian flu
- Severe Weather, Flooding, Drought
- Human Health
- Terrorism
- Transport Accidents
- Animal and Plant Diseases
- Public Protest
- International Events
- Industrial Technical Failure
- Structural Failure
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN)
- Industrial Accidents and Environmental Pollution

National Platform of IDNDR pending to become re-established within UN/ISDR



Austria

The Austrian National Committee for ISDR

www.oeaw.ac.at/english/forschung/programme/disaster.html

Contact: Dr. Guenter Koeck

Email: guenter.koeck@oeaw.ac.at

History

The Austrian Academy of Sciences serves as the ISDR National Committee in Austria. It was founded in 1990 as IDNDR National Committee.

Structure

The Austrian National Committee for ISDR comprises a scientific committee (6 Persons).

Representatives of Authorities

- Federal Chancellery
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Education, Science and Culture
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
- Ministry of Defence
- Federal Environment Agency
- Geological Survey Austria
- Central Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics
- Vienna University of Technology
- University of Loeben

Budget

Funding for ISDR scientific research programmes is provided by the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. Annually 240.000 Euro are available.

Mission

The Austrian Committee is mainly focussed on the coordination of scientific research related to natural hazards and disasters. It develops scientific research strategies and new research activities. It supports research programmes and international cooperation and takes responsibility for quality management of research programmes.

Activities

After an external evaluation the National Committee is responsible for approving ISDR scientific research programmes. The ISDR scientific research projects are part of international programmes (UNESCO, UNO, ICSU, EU) or internationally connected by cooperation and contracts. Project progress reports and evaluation studies are reviewed by the National Committee.

Final reports of past research projects are out on the web and in 1994 and 2000 two summarizing publications were issued (“Austrian Contributions to the IDNDR” and “Geophysical aspects of mass movements”).

For 2007 it is envisaged to co-finance two global change research projects on “Permafrost”.

European Commission

The following chapter gives a short overview of different funding possibilities within the European Union with respect to disaster risk reduction activities. This list is not exhaustive but rather gives an idea of possibilities for national platforms for disaster risk reduction to obtain financial support for disaster-related projects. The list includes information about the funding possibilities from the following institutions:

- I. DG Research
- II. DG Environment
- III. DG External Relations
- IV. DG ECHO (European Commission Humanitarian Office)
- V. DG Development
- VI. DG Information Society
- VII. DG Regional Policy
- VIII. DG Enlargement

I. DG Research:

Dedicated EC funded research into natural hazards in the Commission began in 1987 with the launching of a seismology project as part of the Research Programme on Climatology and Natural Hazards. Further research projects with respect to a variety of natural hazards were funded under the Fifth and Sixth Framework Programme. The up-coming Seventh Framework Programme likewise provides funding for disaster-related research activities. (Source: <http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/ressources/doc/APCAT/2003/APCAT-2003-12-e.pdf>, 2006-12-15)

Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7)

FP7 is the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe and will run from 2007 to 2013. FP7 is made up of 4 main blocks of activities forming 4 specific programmes (Cooperation, Ideas, People, Capacities) plus a fifth specific programme on nuclear research. The programme Cooperation comprises 10 different themes out of which the following three themes explicitly cover research projects within the field of disaster risk management:

- 1) Information and Communication Technologies with a total budget of 9,110 million €;
- 2) Environment (including climate change) with a total budget of 1,800 million €; and
- 3) Security with a total budget of 1,350 million €.

1) Information and communication technologies

(Source: <ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/fp7/ict/docs/ict-wp-2007-08-draft-ist-2006.pdf>, 2006-12-13)

Objective ICT-2007.1.7: Critical Infrastructure Protection

(Joint Call between ICT and Security Themes - ICT-SECURITY-1-2007)

Objective:

- Make key infrastructures of modern life more secure and dependable
- Protect such critical infrastructures that can be damaged, destroyed or disrupted by acts of terrorism, natural disasters, [...] and to safeguard them against incidents, malfunctions and failures

Topics:

The joint call is structured around two specific foci (ICT Theme, Security Theme). The second focus is called for by the Security theme and is addressing technology building blocks for creating, monitoring and managing secure, resilient and always available infrastructures that survive malicious attacks or accidental failures and guaranteeing continuous provision of services. The following topics are called:

- **Topic ICT-SEC-2007-1.1 Risk assessment and contingency planning for interconnected infrastructures:** Develop integrated frameworks and agreed, common methodologies for (a) global analyses and assessment of risks, failures and vulnerabilities, and (b) management and contingency planning based on the compilation and analyses of emergency plans for infrastructures.
- **Topic ICT-SEC-2007-1.2 Modelling and simulation for training:** Modelling & simulation including scenario building to support the training of crisis managers.

Budget: 20 million €.

Objective ICT-2007.6.3: ICT for Environmental Management and Energy Efficiency

Objective:

- World-best technological capability to respond adequately to major environmental threats, with links to major environmental initiatives in Europe.

Topics:

This objective comprises Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) and Specific International Cooperation Actions (SICAs), which explicitly include research on disaster-related issues:

One **Coordination and Support Action** in each of the following areas shall address

- (2) coordination and road-mapping aspects of ongoing and future research in the field of ICT for natural or industrial disaster risk reduction and emergency management;

Specific International Cooperation Action in ICT for environmental disaster risk reduction and management, the assessment of natural hazards and communities vulnerability together with the development and interoperability of rapidly deployable ICT-based solutions for public warnings and emergency management.

Budget: 54 million €

Examples of topics from previous calls:

Ongoing research in this field has focussed on four main ICT issues applied to the field of environmental risk management (mostly disaster and emergency management):

1. interoperability of services (i.e: allowing distributed databases/organisations to seamlessly share/exchange information to efficiently solve environmental problems);
2. sensor web/sensor networking (mostly in-situ and airborne) for environmental monitoring and early warning of disasters);
3. location based services (i.e.: to enable the collaborative working of disaster response field teams - where geo-information and positioning systems play a vital role)
4. public safety communication (i.e.: ability to send/receive all hazard/all-media alerts in the event of disasters).

Additional information is available at:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/ist/environment/projects.htm>

2) Environment (including climate change)

(Source: www.leeds.ac.uk/european/research/framework7/environmentdraft.doc, 2006-12-13)

The draft of the working programme for this theme contains the following three chapters, which include disaster-related issues:

- a) 6.1 Climate Change, Pollution and Risks
- b) 6.2 Sustainable management of resources
- c) 6.3 Environmental Technologies
- d) 6.4 Earth Observation and Assessment tools for sustainable development
- e) 6.5 Horizontal actions

a) Activity 6.1 Climate Change, Pollution and Risk:

This chapter identifies three sub activities:

1. Pressures on Environment and Climate,
2. Environment and Health,
3. Natural Hazards.

Area 6.1.1. Pressures on Environment and Climate

The first sub activity (6.1.1) includes the most cross-cutting issues related to disaster-related themes. Six different research areas are listed, out of which area 6.1.5 and 6.1.6 have the closest connection to natural disaster-related issues.

Objective:

- Better assess probable impacts of natural and anthropogenic climate change over the coming decades to centuries.
- Provide a rational basis (multi-risk approach, spatial planning, mapping and modelling) for adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- Improved knowledge for a better management of climate related disasters.
- improve detection, prediction and forecasting methods for natural hazards.
- Development and application of methodologies for the integrated assessment of adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change and its impacts.
- Analysis will include resilience and potential adaptation and comparing with mitigation strategies related to all greenhouse gases and other sensitive components of the climate system.
- Novel responses to climate change will be studied including emergency responses to abrupt events.

Topics:

Disaster-related topics of the first calls (close of 1. call: 23.05.2007):

- Megacities and regional hot-spots air quality and climate.
- Climate Change impacts and adaptation strategies in water policies. Climate change impacts on vulnerable mountain regions.
- Full costs of climate change
- Effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation measures related to changes of the hydrological cycle and its extremes.
- Climate change impacts on water resources in snowmelt-dominated regions
- Impacts of current and future climate conditions including extreme hydro-meteorological events on regional water budgets
- Climate change impacts on coastal zones

Area 6.1.2. Environment and Health

No natural disaster related issues!

Area 6.1.3. Natural Hazards**Objective:**

- Contribute to the ISDR and support the related environmental policies as the European civil protection and be complementary to other EC research programmes more related to crisis management and operationality;
- Hazard assessment considering processes and triggering factors, Hazard Detection and Prediction, Vulnerability assessment including societal impacts Risk management and mitigation.

