



**UNISDR EUROPE
ANNUAL REPORT 2012**

***BUILDING RESILIENCE
TO DISASTERS IN EUROPE***

*Connect and Convince
to Reduce Impact of Vulnerability*



Cover: *House on the Drina River* - Credit © Irene Becker
Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/35240543N02/6291100711/>

The House on Drina River

“In late 1968 a great Drina lover, Milija Mandić, better known by his nickname Fungus [Srb. Gljiva], with help from a couple of his friends – also great Drina lovers – constructed a modest wooden house on a large rock in the middle of the river, directly across from the Two Lime Trees restaurant [Srb. Dve lipe] at the entrance to Bajina Basta. Over the years, many local children and students have spent large parts of their summer vacations in the house.

Generations of boys and girls took their first steps in swimming, diving and kayaking at this very spot, and many of them went on to achieve sporting success. Because in this house was born the idea of establishing a Kayaking club in Bajina Basta, the Drina. Over its more than three decades of existence, its members have won for the city countless medals, with victories in competitions held in former Yugoslavia, and other countries in Europe. It was also here that the initiative to establish a diving club of the same name was born, from which a District Unit for Lifesaving on Water and Underwater, with a base in Bajina Basta, was later formed.

The House on the Rock has become one of the most authentic symbols of Bajina Basta. The wild and unpredictable Drina has so far destroyed it six times, but each time Mandić has either repaired the damage or constructed a new house. The last time Drina destroyed the house was in December 2010, but within six months Milija Mandić had built a completely new one.”

Ratomir Blanusa

*[From an interview with CCTV News – Culture Express :
english.cntv.cn/program/cultureexpress/20121024/108901.shtml]*

Awards

*National Geographic 'Photo of the Day' [2 August 2012]
National Geographic 'August's Most Popular Photo' [10 September 2012]*

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Europe Office Work Programme

UNISDR's Work Programme has four objectives and areas of work.

Strategic Objective 1: Lead and Coordinate

Effective support for the coordination of HFA implementation and the consultations for a post-2015 HFA; and improved coherence between DRR, climate risk management and the sustainable development agenda.

Results:

- 1.1. Coherent and collective actions agreed to promote full implementation of the HFA by 2015.
- 1.2. Post-2015 global framework for DRR negotiated and endorsed.
- 1.3. Improved recognition of DRR as integral to planning on climate risk management and sustainable development.

Strategic Objective 2: Credible Evidence

Strengthened decision-making at local, national and regional levels in support of DRR, climate risk management and achievement of the MDGs, through the production and dissemination of credible evidence.

Results:

- 2.1. National priority setting and planning for DRR informed by accessible and organized information, in particular produced through the government-led monitoring and peer review of HFA implementation.
- 2.2. DRR and climate change adaptation reflected in national planning instruments and business strategies based on improved risk information, including on hazards, exposure and vulnerabilities.

Strategic Objective 3: Advocacy and Outreach

Greater political commitment and social demand for increased public and private sector investment in DRR and resilience.

Results:

- 3.1 Increased awareness and actions mobilized by national and local governments to reduce risk and build resilience.
- 3.2 Broad range of stakeholders demanding and investing effort to build the resilience of communities.

Strategic Objective 4: Deliver and communicate results

Enhanced programme and organizational performance for more effective UNISDR in carrying out its Mission.

Results:

- 4.1. Communications and knowledge management tools effectively support UNISDR objectives.
- 4.2. Enlarged, sustainable and predictable resource base.
- 4.3. Results-focused implementation, monitoring and reporting of UNISDR strategic priorities.
- 4.4. Gender-sensitive DRR promoted.

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What We Do at the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction [ISDR] was adopted by United Nations Member States in 2000 and is owned by local, national, regional and international organizations. ISDR is a system of partnerships aimed at supporting global disaster risk reduction measures to ensure a safer world. ISDR is guided by the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters [HFA] and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly.

The United Nations secretariat to ISDR is UNISDR, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, which is

headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms. Margareta Wahlström. UNISDR serves as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields.



Our Vision

Our vision is a world in which nations and communities are resilient to the risks of disasters and climate change, enabling them to develop and prosper sustainably. UNISDR's vision is for disaster risk reduction to become an integral part of development planning and nation building everywhere.

The photograph, taken on 3 June 2012, shows the façade of a church partially destroyed by the earthquake on 20 May 2012, in Mirandola, a town in the province of Modena, Italy.

Credit © European Union, 2013

Our Mission

Our mission is to mobilize and engage countries and all stakeholders to achieve the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action and its successor; and to strengthen decision-making through the generation and dissemination of evidence for disaster risk reduction.

