

ENHANCE

Enhancing risk management partnerships for catastrophic natural disasters in Europe



Information

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Partners

- 13 European research institutes from different disciplines, 3 public bodies at different levels, 7 private sector specialists from the risk and finance sector and environmental NGO

Funding

- 7th EU Framework Programme

Project Duration

- Start: December 2012
- End: November 2016

Objectives

- Assess (un-) successful partnerships in improving resilience, and identify processes for fostering novel multi-sector partnerships (MSPs)
- Develop a scheme for risk assessment (existing risk information). Developing new methods and scenarios in collaboration with MSPs
- Enhance resilience (linking MSPs to economic instruments)
- Provide guidelines and policy recommendations for integration of risk management and climate-proofing in policies

Milestones

- January 2013: ENHANCE Kick-Off Meeting, Amsterdam

CONTEXT

The different responses to heat-waves in Europe in 2003, 2006, and 2010, the UK floods in 2007, and coastal floods in France in 2010, demonstrate that the roles of public, private, and civil society actors in preparing for and responding to catastrophic impacts are often neither clear nor effective. Moreover, actors must often base their risk management strategies on scarce, limited or inaccurate risk information. In preparing for and responding to natural hazard impacts, there is also often a lack of clarity on financial responsibilities about who pays what, how much, and when.

The next three challenges: (a) improved risk assessment based on a multi-hazard and multi-risk approach; (b) more vigorous pursuit of MSPs; and (c) improved financial and disaster risk reduction (DRR) schemes, have been identified as critical for improving the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in Europe (UNISDR, 2011). ENHANCE will study these challenges and contribute directly to these recommendations by studying these issues within a multidisciplinary team.

METHODS

The project is divided in 8 parts: (1) Concepts of risk management, resilience and partnerships; (2) Risk scenarios; (3) MSPs risk perception and risk cultures; (4) Economic instrument; (5) Regulatory policy instrument; (6) Case studies on MSPs and natural hazards; (7) Scientific synthesis and outreach; and (8) Policy dissemination.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The aim of the project is to develop and analyse new ways to enhance society's resilience to catastrophic natural hazard impacts, by providing new scenarios and information in selected hazard cases in close collaboration with stakeholders, and by contributing to the development of new multi-sector partnerships (MSPs) to reduce or redistribute risk.

The ENHANCE proposal is unique as it studies the potential for new MSPs for managing different catastrophic hazards, related to heat waves, forest fires, flood, drought, storm surge, and volcanic eruptions. Key to successful partnerships is a common understanding of risks and the implications of proposed risk reduction instruments. Therefore, ENHANCE facilitates a participatory process to develop MSPs in cases studies at different geographical and spatial scales in Europe.

PRODUCTS

- Dynamic scenarios of vulnerability using existing information and new probabilistic approaches for multi-hazards
- Guidelines and key features for enhancing MSP interaction in successful resilience enhancement and risk reduction (participatory workshops)
- Methods for linking MSPs to risk scenarios
- A toolbox of economic instruments
- Policy recommendations to the EU and HFA