- Development of prevention and mitigation strategies by a multi-risk approach combined with spatial planning, mapping and modelling.

Topics:

Examples of topics for the first calls:

- European storm risk assessment, management and prediction
- European (multi)hazard database analysis
- Volcanoes: from hazard assessment to risk management
- Harmonizing avalanche forecasting, risk mapping, and warning
- Towards better prediction of landslides triggered events
- European national flood risk management policy approaches
- Generation, propagation and fate of sediment and debris in extreme floods
- Drought risk assessment and early warning

b) Activity 6.2. Sustainable Management of Resources:

This chapter identifies two sub activities:

1. Conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources and biodiversity
2. Management of marine environments

In both sub activities are only marginal disaster-related issues. At least the topics

- Water resources
- Soil research and desertification
- Urban development

could include some interesting aspects.

c) Activity 6.3. Environmental technologies:

This activity includes only technological disaster and risk related aspects in the development of efficient monitoring systems for the prevention of disasters in all environmental media.

d) Activity 6.4. Earth Observation and assessment tools for sustainable development:

This chapter identifies two sub activities:

1. Earth and Ocean observation systems and monitoring methods for the environmental and sustainable development.
2. Forecasting methods and assessment tools for sustainable development taking into account differing scales of observation.

Both sub activities includes cross-cutting issues of disaster-related topics:

Area 6.4.1. Earth and Ocean observation systems and monitoring methods for the environmental and sustainable development.

Objective:

- Development and integration of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS); Interoperability, information management and data sharing.
- Focus on the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security program (GMES) for sustainable development in the context of GEO (Group on Earth Observation).
- Addressed on understanding, modelling and predicting environmental phenomena.
- Related to GEO's nine societal benefit areas: natural and human-induced hazards, environment and health, environmental related energy issues, climate change, water management, weather, ecosystem management, sustainable agriculture and desertification and biodiversity.

Topics:

- Networking arctic and antarctic observing systems
- Ocean observing systems
- Sea level observing systems
- Integration of socio-economic data with environmental observations

Area 6.4.2. Forecasting methods and assessment tools for sustainable development taking into account differing scales of observation.

Objective:

- Improving tools for impact assessment.
- Development of links between economy, environment and society to promote sustainable consumption patterns.

Topics:

- Impact assessment taking into account the external dimension of sustainable development and the costs of inaction.
- Further analysis of the systematic interactions between the three dimensions of sustainable development (environment, social and economic)

e) Activity 6.5. Horizontal actions

This activity focuses on the transnational co-operation among the National Contact Points (NCPs).

3) Security

(Source: www.verwaltung.uni-halle.de/UM/EUROPA/Dateien/FP7/Security.doc, 2006-12-13)

Objective:

Develop the technologies and knowledge for building capabilities needed to ensure the security of citizens from threats such as terrorism and (organised) crime, natural disasters and industrial accidents while respecting fundamental human rights. The biennial draft work programme 2007 for the Security theme proposes in total seven activities out of which two activities have special connections to disaster-related questions:

- a) Activity 4: Restoring security and safety in case of crisis
- b) Activity 6: Security and society

a) Activity 4: Restoring security and safety in case of crisis

Objective:

- Ensure that governments, first responders and societies are better prepared prior to unpredictable catastrophic incident using new, innovative and affordable solutions.
- In parallel improve the tools, infrastructures, procedures and organisational frameworks to respond and recover more efficiently and effectively both during, and after, an incident.
- Natural disasters including pandemics are one of three topics to be addressed.

Within this activity the following two areas comprise disaster-related topics:

Area 4.2: Integration Projects:Topics (examples):

- **Topic SEC-2007-4.2.1 Network enabled command and control system:** Develop an integrated portfolio of network enabled capabilities for effective command and control of the emergency crisis management organisation.
- **Topic SEC-2007-4.2.2 Integrated specialist search and rescue system:** Develop an integrated system to improve the ability to locate, assess, and rescue injured and/or contaminated victims in a /.../ natural disaster environment.
- **Topic SEC-2007-4.2.3 Post incident basic service restoration system:** Create an integrated system to improve the ability to rapidly deploy and/or rectify basic services after an incident and repair infrastructure and lines of communication.

Area 4.3: Capability Projects:Topics (examples):

- **Topic SEC-2007-4.3.2 Warning, alerting and response coordination:** Communication, message and information exchange at all levels: develop appropriate novel approaches to network management and control, as well as infrastructure to support information management and dissemination.
- **Topic SEC-2007-4.3.3 Intelligent decision support:** Develop appropriate novel approaches to computer assisted decisionmaking.
- **Topic SEC-2007-4.3.4 Personal equipment:** Develop novel personal equipment e.g. for first responders, providing effective protection (e.g. integrated in normal clothing) as well as operational and positional information.

b) Activity 6: Security and society

This activity comprises the following three areas with connections to disaster-related issues:

Area 6.1: Citizens and Society

Topics:

- **Topic SEC-2007-6.1.2 Understanding factors that cause citizens' feeling of security and insecurity:** Study the factors which determine society's perception of security and/or insecurity and then to propose a method for implementation such that the results could guide and inform European and national policy formulation.
- **Topic SEC-2007-6.1.3 Human behaviour before, during and after crisis situations to understand how people react to threat alerts and security instructions:** Carry out research into improving the understanding of people's behaviour in both crisis and 'steady-state' situations and how to best tailor security related communication and instructions with a view to improving evacuation and protection activities.
- **Topic SEC-2007-6.1.4 Communication strategies of public authorities (including media strategies) before, during and after crises concerning risks, security threats and measures:** Develop appropriate communication strategies in particular for public authorities and the media, taking into account all phases of a security incident and considering the influence of differing faith, religious and cultural backgrounds from the survivors, casualties, deceased victims and bereaved families to workers, first responders and affected communities.

Area 6.2: Understanding organisational structures and cultures of public users

Topics:

- **Topic SEC-2007-6.2.1 Behavioural, organisational and cultural issues to understand public user needs including those for joint European action:** Assess the specific needs of private and public end users with a view to applicability, user friendliness and affordability of the results of the security research results of the 7th Framework Programme.

Area 6.3: Foresight, scenarios and security as an evolving concept

Topics:

- **Topic SEC-2007-6.3.2 Research on rigorous methodologies for assessment of security investments and trade-off between security and other societal objectives (e.g. privacy and social cohesion):** Develop foresight based methodologies for the rigorous assessment of investment alternatives, intended to prevent or mitigate insecurities with uncertain and potentially catastrophic ramifications.

For further information about the Cooperation programme within the FP7, see as well the following Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the Specific Programme "Cooperation". (http://ec.europa.eu/research/future/pdf/specifc_programmes/fp7sp_cooperation_en.pdf, 2006-12-13)

II. DG Environment:

Since May 1998, the Civil Protection Unit within the Directorate General Environment is responsible for coordinating the inter-service activities of the European Commission in the Field of civil protection. Since 2002, it is the European Commission's focal point for the coordination of accident and disaster intervention. the Unit is engaged in risk management activities in the field of civil protection.

(Source: <http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/ressources/doc/APCAT/2003/APCAT-2003-12-e.pdf>, 2006-12-15)

1) Financial Instruments for Community action in the field of civil protection

(Source: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st13/st13182.en06.pdf>, 2006-12-13)

Until 2006, the DG Environment disposed of an financial instrument called the "Action Programme for Civil Protection" to provide financial support for activities aiming at:

- preventing the risks and damage to persons, property and in so doing environment, in the event of natural and technological disasters;
- increasing the degree of preparedness of those involved in civil protection in the Member States, in order to increase their ability to respond to an emergency;
- detecting and studying causes of disasters;
- improving the means and methods of forecasting, techniques and methods of response and immediate aftercare after emergencies; and
- public information, education and awareness, so as to help citizens to protect themselves more effectively.

After the programme expires, the Commission intends to put in place other or renewed Community instrument for civil protection within the new EU Financial Perspectives for the 2007-2013. In particular, the Commission has submitted a proposal in the framework of the EU Financial Perspective for the 2007-2013: proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a Rapid Response and Preparedness Instrument for major emergencies (COM (2005) 113 final of 6 April 2005. This proposal is currently under negotiation with the European Parliament and the Council.