Photo: Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 8-13 May 2011. Credit © UNISDR





The UNISDR Mandate

Our mandate as UNISDR is to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster risk reduction and to ensure synergies among disaster risk reduction activities.

*Photo: Opening of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, 18 September 2012.
Credit © United Nations*

Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster risk reduction is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.

[Photo/www.unisdr.org/archive/28767

Photo: Dubrovnik, Croatia, site of the third session of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction. Credit © Víctor González



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Message from the Europe Office

The UNISDR Regional Office for Europe [UNISDR Europe] seeks to demonstrate the positive returns to investing in reducing the risk of disasters and to generate strong political support for such investments at regional, national and local levels. Many countries in the region have made progress in addressing vulnerability – a critical concern as the European continent is exposed to a wide range of natural hazards such as floods earthquakes, wild fires, storms, droughts, heat waves, avalanches and landslides where most of the damages are due to climatological and hydrometeorological events. Our European country partners have also made progress in highlighting areas where more efforts are needed and in sharing experiences and lessons learned.

One enabling factor in this process has been the establishment of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction [EF-DRR], where countries have actively engaged and taken leadership by chairing and hosting its annual meetings. An example of the clear indication of political support for disaster risk reduction is its prominence in European Heads of State meetings and Ministerial Sessions.

The nomination of the first European Making Cities Resilient Champion, the Mayor of Venice, for his commitment to reducing disaster risks and to protecting our cultural heritage, is proof of success in connecting and convincing governmental officials, citizens and opinion leaders that reducing vulnerability to disasters is a priority for a sustainable future.

Building on the foundations undertaken in previous years, UNISDR Europe has positioned disaster risk reduction securely in the European policy agenda and achieved significant gains in support for disaster risk reduction work at the local, regional and national levels. Our partnership account for these successes. Without the dedication, support and engagement of national governmental counterparts and our regional partners, such as the HFA Focal Points, National Platform Coordinators for Disaster Risk Reduction, the European Commission, The European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) Council of Europe, the results achieved would not have been possible.

This report highlights certain accomplishments UNISDR Europe has achieved in 2012 and previews the work to be addressed as we connect and convince to build resilience to disaster. Our advocacy work is strengthened by our success in generating credible evidence on the efficacy of disaster risk reduction.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, we take this opportunity to consider the work that remains to be done to develop a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through a broad [multi-stakeholder] consultation process.

Paola Albrito
Head of UNISDR Regional Office for Europe

What we have achieved: the highlights

Context

Europe presents a heterogeneous risk pattern consistent with a region of both highly developed countries in Western Europe and more challenged sub-regions. Despite the wealth of expertise, knowledge and know-how in disaster risk reduction, statistics show that risks associated with disasters in Europe are increasing. The continent is exposed to a variety of natural hazards, including storms, droughts, floods, earthquakes and landslides. Areas within the European region are hot spots for mortality risk and/or risk of economic losses.

In view of the above challenges and the commitment of European actors to reduce vulnerability to disaster, UNISDR Europe was established in 2007. Since its establishment, the Office has seen an increased demand for its services from several European ISDR partners and has built strong partnerships with key regional disaster risk reduction players such as the European Commission [EC], based in Brussels, Belgium, and Council of Europe European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement [EUR-OPA], based in Strasbourg, France.

To facilitate these growing partnerships, the UNISDR Europe team moved in April 2010 from its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, to a regional office in Brussels to be in close proximity to the European Union [EU], EC, and other regional partners.

The core mandate of UNISDR Europe includes coordinating European risk reduction efforts with national, regional and sub-regional organisations as well as synthesizing information through a regional report on the progress made in the implementation of the HFA. UNISDR Europe raises awareness and empowers people to reduce their vulnerability to hazards through activities in disaster risk reduction, including the promotion of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign.

UNISDR Europe informs and connects people by facilitating at the national, regional and European institutional level, by disseminating news, guidelines and publications to assist in the implementation of the HFA. UNISDR Europe enhances net-

working and partnership-building to contribute to an effective culture of safety and protection of all communities in Europe. UNISDR Europe works through a growing network of national platforms and national counterparts to mobilize governmental actions in disaster risk reduction as well as directly with the governments in the region, as mandated through the HFA, including the United Nations country team members. It also builds effectively on the regional organizations, partners and networks to facilitate the effective implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies.

Overview of Impacts

High-level advocacy for stronger commitment to and greater investments in reducing disaster risks

The high-level launch of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change's [IPCC] Special Report Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation, in Brussels on 10 May 2012, created the opportunity to share views, actions needed and recommendations on close collaboration between the scientific community and decision makers in addressing disaster risk reduction in a changing climate in Europe.