"Draft Decision establishing a civil protection financial instrument"

The aim of the proposal is to establish, during the period of validity of the Financial Framework 2007-2013, the financial basis for Community action in the field of civil protection. The proposed instrument would finance:

- the response and preparedness actions covered by the Civil Protection Mechanism, which is currently being revised under the Commission proposal for a Council Decision establishing a Community civil protection mechanism (Recast);
- actions presently covered by the Civil Protection Action Programme 1999-2006, such as contributing to prevention (study of causes of disasters, forecasting, public information) and preparedness (detection, training, networking, exercises, mobilisation of expertise) inside the EU; and
- new areas such as financing additional equipment and transport in response actions under the civil protection mechanism.

The indicative amounts made available under the Financial Framework 2007-2013 are annually EUR 17 million for actions inside the EU and EUR 8 million for actions in third countries.

Since the current Civil Protection Action Programme will expire on 31.12.2006, and since the present proposal includes the financing for the Civil Protection Mechanism, a failure to formally adopt the present financial instrument before January 2007 would lead to difficulties in financing after that date civil protection activities currently covered by that programme, as well as the operation of the Mechanism.

So far no information could be obtained regarding any definite decision about this new financial instrument.

2) Rapid Response and Preparedness Instrument for major emergencies

(Source: Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a Rapid Response and Preparedness Instrument for major emergencies:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0113en01.pdf, 2006-12-13)

Article 1: Subject-matter

This Regulation establishes, for the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013, a Rapid Response and Preparedness Instrument, hereinafter "the Instrument", to support and complement the efforts of the Member States for the protection of people, the environment and property in the event of a major emergency.

Article 2: Scope

1. This Regulation shall apply to preparedness for major emergencies regardless of their nature.

Article 4: Eligible actions

The following actions shall be eligible for financial assistance under the Instrument:

- a) studies, surveys, modelling, scenario building and contingency planning;
- b) capacity building assistance;
- c) training, exercises, workshops, exchange of staff and experts;
- d) demonstration projects;
- e) technology transfer;
- f) awareness and dissemination actions;
- g) communication actions and measures promoting the visibility of the European response;
- h) provision of adequate means and equipment;
- i) establishment and maintenance of secure communication systems and tools;
- j) monitoring, assessment and evaluation;
- k) transportation and associated logistical support for experts, liaison officers, observers, intervention teams, equipment and mobile facilities;
- l) dispatching and sending out of experts, liaison officers and observers;

- m) mobilisation on short notice of adequate means and equipment; and
- n) the setting up and transport of mobile laboratories, high security mobile facilities and medical protective equipment.

3) Call for expressions of interest 2006-2009 (CEI/AMI) 2005/S230-226565 30.11.2005

(Source:http://ted.europa.eu/Exec;jsessionid=6206F1CB5297AF9B367C30795E350ECF.instance_1?DataFlow=ShowPage.dfl&Template=TED/N_one_result_detail_curr.htm&docnumber=226565-2005&docId=226565-2005&StatLang=EN, 2006-12-13)

DG Environment has one open call for expressions of interest which comprises topics related to disaster risk management or other topics, which could be interesting for national platforms for disaster risk reduction. Persons who are interested in having their name entered on a list of candidates are invited to submit an application. The list drawn up following the notice will be used solely for contracts whose estimated value is below the thresholds laid down in the relevant public procurement Directives (currently the threshold is EUR 154 000).

Description of fields to be covered by the C.E.I:

1. Communication:

- 1.1 Internet actions (editing, graphics, development);
- 1.2 Publications (editing, layout, translation, printing, dissemination);
- 1.3 Press and media relations;
- 1.4 Organisation of conferences and events;
- 1.5 Exhibitions (organisation, layout, display material);
- 1.6 Public relations, promotion and campaigning;
- 1.7 Communication plans and strategies; and
- 1.8 Promotional and conference materials.

2. Legal enforcement; civil protection:

- 1.2 Civil protection.

11. Climate, ozone and energy:

- 11.10 Climate change — international and national legal issues;
- 11.11 Climate change impacts;
- 11.16 Adaptation and planning;
- 11.17 Adaptation and forestry
- 11.18 Adaptation and agriculture;
- 11.20 Adaptation and insurance;
- 11.21 Adaptation and water resources;
- 11.22 Adaptation and marine resources;
- 11.23 Adaptation and human health;
- 11.34 Assessing cost and benefits of mitigation and adaptation measure; and
- 11.36 Adaptation to climate change.

15. Water and the marine environment:

- 15.2 The EU Water Initiative from the WSSD;
- 15.3 Protection of the marine environment; and
- 15.3 Protection of the marine environment.

III. DG External Relations:

European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

(Source: Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument: http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/oj_l310_en.pdf, 2006-12-13)

Budget: 12 billion € (2007-2013)

Article 1 Subject matter and scope

1. This Regulation establishes a Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument to provide Community assistance for the development of an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness involving the European Union, and the partner countries (Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Russian Federation, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine).

Article 2 Scope of Community assistance

2. Community assistance shall be used to support measures within the following areas of cooperation:

(m) fostering the development of civil society and of nongovernmental organisations; and

(aa) providing support in post-crisis situations, including support to refugees and displaced persons, and assisting in disaster preparedness;

IV. DG ECHO (European Commission Humanitarian Office):

Disaster Preparedness and DIPECHO

DG ECHO supports disaster preparedness actions within local communities in several regions around the world, so as to help communities react rapidly and in an appropriate manner in case of a disaster, thus allowing many lives to be saved. These operations are carried out either under specific DIPECHO programmes or in the frame of traditional emergency interventions. DG ECHO hopes to develop this approach in 2006 by continuing its DIPECHO projects in the various regions concerned (Central Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, Caribbean, Central and Latin America), and by integrating more this dimension in its emergency interventions when this proves relevant. Thus in **Western Africa**, DG ECHO will begin to reflect on the prevention of nutritional crises and on the preparation of this type of crisis in the countries most vulnerable in the region. In the **Horn of Africa**, so as to better prepare the pastoral populations of Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Djibouti against recurring and evermore frequent droughts, DG ECHO is envisaging a regional decision concerning drought preparation. This financing would allow the support of actions such as mapping and the maintenance of water points or the improvement of animal health, and would include a certain reserve amount to use to intervene at the first sign of an emergency situation in order to avoid it from propagating to other areas.

This drought preparation programme will be developed in close collaboration with DG Development and DG EuropeAid. **Central Asia** has benefited from three successive DIPECHO action plans since 2003. The third action plan started in August 2005 with projects lasting 12 to 15 months, i.e. until autumn 2006. An evaluation of these three action plans will then be initiated and will help determine the direction to take for DIPECHO activities in the region in 2007 (and beyond the current DG ECHO operations in Tajikistan).

In **Latin America** and **Asia**, the new DIPECHO action plans for disaster preparedness will be implemented in 2006 in the Andean community (Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela), in South Asia (India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan) and in the Caribbean.

New plans of action will be started in Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama) and in South-East Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, East Timor, Indonesia and probably the Philippines) following the organisation of consultation meetings in each country of each region. Emphasis will be put on small-scale projects tackling specific needs of local communities in the fields of disaster preparedness, of the alleviation of damage and of the adoption of early warning systems for the most vulnerable populations of these regions. Particular attention will be paid to projects which can link in with broader risk reduction activities, within the context of the implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 14* drawn up in Kobe (Japan) at the beginning of 2005.

Preparation for disasters caused by the impact of natural hazards

The tsunami has shown the importance of integrating disaster preparedness into humanitarian aid operations, but also – at a higher level and for longer term – into development cooperation. Commitments were made for this at the international level, with an accent nevertheless on early warning systems and their technological aspect. DG ECHO already carries out many actions in this domain (see paragraph 4.1.7.), which it hopes to reinforce in the future.

In a more general manner, DG ECHO intends to press for the introduction of a disaster preparedness dimension into development policies and into development cooperation, and for a better articulation and complementarity between the different levels of intervention (local, regional, national or even inter-state level, particularly in Latin America). Indeed, for maximum efficiency, disaster prevention and preparedness must be done in a coordinated manner, at all levels, from the national (and even supranational) to the local, with clear and effective transmission channels between these different levels.

V. DG Development:

DG Development initiates and formulates the Community's development cooperation policy for all developing countries as defined in Title XX of the Treaty establishing the European Community and co-ordinates the Community's relations with the Sub-Saharan African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and regions, including the African Union, the regional economic communities, as well as the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs). DG Development allocates and programmes resources of the European Development Fund (EDF), prepares strategies for cooperation with the ACP countries and regions and the OCTs and monitors their implementation. DG Development is also responsible for the programming of resources from the EC budget for the global Thematic Programmes Investing in People, Environment, Food Security, Non-State Actors, Migration, and their monitoring.

For the programming of the 10th EDF, programming guidelines on disaster risk reduction were prepared for use by country/ regional desk officers and delegations in dialogue with the partner governments/ regional organisations. DG Development aspires to more comprehensively integrate disaster risk reduction into the Community's development cooperation programmes, and is currently developing policy to this end. Beyond the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction, in 2006 an ACP-EC natural disaster facility was created, aimed at capacity-building for disaster risk reduction at regional level. This facility is expected to continue and be increased through funding from the 10th EDF.

VI. DG Information Society:

Since the late 1980's the Directorate General for Information and Communication Technologies and Media has been funding Research in the area of ICT for the Environment. This has led to the carrying out of a multitude of European projects, which have addressed several themes to be addressed related to environmental risk management including.

- technologies ranging from 'smart sensors', which can communicate 'from the field', to Grids - new computer systems which offer the best possible way of capturing, processing, analysing and modelling the massive amounts of data produced by Galileo, GMES and other monitoring systems;
- new concepts and technologies to enhance Civil Security in the prevention and the management of industrial and terrorist threats and to improve crisis management. Work will also include technologies for humanitarian aid and humanitarian de-mining; and
- helping develop a European info-structure and associated services for environmental and crisis management, integrating in situ and remote sensing observation. This should be based on the INSPIRE initiative (INfrastructure for SPatial InfoRmation in Europe) to achieve cross border compatibility in the management of a crisis.

The Unit of ICT for Sustainable Growth

The unit has been funding research projects on Intelligent systems for environmental applications since the late 1990s (FP4). Three broad work areas were addressed in FP5, Environmental monitoring and management systems, Risk and emergency management, and Humanitarian de-mining. Past and ongoing research activities have well demonstrated the key enabling role of ICT in sustainability and confirm its contributions in the context of the i2010 initiative. The start of FP7 offers the opportunity for broadening the scope of challenges to be addressed, beyond environmental and disaster management themes. In this respect, R&D on energy efficiency and on other emerging fields, such as the interactions between environment and health, is envisaged. In addition to research activities, the Unit is also preparing a new initiative, with the aim to accelerate the adoption and deployment of ICT-based solutions, thus contributing directly to the Sustainable Development Strategy, the Lisbon Agenda and EU Action Plans on Resource and Energy Efficiency.

VII. DG Regional Policy:

The Commission of the European Community decided in 2000 to establish a Community Initiative, called INTERREG, concerning trans-European cooperation intended to encourage harmonious and balanced development of the European territory. The Framework of INTERREG included the possibility for the Member States to develop some activities in the field of civil protection. Activities under this Community Initiative were co-financed through the European Regional Development Fund. The current period of Structural Funds programmes and instruments will come to its end in December 2006 and the Commission, the Member States and the regions prepare for the new programming period between 2007 and 2013. For the up-coming period the known Objectives and Community Initiatives will be merged into three remaining Objectives: "Convergence", "Regional competitiveness and employment" and "European territorial cooperation". The two latter Objectives provide the possibility of funding of activities in the field of disaster risk reduction.

1) European Regional Development Fund (2007-2013):

(Source: Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999:

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:210:0001:01:EN:HTML, 2006-12-13](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:210:0001:01:EN:HTML,2006-12-13))

Article 5: Regional competitiveness and employment (48.8 bn. €)

Under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective, the ERDF shall focus its assistance in the context of sustainable development strategies, while promoting employment, primarily on the following three priorities:

[...]

2. environment and risk prevention, and in particular:

(e) developing plans and measures to prevent and cope with natural risks (e.g. desertification, droughts, fires and floods) and technological risks;

Article 6: European territorial cooperation (7.5 bn €)

Under the European territorial cooperation objective, the ERDF shall focus its assistance on the following priorities:

2. the establishment and development of transnational cooperation, including bilateral cooperation between maritime regions not covered under point 1, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development, concentrating primarily on the following priority areas:

(b) environment: water management, energy efficiency, risk prevention and environmental protection activities with a clear transnational dimension. Actions may include: protection and management of river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, water services and wetlands; fire, drought and flood prevention; the promotion of maritime security and protection against natural and technological risks; and protection and enhancement of the natural heritage in support of socio-economic development and sustainable tourism;

3. reinforcement of the effectiveness of regional policy by promoting:

(a) interregional cooperation focusing on innovation and the knowledge economy and environment and risk prevention in the sense of Article 5(1) and (2);

VIII. DG Enlargement:

The vast forest fires in the summer of 2007 highlighted the importance of preparedness and well-coordinated cross-border action in case of disasters in South-East Europe. A high-level conference on disaster preparedness and prevention will be held in Sofia in April 2008. The Commission will launch in the second half of 2008 a Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative to support capacity building of the Western Balkan countries and Turkey in this area.

The countries of the Western Balkans need to build up their capacity and to enhance regional cooperation in the field of civil protection and disaster prevention. This includes developing region-wide management information systems, acquiring emergency communication tools and other equipment, and improving the interoperability of civil protection services, fire brigades, hydrological and meteorological services, and the health sector.

The *Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative*, financed by €2 million yearly through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), will support capacity building of the Western Balkan countries and Turkey as well as data collection, processing and sharing and the preparation

of a regional strategy. The programme will be implemented in close cooperation with other donors and stakeholders. These include the World Bank and the UN/ISDR which are implementing a project in South East Europe for building up local capacity, developing weather forecasting and early-warning systems, investing in infrastructure and disaster mitigation measures and establishing a regional disaster insurance scheme.

The Commission will also encourage the candidate and potential candidate countries to use the opportunities offered by the Community *Civil Protection Mechanism* and the *Civil Protection Financial Instrument*. The Mechanism facilitates preparedness for and response to major emergencies, while the Civil Protection Financial Instrument provides the legal basis for financing all EU activities in the field of civil protection.

The candidate countries will be able to take part in all Community activities in the field of civil protection, including calls for proposals, training programmes, simulation exercises and real-time response to requests for civil protection assistance through the Mechanism. Cooperation with the potential candidates could cover areas such as disaster risk reduction and monitoring, information and early-warning systems, emergency communication tools, increasing operational capacity and improving interoperability of civil protection services. The countries can also participate in trainings, seminars and exchange of experts.

A regional initiative, the *Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South East Europe (DPPI SEE)* was launched under the Stability Pact. On 24 September 2007 in Zagreb, government representatives of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania and Slovenia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the institutional framework of DPPI SEE. Serbia signed the MOU in January 2008, and Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to signing the MOU after completion of its internal decision-making procedures.

DPPI SEE has been developing an institutional framework and intensifying its actions on flood response, seismic hazards and on the creation of a Joint Emergency Response Unit and a disaster management training programme. Bulgaria, as Chair of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECF), will host a high-level conference on disaster preparedness and prevention in Sofia in April 2008. The Commission cooperates with the DPPI SEE and will seek to ensure that the regional initiatives are fully consistent with related Community actions.

Council of Europe (CofE)**European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)**

(Source: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/default_EN.asp?)

In 1987 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe established an intergovernmental Open Partial Agreement called EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, which to date has been joined by 25 countries. The main objective of the agreement is “to reinforce and promote cooperation between member states in a multi-disciplinary context to ensure better prevention, protection and organisation of relief in the event of major natural or technological disasters by calling upon present day resources and knowledge to ensure efficient and interdependent management of major disasters.”

Although limited funding possibilities of the EUR-OPA Major Hazard Agreement, national platforms for disaster risk reduction could possibly find connection points for their own work among the activities run by the Agreement.