Credit © Belspo/Neuens - Photo: From left to right: Jean-Pascal van Ypersele [IPCC Vice Chair and Professor of Climate and Environmental Sciences at UCL Belgium], John Coomber [Board member of Swiss Re and Chairman of ClimateWise], Chris Field [Co-chair of IPCC Working Group II], Rajendra Pachauri [Chair of the IPCC], Margareta Wahlström [Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction], and Jamie Shea [NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges].

Fostering a partnership for coordinated action and common objectives towards reducing vulnerability to disasters

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms. Margareta Wahlström, and the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, collaborated towards high-level advocacy in reducing vulnerability to disasters and increasing investments in risk reduction.

The engagements of Special Representative Margareta Wahlström and the EU Commissioner for Climate Action, Ms. Connie Hedegaard, have strengthened the inclusion of scientific and behavioural issues in the fields of disaster risk and climate change in Europe and have promoted disaster risk reduction as a means to adapt to a changing climate at the local and national levels.



Photo Credit © European Union, 2013 - Photo: Margareta Wahlström [Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction] and Ms. Kristalina Georgieva [EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response].



Credit © Belspo/Neuens
Photo: EU Commissioner for Climate Action, Ms. Connie Hedegaard.

Increasing political influence to lobby for disaster risk reduction in cities throughout Europe

“All over the world, dedicated men and women in leadership positions are doing extraordinary things to engage their communities in disaster risk reduction”

*Mr. Ban Ki-moon,
Secretary-General of the United Nations.*

UNISDR has, since 2010, recognized individuals who have used their political influence to lobby for disaster risk reduction in their cities. The motivation of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign Champions often goes beyond professional interest, spurred as they are by a passion for public service and an abiding commitment to building community resilience. This is an honorary position, without remuneration. In 2012, the Mayor of Venice, Mr. Giorgio Orsoni, was appointed the first European Champion of the Campaign. The City of Venice is also a Role Model City for cultural heritage protection from disasters.



Credit © UNISDR Europe
Photo: Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Ms. Margareta Wahlström congratulates Mayor of Venice Mr. Giorgio Orsoni on his appointment as the first European Champion of the Resilient Cities Campaign.

“The collaboration and partnership developed with the UNISDR Europe Office in the past two years is greatly appreciated. The success received by the conference co-organised in Venice on “Protecting Cultural Heritage and Adapting to Climate Change” has truly pushed the disaster risk reduction and cultural agenda to move forward,”

said Mayor Orsoni, Mayor of Venice, Italy.

Strengthening civil protection mechanisms towards building resilience to disasters in the Mediterranean

Increased civil protection knowledge, cooperation and activities towards reducing risk of disasters are key achievements of the Programme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters [PPRD South], aimed at improving the civil protection capacities of Mediterranean partner countries. The closing programme event, which took place in Brussels on 8 November 2012, called for the engagement of the European Commission to continue its support for increasing disaster resilience focus in the Mediterranean and the South Eastern Europe [SEE] region.



Credit © European Union, 2013
Photo: From left to right: Egyptian Assistant Minister for Interior Mr. Abobakr, EU Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva, Head of the Italian Civil Protection Department Franco Gabrielli, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Margareta Wahlström and EU Commissioner Štefan Füle.

The PPRD South Risk Atlas maps the level of hazards Programme Partner Countries are exposed to and their vulnerabilities, along with the risks of earthquakes, floods and landslides. The Risk Atlas also maps the locations of key infrastructures such as roads, railways, dams and airports. It includes a series of synoptic hazard maps [on earthquake peak ground acceleration, earthquake events, floods, landslides and droughts] for the Mediterranean region, which are produced by the University of Columbia. The implementation of PPRD South was signed by the European Commission and the consortium established by the Italian Civil Protection Department, as leader, jointly with the civil protection authorities of Egypt, Algeria, France and UNISDR Europe.

Increasing advocacy towards the European Parliament on the relevance of addressing disaster risk reduction

UNISDR Europe contributes to increasing awareness on risk reduction with the European Parliament. Parliamentarians are political leaders with a unique role in representing and communicating local concerns to national governments on issues that affect people's lives. On 15 November 2012, UNISDR Europe was called by the Parliament to present on the relevance of reducing vulnerability to disasters in the context of the on-going legislative report on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.