Recent activities of the Agreement include:

1. Policy, legislative and institutional aspects:
 - a. Comparative analysis of interministerial management of major hazards
 - b. Role of local and regional authorities in risk management
 - c. Adoption of recommendations on risk education and local and regional authorities role
2. Building a culture of risk reduction
 - a. School level education: educating children (as the best vehicles for establishing a risk culture) through the use of Internet
 - b. University level: support to the Post Graduate Training School 2006 MultiRISKS
 - c. Preparation of a national and local campaign on population information in Armenia
3. Scientific and technical cooperation
 - a. Health effects of wildland fire smoke
 - b. Contribution to risk mapping in Southern Caucasus
 - c. Support to the 20th anniversary Conference on Chernobyl Disaster
4. Preparedness and effective response
 - a. Provision of earthquake basic data and estimated damages
 - b. Joint programme with EFPA on psychological aid to disasters' victims

Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The OECD regards itself as a forum where the governments of the organisation's 30 member countries work together to address the economic social and governance challenges of globalisation as well as to exploit its opportunities. Created as an economic counterpart to the NATO, OECD's mission since 1961 has been to help governments achieve sustainable economic growth and employment and rising standards of living in member countries. The organisation's work begins with data collection and analysis, moves on to collective discussion of policy, and finally to decision-making and implementation through its member countries.

Although none of the 262 committees, sub-committees, working parties, groups of experts, ad hoc groups which currently perform OECD's activities explicitly works on natural disaster risk reduction, OECD has done considerable work on such issues. The three initiatives listed below are just some of the most recent activities in this field.

OECD Futures Project on Risk Management Policies

(Source:

http://www.oecd.org/document/49/0,2340,en_2649_37425_36099505_1_1_1_37425,00.html, 14.03.2007)

This project is part of the OECD International Futures Programme, which has been established to provide the organisation with early warning of emerging issues, pinpoint major developments, and analyse key long-term concerns to help governments map strategy. The project was launched in 2003 in order to assist OECD countries in identifying the challenges of managing risks in the 21st century, and help them reflect on how best to address those challenges. The first outcomes of this project with respect to risk management have been published in nine OECD Studies in Risk Management

- France: Policies for Preventing and Compensating Flood-related damage
- Japan: Floods
- Japan: Earthquakes
- United States: Disaster Information Needs of Ethnic Minorities
- Denmark: Assessing Societal Risks and Vulnerabilities
- Italy: Industrial Hazards triggered by floods
- Norway: Information Security
- Norway: Tunnel Safety
- Sweden: Safety of the Elderly

Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change

(Source:

http://www.oecd.org/document/45/0,2340,en_2649_34361_37819437_1_1_1_1,00.html, 14.03.2007)

The OECD Environment Directorate works on different initiatives which support the member countries to develop strategies with respect to climate change impacts. Natural hazard

management is seen as one of the most important tasks in this field. Thus in 2006 the Directorate organized a workshop on “Adaptation to the impacts of climate change in the European Alps”, which included natural hazard management as well as economic adaptation within the tourism sector. Just recently, the Directorate published “Climate Change in the European Alps: Adapting Winter Tourism and Natural Hazards Management” which is the product of a two year study by the OECD Environment Directorate.

Financial Management of Large-Scale Catastrophes

(Source:

http://www.oecd.org/document/54/0,2340,en_2649_37411_37376886_1_1_1_37411,00.html
, 14.03.2007)

Another recent initiative by OECD is the establishment of a “International Network on Financial Management of Large-scale Catastrophes”. This initiative arose from the perception that in an increasingly globalised economy, the knock-on effect of disasters grows beyond the direct economic and social impact of the countries affected. Therefore the network aims at identifying emerging financial threats and vulnerabilities, exchanging information and expertise on the financial mitigation and compensation of disasters, reviewing the related tools and schemes implemented in OECD and non-OECD countries; and developing policy analysis aimed at improving financial catastrophe mitigation and compensation strategies. The inaugural meeting of the High Level Advisory Board of the Network was held in Paris in September 2006 and one of the first substantial activities will be the organisation of a first Conference on the Financial Management of Large-Scale Catastrophes, which took place in Hyderabad, India, 26-27 February 2007.

Conclusion

Despite the initiatives described above the OECD so far does not seem to be a partner, which would provide substantial financial support for national platforms for disaster risk reduction. On its website OECD notes that unlike other international organisations such as the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund it does not dispense money. It has no financial resources for loans, subsidies or grants, which could help national platforms for disaster risk reduction to foster their institutional budgets. Nevertheless, OECD remains an important partner for cooperation. OECD’s influence on decision making in its member countries as well as in other countries that cooperate with OECD on different issues, seems to be an important entry point for stressing the importance of disaster risk reduction on the international level.

European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction

On April 23, 2007 heads of the French, German and Swiss National Platforms met in Basel and signed an agreement for the establishment of a European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points for Disaster Reduction. The meeting in Basel built on the negotiations and the outcome of the Paris meeting in December 2006, organised by the French National Platform. Based on the discussions in Paris, common goals, specific objectives, a first work plan and a structure for the network were identified and form the agreement.

The agreement is seen as a consequent next step forward to establish a network of national platforms and focal points on the regional level in Europe. First concrete working steps for the network were identified as:

1. preparation of a coherent presentation of European national platforms and focal points as an input to the Global Platform meeting in June 2007 in Geneva
2. start a programme of seminars to be hosted by one or several of the network member, the first one to be a thematic workshop on relationships between disaster reduction and disaster relief, to be organised in November 2007 by the French platform in cooperation with the other network members

The participants agreed that for the first period of two years DKKV will be the chair of the network. However, as the network is understood as an open evolving process, every national platform and focal point in Europe is most welcome.

Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE)

On 16 March 2000, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe launched the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI SEE), in an effort to contribute to the development of a cohesive regional strategy for disaster preparedness and prevention. DPPI SEE aims to pull together ongoing and future activities to identify and address unmet needs, in order to both improve the efficiency of national disaster management systems, and to endorse a framework for regional cooperation. DPPI SEE has been a primary example of regional ownership, with full involvement of regional countries cooperating under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe auspices, supported by interested countries and international organizations and agencies (such as the European Union, UNDP, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, NATO, the Swedish Rescue Services Agency and the Danish Emergency Management Agency).

One of the main tasks of DPPI SEE is to bring the participants' political strategies in line with one another, to coordinate existing and new initiatives in the region and, thereby, to help avoid unnecessary duplication of work. The objective of the DPPI SEE is to:

- Strengthen good neighborly relations and stability through the exchange of information, lessons learnt and best practices in the field of disaster management.
- Enhance cooperation among DPPI SEE partners in view of European Union enlargement and the process of Euro-Atlantic integration for SEE countries.
- Support and encourage countries in the region to develop, adopt and/or enforce state-of-the-art disaster emergency legislation, regulations and codes designed to prevent and mitigate disasters in line with guidelines and common practices accepted in the international community.

In July 2005, DPPI SEE was transferred to a regional office in Sarajevo. On 24 September 2007 in Zagreb, government representatives of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania and Slovenia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the institutional framework of DPPI SEE. Serbia signed the MOU in January 2008, and Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to signing the MOU after completion of its internal decision-making procedures.

Since its formation, DPPI SEE's partners have initiated and developed various project proposals, strengthening regional cooperation through the utilization of coordinated action and using internationally accepted methodology. In the past six years, for example, more than 700 participants from the SEE region have participated in 53 training events conducted within framework of the DPPI SEE Disaster Management Training Program. Through the Joint Firefighting Unit Project (JFU), 72 firefighters from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro have been equipped with identical firefighting and communication equipment, and have been trained using identical international standards. A new project, Joint Firefighting in SEE, seeks to build on this initial work by exploring establishment of a regional platform for education, training and coordination; refreshing training for JFU; training and equipping new and existing firefighting teams with standardized equipment; and initiating regular regional exchange of information regarding fire, forest fire and fire in open space. Another project, proposing the establishment of joint emergency response units in case of floods in the SEE region, aims to improve regional preparedness and response capacity for floods by equipping and jointly training eight emergency response units in eight countries of the SEE region.

DPPI SEE partners have also collaborated to harmonize seismic risk hazard maps in countries influenced by the Vrancea earthquakes, as well as in Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania

and Turkey. This project expanded further in October 2007, when DPPI SEE, in collaboration with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, and supported by experts from Slovenia and Turkey, officially launched the Project for Harmonization of Seismic Hazard Maps for the Western Balkan Countries.