*Credit © UNISDR Europe
From left to right: Ms. Elisabetta Gardini, Member of the European Parliament, Environment, Public Health and Food Security [ENVI] Committee; Ms. Edite Estrela, Member of the European Parliament, ENVI Committee; Ms. Paola Albrito, Head of UNISDR Regional Office for Europe; and Mr. Hans Das, Head of Unit, Civil Protection Policy, Prevention, Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction.*

Reinforcing disaster resilience as a regional priority



*Credit © National Protection and Rescue Directorate, Republic of Croatia
Photo: 3rd Annual Meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, EFDRR 2012 Participants, Dubrovnik, Republic of Croatia.*

The key elements of a post-HFA framework for disaster risk reduction were the focus of the third annual meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction. Altogether 27 countries, together with the Council of Europe [EUR-OPA], the European Commission [DG ECHO], the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe [DPPI-SEE] and UNISDR, gathered for the meeting, which was held on 1 -3 October 2012 in Dubrovnik, Republic of Croatia. The forum, under the chairmanship of Croatia, agreed on the way forward in Europe to share information towards awareness-raising. The platform also analysed the impact in European countries of including risk reduction in climate change adaptation strategies and issued recommendations towards a systematic integration of a risk reduction approach in such strategies. It also committed to join forces towards building resilience at the local level. The forum also heard the experience of the HFA UK peer review and highlighted its value in raising the profile of disaster risk reduction at the national level [see Strategic Objective 2 for more information on the Peer Review].

Impressions of the HFA UK Peer Review



Credit © UNISDR Europe - From left to right: Yordanka Mincheva [EC], Thomas De Lannoy [EC], Luca Rossi [Italy], Taito Vainio [Finland], Charles Baubion [OECD], Anna Hedenström [Sweden], Steven Barnes [UK] and Stefanie Dannemann-Di Palma [UNISDR] at the London Cabinet Office for the High-Level Meeting for the UK HFA Peer Review, on 17 September 2012.



Credit © UNISDR Europe - Professor Sir John Beddington, Government Chief Science Advisor, and Christina Scott, Director of Civil Contingencies Secretariat, at the London Cabinet Office meeting.



Credit © UNISDR Europe - Paola Albrito of UNISDR and Ian Clark of the EC at the London Cabinet Office meeting.

EFDRR Meeting in Dubrovnik Croatia:

27 Countries

60 Participants

21 National platforms

35 Countries with HFA focal points

OBJECTIVES OF THE EUROPEAN FORUM

- Serve as a forum to stimulate and facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge among participating National HFA focal points and platforms and regional/sub regional partners.
- Provide advocacy for effective action to reduce disasters, by contributing to the implementation of the HFA, in particular by promoting and supporting the creation of new national platforms.
- Facilitate exchanges among European nations on the implementation of the HFA, for expanding the political space devoted to the issue and promoting innovative ideas in the field of disaster risk reduction.
- Create a safer Europe by reducing the impact of natural hazards to reduce vulnerability, and increasing the ability to minimize the consequences of disasters.

Building city and community resilience: a declaration from Europe

The World Disaster Reduction Campaign “Making Cities Resilient – My City is Getting Ready!”, launched in May 2010, addresses issues of local governance and urban risk. With the support and recommendation of many partners and participants, and a Mayor’s Statement made during the 2011 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Making Cities Resilient campaign will carry on beyond 2015.

In 2012, 24 new European cities joined the Resilient Cities Campaign, bringing the total number of European cities to have joined the campaign to 409.

UNISDR Europe and the City of Venice jointly organized an international conference in March 2012 titled “Building cities’ resilience to disasters: protecting cultural heritage and adapting to climate change”. It was attended by European mayors, representatives of local and national governments working on disaster risk reduction in Europe, the private sector, regional organizations such as the Council of Europe and European Commission, the United Nations, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization [UNESCO], the United Nations Human Settlements Programme [UNHABITAT] and UNISDR.

As an outcome of the event and the joint commitment to reduce vulnerability to disasters at the local level, the “Venice Declaration on building resilience at the local level towards protected cultural heritage and climate change adaptation strategies” was adopted.

The Venice Declaration focuses on raising awareness and taking action on resilience vis-à-vis cultural heritage in a changing climate.



Credit © UNISDR Europe - From left to right: Mr. Franco Gabrielli, Head of the Italian Civil Protection Department, Mayor of Venice Mr. Giorgio Orsoni, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Margareta Wahlström and Professor Antonio Navarra.

Building partnerships for resilience

The strong collaboration between UNISDR Europe and the EC has been further facilitated by the common location of their offices in Brussels.