Good practices from national platforms**Czech National Committee for Natural Disaster risk reduction****Good Practices:**

Czech National Committee for Disaster risk reduction (Czech NC DR) regards as one of its key roles to ensure regular meetings and communication of people from different parts of emergency or more generally disaster risk reduction system. We feel that our approach to have the committee not based on official state structures like inter-ministerial commission etc. brings friendly, quick and, efficient exchange of expertise and knowledge among the committee members. Meetings are organized three or four times a year and each of them is devoted to a specific topic from the DR agenda like – floods, geologically-based disasters, forecasting and warning services, energetical crises, information systems and dissemination of warning, etc. Specialists on these topics (often members of the NC) present their lectures and experience. Each of these meetings takes place at a seat of one of the members so participants can see how the contribution and facilities for DR are realized on these different places and parts of DR. The members also keep an updated database of e-mails, mobile phone numbers to facilitate fast contacts in the case of real emergency situation or disaster. Similarly, once a year delegates of NCs (platforms) meet in a framework of CEUDIP at different Central European countries to discuss specific subjects from DR and exchange recent news from DR process in their respective countries.

Lessons learned:

Czech NC DR has proved several times during two recent catastrophic events (floods 2002, 2006) and during many smaller emergency situations very useful fast personal contacts among the NC members, which helped in mutual exchange of data, information and facilitation of services before and during these emergency events. The contacts were more efficient than through official network system and helped to overall efficiency of DR or emergency system.

Ivan Obrusnik
Chairman of the Czech NC DR

2.2.2007

German Committee for Disaster risk reduction (DKKV)

The German Committee for Disaster risk reduction views itself as a forum for dialogue aimed at informing society about disaster risk reduction, bringing together relevant players. It focuses in the areas of science, policy, business, society and rescue services integrating the various relevant ongoing activities. Our goal is to make disaster risk reduction an integral part of approaches and action in the political, scientific and social realms.

Recently the DKKV implemented the following activities which could be seen as good practices for the work of a national platform for disaster risk reduction.

1. Overview of disaster management study courses (Bachelor and Master)

(Contribution to Priority for Action 3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels)

Traditionally disaster management study courses were only offered by the university of applied science of the fire brigades in Germany. Additional high level staff had a background in natural sciences and engineering. Due to the better understanding of the complexity of disasters and disaster risk reduction, an increasing need for professional training at the level of universities was realised. A number of universities and technical universities started to prepare curricula independent from each other. Thus, the need to establish an information exchange between the different actors, to avoid duplications and to provide an overview to all potential users came up.

Why is this initiative a good practice?

A coordinated exchange of information between 18 different university training centres became established. A comprehensive overview was developed and put on the web, providing information to the public. The ongoing initiatives and activities were presented to the disaster management community at several meetings. The information is regularly updated.

How many people have benefited and how?

The exact figure is not known. In different parts of Germany the media reported about the initiative and consequently requests for more information were made to DKKV by phone and e-mail.

How does this initiative contribute to the overall DRR in your country?

The initiative contributed to a closer inter-linkage between a number of university training centres on a country wide level. In the preparation of the different curricula already existing training courses and modules could be considered. Thus, duplications became minimised. A comprehensive overview was made public. Hence, interested students can get first hand information on which training is established where. A closer link between future students in disaster management and training centres came into existence. The initiative thus contributes to an improvement of disaster management training in Germany.

What is the contribution of National Platforms?

The German Committee for Disaster risk reduction (DKKV) took the initiative to offer a platform for exchange of information and voluntary coordination of the different initiatives. Information was circulated widely to experts, universities and interested public. Regular update of information is done by DKKV.

2. Preparation of information material for the public with regard to natural hazards.

(Contribution to Priority for Action 3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels)

Beside local initiatives only very few material with information on how to behave in case of a natural hazard is available in Germany. The anticipated effects of climate change and the experience of the heat wave in 2003 led to an initiative taken by the German Committee for Disaster risk reduction (DKKV) to produce information material on behaviour in case of strong wind events and heat waves for distribution to the public. The production of the leaflets was financially supported by the Ministry of transport, which is the responsible ministry for the German Weather Service.

Why is this initiative a good practice?

The information material was developed by a broad number of actors including the German Weather Service, the German Red Cross, the Fire Brigade Hamburg, the Federal Office for Civil Protection (BBK), the University Leipzig and the Ministry of Transport. Every organisation involved contributed its special expertise to the product.

How many people have benefited and how?

The information material was produced in a print run of 150.000 copies each. Additionally pdf-files of the flyer were linked to the web pages of all participating organisations. The first series of the flyers was advertised by distributing them as a loose insert to a well known magazine (print run 15.000). Mainly multipliers like teachers, communal services, fire brigades and civil protection organisations sent in requests for up to 1.000 flyers each. Distribution then took place during training sessions or as outlays in town halls or fire stations. Additional numbers were downloaded from the websites.

How does this initiative contribute to the overall DRR in your country?

The initiative provided to the public understandable information on how to behave in case of certain hazards. Thus, it contributed to a better understanding of natural hazards and an improved preparedness of the population in Germany. At the same time the initiative improved the cooperation between different actors involved in disaster management in Germany.

What is the contribution of National Platforms?

The German Committee for Disaster risk reduction (DKKV) provided the umbrella to bring the different actors together. All parties involved were members of DKKV. Without a national platform it is very unlikely that the very different organisations would have engaged in such a collective effort.

3. Third International Early Warning Conference (EWC III)

(Contribution to Priority for Action 2: Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning)

Following the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean in December 2004 the German Government offered at the World Conference for Disaster risk reduction (WCDR) in Kobe, Japan, to host the Third International Conference on Early Warning (EWC III). This initiative taken by the German Government was a continuation of Germany's long standing commitment to early warning as one of the most effective components of disaster risk reduction. Germany already hosted the EWC I in 1998 and the EWC II in 2003. The conference was co-organized by the

Federal Foreign Office, the German National Platform for Disaster risk reduction (DKKV) and the UN/ISDR secretariat. The programme was designed in two parallel strings. A projects forum where different hazards and Early Warning possibilities were discussed and project proposals presented and a scientific forum which focused on the most burning issues of early warning from the scientific point of view.

Why is this initiative a good practice?

The conference is a good practice in two ways. First of all it was a timely and appropriate reaction of a member state of the UN to actual events and the need for an international forum to discuss consequences. It coincided with the call of the SG of the UN for a Global Early Warning System for all hazards. It contributed to the global survey of early warning system coordinated by UN/ISDR.

Additionally the preparation, programme development and execution of the conference was a joint effort of a national government, a United Nations secretariat and a non governmental organisation being part of an United Nations Strategy.

How many people have benefited and how?

The exact figure is not known. More than 1.400 participants were registered. In different parts of Germany and internationally the media reported about the initiative and consequently requests for more information were made to DKKV and UN/ISDR Secretariat by phone and e-mail.

How does this initiative contribute to the overall DRR?

The conference once again put early warning as an important element in the broader framework of DRR in the frontline of interest of civil society, private sector and political decision makers. In the preparation to the conference more than 100 early warning projects were collected, partly presented at the conference and compiled in a publication. Some projects already received funding based on the interest generated at the EWC III.

What is the contribution of National Platforms?

The German Committee for Disaster risk reduction (DKKV) was one of three partners preparing and organising the conference. The members of the National Platform contributed with their expertise to the design the programme. As an example the programme of the scientific part of the conference was developed by members of DKKV. Additionally members of DKKV provided funds to cover travel costs for participants from developing countries and to co-sponsored the conference.

Good Practice for Disaster Risk Reduction in Hungary

According to the UN General Assembly resolution of 57/150 about “the strengthening the effectiveness of international urban search and rescue assistance” and in harmonization with the civilian strategy of the National Directorate General for Disaster Management, NDGDM was aiming to train uniformly national and international voluntary search and rescue organizations.

The objective was to train and prepare rescue teams – based on the UN INSARAG Guidelines - , which can take part in a mission in case of international disaster assistance and represent the Hungarian Government.

With collaboration of the expert of UN OCHA a III-phase training system was established. I. phase of the training began in 2004, which was the “Train of the trainers” course. During this course besides representative of national disaster management organizations, representatives of SAR teams from neighboring countries took part (Macedonia, Serbia-Montenegro, Slovenia, Ukraine). At this training the participants earned the competence to train further national SAR teams for international missions, according to the knowledge forwarded them by the UN OCHA experts. Later in 2004 the national UN INSARAG training of voluntary rescue organizations was organized in order to practice coordination and intervention activities in a mission abroad. The exercise was supervised by UN OCHA experts and was carried out after the scenario of an earthquake response.

End of 2005, with the professional supervision of UN OCHA, the III., evaluation phase of the training series took place. Following the scenario of an earthquake, USAR teams had to prove their theoretical and practical knowledge in a complex urban search and rescue situation. As achievement of the training, participating USAR teams received their INSARAG accreditation from UN OCHA. Following the exercise, Mr. Gerhard Putman-Cramer, Deputy Director and Chief, Emergency Services Branch of OCHA acknowledged the success of the evaluation exercise and considered it as an important step in the development of INSARAG methodology and in strengthening the USAR capacity.

Good Practice for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sweden

Introduction

The major natural hazards in Sweden are related to floods, extreme precipitation, windstorms, landslides, forest fire and avalanches. The key concerns in relation to these hazards are to prevent and mitigate the consequences of natural disasters and a changed climate.

The Swedish Platform for DRR

The Swedish platform for DRR has not been fully established. The Swedish government has commissioned the Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA) to implement the platform, which will take place during 2007-2008.

SRSA will coordinate the platform. There will be a meeting with 14 governmental agencies and institutes in September 2007, which will be a milestone in the implementation process. At that meeting the objectives and the organization of the platform will be discussed and the first alignments will be made.

Major Swedish initiatives related to HFA implementation

One major contribution to the DRR in Sweden is the efforts by the Government Commission on Climate and Vulnerability, which is working from June 2005 until Oct 2007. The commission will survey the consequences of a changed climate on infrastructure, public health and biodiversity. The commission will also propose measures to prevent and mitigate negative climate effects. The conclusions from the commission will be a major input to the Swedish platform agenda.

In January 2007 the Swedish government commissioned SRSA to start the implementation of a Swedish platform under the Hyogo Framework for Action, in order to strengthen the coordination of national efforts to prevent and mitigate natural disasters. The implementation process will proceed during 2007 and 2008.

The SRSA has been preparing the platform during 2006-2007 and there are several ongoing activities, regarding e.g. communication (website: www.raddningsverket.se/nationellplattform, information pamphlets, etc), cooperation with other countries (both on an European and a bilateral level) and within our agency (with the International Department and their mission regarding development aid), and coordination with the implementation of a Swedish database for natural disasters.

Another important administrative factor in Sweden is a possible fusion of SRSA, the Swedish Emergency Management Agency and the National Board of Psychological Defence. There is a governmental commission working on this issue and their report will be presented in May 2007. If there will be a fusion, it will probably take place during 2008.

Good Practice

General flood inundation mapping

Almost every year Sweden is affected by floods resulting in damage. Damage can be limited through prevention planning and effective response operations during flood emergencies. For this purpose the SRSA compiles and maintains general flood inundation maps. These are created as basic data for prevention work with the help of a watercourse model for those areas close to watercourses that are at risk of flooding. The maps are intended for use during the planning of emergency and rescue services and as a foundation for land use planning by

municipalities. They can also be used as basic data for various risk and vulnerability analyses. Approximately 10 % of the rivers in Sweden are to be mapped, which corresponds to 10 000 km. At present date (2007) about 7 500 km are mapped.

River coordination groups

Since 1995 river coordination groups have been established in Sweden. The task for these groups is to coordinate flood prevention and mitigation on a catchment level. The county administrative boards convene and chair the cooperation between member organisations. The preventive work includes building networks, carrying out preparedness plans and organizing seminars. Each member organisation has its own responsibility during the response phase of a flood event.

General stability mapping

There are areas in Sweden that because of their location, topography and geology are susceptible to landslides. A large number of buildings were constructed before careful consideration of the risks for natural disasters became common practice during physical planning by municipalities. Therefore, some buildings have been established in landslide sensitive areas. As support for municipal risk management, general stability mapping are carried out in areas with existing buildings. The maps show areas that are susceptible to landslides and areas that are in need of a detailed geotechnical survey to elucidate ground stability. Many municipalities with hazardous ground conditions have access to this type of survey mapping.

Information System: Fire-risk - Forest & Land

A national information system called *Fire-risk - Forest & Land* has been developed to support municipal fire & rescue services and the county administrative boards. The objective is to assess the risk of vegetation fires, and the system is available on the Internet. The system includes e.g. relevant information about how the weather can influence the risk of vegetation fires. Basic data for prevention work is provided together with decision-making support during emergency response operations. Similar warning systems are also in operation for floods, windstorms and snowstorms.

National resources for major forest fires and floods

During major forest fires, the national level can support municipalities with specific extra resources. There are regional resource depots for forest fires, primarily to provide support for the municipal fire & rescue services. Materiel resources are contained in 24 modules distributed around the country. The modules can easily be relocated in case of a major incident. The equipment consists mainly of motor pumps, hoses, monitors, nozzles and branch pipes of varying sizes.

During major floods the national level can support municipalities with specific extra resources, which consist of e.g. sandbags, temporary flood barriers and water pumps. The incident commander can requisition materiel via the SRSA's duty officer.

Government subsidies for preventive work for natural disasters

For built-up areas, in which the consequences of natural disasters can be especially serious, the government at present allocates 40 million SEK per year for preventive measures. Municipalities that have carried out or are going to carry out preventive measures can apply for a subsidy from these funds. Flood prevention can take the form of embankments and dykes, pumping equipment or closing devices for water supply and sewage systems.

Landslide prevention can take the form of slope stabilisation measures, such as excavation of masses, stabilising berms, erosion protection measures, drainage measures, or ground-strengthening with lime cement columns. In certain cases the only economically defensible method to prevent an emergency is to remove the threatened object.

Swedish database for natural disasters

SRSA, in collaboration with other concerned authorities, is developing a database for natural disaster events in Sweden. The contents of the database should be based on lessons-learnt by authorities during and after natural disasters. The background of this commission is that there is currently no coordinated information in Sweden about natural disasters, their consequences or observations and lessons-learnt from the various bodies involved. The database will consist of different types of natural disasters in Sweden, such as floods, extreme precipitation, storms, landslides, erosion, forest fires, avalanches and earthquakes.

International humanitarian aid

Since 1988 the SRSA has carried out over 180 aid missions and emergency and rescue operations in approximately 60 countries, most of which have been financed by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida. The tasks vary, from direct humanitarian aid missions to search & rescue teams following earthquakes, or to support other organisations. Other types of missions include long-term development and reconstruction and recovery following disasters or conflicts. In the implementation and coordination of the Swedish platform for DRR, the national and international work will be closely integrated.

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Swiss National Platform for Natural Hazards (PLANAT)

Introduction/Issue

La superficie de la Suisse (41'290 km²) est constituée par plus de 70% de terrains montagneux. De ce fait, les dangers d'origine naturelle les plus fréquents sont les dangers de type avalanches, glissements de terrains, chutes de pierres, éboulements, inondations, laves torrentielles et grêle. Plus rarement mais de manière brutale, on peut observer des tremblements de terre, tempêtes, vagues de chaleur ou de froid et des incendies de forêts. Les risques effectifs les plus importants sont les orages et les températures extrêmes (21% chacun), tempêtes (12%), inondations (15%), tremblements de terre (12%), avalanches (11%) et mouvements de terrains (4% ; chiffres issus de KATARISK : Office fédéral de la protection de la population, 2003).

Jusqu'à présent, la sécurité vis-à-vis des dangers naturels s'est souvent limitée à une protection sectorielle, uniquement axée contre les dangers les plus fréquents. A présent, il est indispensable de prendre en compte une approche multidisciplinaire basée sur la notion de risque, et ne plus négliger les événements rares mais destructeurs dans la planification de cette protection. Il s'agit d'un véritable défi social, qui implique la participation de tous, aussi bien les pouvoirs publics que privés, ainsi que la population tout entière. Il faut définir des objectifs de protection tolérables pour la société, afin d'atteindre un niveau de sécurité comparable pour l'ensemble du territoire, et planifier les mesures correspondantes selon une gestion intégrée des risques considérant les aspects de prévention, de préparation, d'intervention et de reconstruction de manière pondérée. Il faut aussi identifier les nouveaux risques suffisamment tôt, notamment ceux qui pourraient être issus des changements climatiques (par exemple, instabilités liées à la fonte du permafrost, événements extrêmes, etc.).

Brief information on National Platform

La plate-forme nationale Suisse PLANAT a été créée par le Conseil fédéral (gouvernement) en 1997, au cours de la décennie internationale pour la réduction des catastrophes naturelles de l'ONU (1990-1999), dans le but d'améliorer la sécurité contre les dangers naturels sur l'ensemble de la Suisse.

PLANAT est une commission extraparlamentaire composée de 20 experts, qui représentent personnellement les principaux milieux concernés par la thématique des dangers naturels au niveau national. Ainsi, les offices fédéraux, les autorités cantonales, le domaine de la recherche, le secteur privé et les assurances possèdent chacun un représentant au moins. Ces membres sont élus par le gouvernement pour une période renouvelable de 4 ans, et peuvent rester actifs 12 ans au maximum. A l'avenir, il n'est pas exclu que les domaines des médias et/ou de l'agriculture soient également représentés.

La mission confiée à PLANAT est de s'occuper des aspects de prévention au niveau stratégique et national. Ses interlocuteurs principaux sont constitués par le Conseil fédéral, le Parlement et les Cantons. La plate-forme est un organe de coordination et de communication permettant d'harmoniser le travail de l'ensemble des acteurs concernés selon les lignes stratégiques préalablement fixées. Le leitmotiv de la PLANAT pourrait être résumé par la phrase suivante : « de la défense contre les dangers vers une culture du risque ».

PLANAT est placée sous la présidence d'un de ses membres, qui donne les impulsions principales aux activités entreprises. Un secrétariat permanent composé de 3 personnes (temps d'occupation total de 120%) apporte un soutien administratif, représente les intérêts

de la plate-forme en Suisse comme à l'étranger, et assure une coordination continue dans le cadre des activités de tous les membres. Actuellement, ce secrétariat est rattaché à l'Office fédéral de l'environnement (OFEV).

Le comité exécutif de PLANAT, composé de 6 membres, se réunit 3 fois par année. L'ensemble des 20 membres se réunit également 3 fois par année lors des assemblées plénières, qui sont aussi l'occasion d'excursions informatives sur le terrain. Des groupes de travail spécifiques (information/communication, international, sécurité, ...) se réunissent périodiquement lors de l'accompagnement de certains projets spécifiques. Au besoin, une séance spéciale supplémentaire peut réunir tout le monde pour traiter d'un sujet urgent.

Major national initiatives related to HFA implementation

Depuis la conférence mondiale de Kobe en janvier 2005, PLANAT a lancé un plan d'action pour la période 2005-2008. Ce projet consiste en la mise en pratique de la stratégie suisse en matière de gestion des dangers naturels élaborée par PLANAT en 2002. Cette stratégie est parfaitement compatible avec le cadre d'action de Hyogo (HFA) sur le plan national. Plusieurs projets sectoriels sont actuellement en cours de réalisation, dont les résultats seront synthétisés dans un rapport qui sera remis en 2008 au Conseil fédéral, et permettront de proposer un nouveau plan d'action pour la période suivante (2008-2011).

Chaque projet du plan d'action correspond à un certain besoin d'agir, identifié par un rapport de synthèse récent, qui présentait l'état de la situation en 2004 en matière de protection contre les dangers naturels en Suisse. Le rapport de synthèse a mis en évidence quels sont les principaux acteurs impliqués dans la thématique des dangers naturels, l'ensemble des méthodes utilisées ainsi que les moyens financiers investis en Suisse. Les projets en cours ont été attribués à la suite d'appels d'offres ouverts. Jusqu'à présent, la réalisation des mandats a été majoritairement confiée au secteur privé, alors que certains d'entre eux sont traités par des instituts de recherche (Université de Saint-Gall, Ecole polytechnique de Zurich).

La réalisation des projets incombe aux mandataires cités ci-dessus. La communication des résultats des projets, dès 2008, se fera à partir de PLANAT en direction du Conseil fédéral (gouvernement) et des différents offices fédéraux concernés, qui ensuite transmettront les informations nécessaires aux Cantons, puis aux Communes. Il n'est pas dans le rôle de PLANAT d'atteindre directement chaque citoyen Suisse, mais d'enclencher un véritable dialogue du risque « top - down », qui concernera tout le monde par un effet « boule de neige » souhaité. PLANAT élabore les appels d'offre et distribue les mandats aux mandataires qu'elle choisit. Au cours de la réalisation des projets, elle accompagne les travaux au moyen de groupes de travail ad hoc, prend position sur les résultats partiels et approuve les versions finales des rapports.

Le rôle de PLANAT est de travailler au niveau stratégique, et d'élaborer des bases théoriques qui pourront être utilisées ensuite par les Cantons, qui sont responsables de la mise en pratique selon leur propre législation.

Une initiative fructueuse a consisté récemment à impliquer l'apport des sciences sociales dans la réalisation d'un projet destiné à mieux connaître la conscience et la perception de la population face aux risques, notamment face au risque de crue (http://www.planat.ch/ressources/planat_product_de_483.pdf). Les résultats de cette étude ont montré des différences de perception selon les régions géographiques (montagne, plaine) ou linguistiques (Suisse allemande, Suisse romande, Suisse italienne). Cela permet ensuite de définir des publics cibles, vers lesquels il faut communiquer chaque fois avec un message précis et différencié, afin que la conscience du risque soit la plus proche possible de la réalité et puisse permettre de développer une responsabilité individuelle face aux événements et au risque résiduel.

Good Practice

La stratégie Suisse: "Sécurité contre les dangers naturels" (2004, disponible à l'adresse : http://www.planat.ch/ressources/planat_product_fr_367.pdf). Il s'agit d'une bonne pratique dans la mesure où ce document est le fruit d'une consultation multidisciplinaire avancée et qu'il propose des mesures allant dans le sens de la durabilité. La notion de gestion intégrée du risque et la planification intégrale des mesures qui en découle, permettent d'opérer des choix sécuritaires économiques et durables, dans l'intérêt de la société tout entière. D'une manière générale, la première étape incontournable de ce concept consiste à identifier le risque (que peut-il se passer et où ?), en réalisant notamment des cartes de dangers de manière systématique. Dans une deuxième étape, il s'agit d'évaluer le risque (que peut-on accepter ?), en fixant des objectifs de protection acceptables pour la population en fonction des enjeux et des moyens financiers à disposition. Par la suite, plusieurs possibilités existent pour réduire le risque, dans le cadre de la planification intégrée des mesures :

- éviter le risque, par des mesures d'aménagement du territoire ;
- limiter le risque, par des mesures de protection techniques (digues, barrages, filets paravalanches, etc.), biologiques (forêts protectrices, revitalisation des cours d'eau, etc.), organisationnelles et/ou d'urgence ;
- transférer le risque, par une couverture d'assurance appropriée ;
- connaître, accepter le risque résiduel et développer la responsabilité individuelle.

L'impact de la stratégie et de sa mise en oeuvre devra concerner toute la population sur le long terme. Il est naturellement impossible de quantifier pour le moment le nombre de vies sauvées par la prise de mesures appropriées et allant dans le sens de la stratégie PLANAT, encore très récente. Néanmoins, un concept de protection compatible avec cette stratégie (Engelberger Aa, canton de Nidwald) a permis de démontrer, lors des crues 2005, que 26 Mio. de Francs suisses avaient permis d'éviter des dégâts se montant à 100 Mio. lors d'un seul événement.

De par son mandat gouvernemental, la plate-forme nationale suisse est le seul organisme d'envergure nationale à être en mesure d'élaborer des concepts stratégiques unifiés. Les instituts de recherches sont compétents pour le développement d'outils scientifiques et techniques, alors que les offices fédéraux sont quant à eux responsables du niveau opérationnel, c'est-à-dire de la mise en œuvre des concepts stratégiques auprès des cantons et des communes notamment. La constitution extraparlamentaire de PLANAT signifie que ses membres ne sont pas des politiciens appartenant au Parlement, ce qui confère à la plate-forme un statut politiquement neutre et permet ainsi de prendre les bonnes décisions en toute liberté, dans le but suprême de la diminution des risques naturels d'une façon globale. Une publication sur les expériences de PLANAT (« Toolbox ») depuis sa création sera présentée à l'occasion de la première *Global Platform*, du 5 au 7 juin 2007 à Genève, comme contribution à l'échange de savoir faire international.

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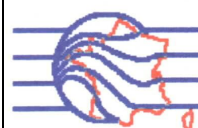
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