Collaboration with the EC, particularly with directorates general DG ECHO, Civil protection Policy, Prevention, Preparedness and DRR, DG Research, DG Enlargement and DG Climate Action, has triggered joint activities, consultations, events and high-level advocacy. A joint work plan was developed in 2012 between UNISDR Europe and DG ECHO, Civil protection Policy, Prevention, Preparedness and DRR. The work plan included joint activities such as the organisation of the Peer Review on the HFA in the United Kingdom [UK] and inter-directors general briefings [coordinated by DG ECHO], and the facilitation of two inter-directors general sessions of the EC.

In May 2012, DG Enlargement, UNISDR Europe and the World Meteorological Organisation [WMO] began a project aimed at reducing hydromet risks and supporting the development of insurance and reinsurance mechanisms within South Eastern European countries.

Throughout 2012, UNISDR Europe worked with DG Research to offer events and workshops aimed at making the findings of disaster risk reduction-related scientific research accessible to policymakers.

"The European Commission and the UNISDR have a common vision on the importance of disaster risk reduction and have been closely collaborating to promote specific activities in European countries. This partnership is helping to bring tangible results for the implementation of the goals of the HFA and the development of our disaster risk management policy."

*Ian Clark, Head of Civil Protection
Prevention & Preparedness Unit,
DG ECHO, European Commission*

A Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] with the Council of Europe is committed to common engagement on reducing disaster vulnerability at the local level. The outcome of this collaboration was the adoption of Resolution 339, Making Cities Resilient, by the Council of Europe on 22 March 2012. The Resolution urges the Council of Europe, mayors and local authorities to address urban resilience by embracing the "Ten Essentials" of the Making Cities Resilient campaign.

"[The] Council of Europe and UNISDR have managed to fine-tune our common work in disaster risk reduction in a way so smooth and seamless that we feel we belong to the same family, our priorities having become largely coincident".

*Eladio Fernández-Galiano, Executive Secretary,
European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement
[EUR-OPA]*

In **Serbia**, UNISDR Europe assisted the Minister of Internal Affairs [HFA focal point, Head of Protection and Rescue] in reviewing national legislation to reflect disaster risk reduction considerations and the development of the national platform. UNISDR Europe supported Serbia's efforts, in collaboration with the United Nations Resident Coordinator, for the development of a disaster-loss database. In 2012, Serbia also hosted, in the context of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Women and Girls: The [in] Visible Force of

Resilience," a round-table discussion at the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia organized by the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] in Serbia.

In **Albania**, UNISDR Europe in collaboration with the Italian Civil Protection Department supported the Ministry of Interior's [HFA focal point, Head of the Civil Protection] efforts in developing a disaster-loss database.

The Netherlands dedicated the 3rd International Conference on Safety and Security to the topic "Resilient Citizen in a Resilient Society" and announced the establishment of its national platform. The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and UNISDR Europe attended the event, co-organised by the governments of France and the Netherlands on 6 February 2012, which saw the renewed interest and engagement of the Netherlands, including from senior government officials and top managers from the business and science sector, towards building disaster resilience.

In **Croatia**, UNISDR Europe continued its strong collaboration with the National Protection and Rescue Directorate [HFA focal point] by joining forces in the organisation of the EFDRR annual session. Croatia has contributed to creating coherence within the disaster risk agenda in Europe by chairing EUR-OPA. Croatia is currently working towards the development of a disaster-loss database.

In **the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, UNISDR Europe collaborated with the United Nations Country Team to strengthen the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in their United Nations Development Assistance Framework [UN-DAF].

In **Sweden**, UNISDR Europe attended in November 2012 the National Consultation on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Sweden, through the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency [MSB] [HFA focal point], and UNISDR Europe have developed a strong partnership and active exchanges. Sweden is an involved /engaged member of the EFDRR, being a former chair of the Forum [in 2010], chair of the working group on "Information", "Information Sharing and Exchange" and "Using Financial Instruments in 2011", and is currently part of the working group on reducing vulnerability to disasters at the local level.

UNISDR has been kept well-informed on the development of Turkey's advances and the adopting of its "National earthquake strategy and action plan 2012-2023 [NESAP 2012-2023]", which is set in the context of the HFA five priorities.

Key Knowledge Products

UNISDR Europe looks at informing and connecting people with practical tools and services, such as publications on best disaster risk reduction practices, analyses of regional disaster risks and trends, and other contributions to the body of knowledge on disaster risk reduction. All are critical to engagement and to informing decisions taken by all stakeholders. The Regional Office for Europe also contributes to the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, distributed at the Global Platform. The following is a selection of the knowledge products UNISDR Europe developed during 2012.



Implementing the HFA in Europe: advances and challenges

The HFA monitoring report builds on the analysis and knowledge completed by countries, regional organizations and local authorities through the HFA Monitor. The main objective of this report series, prepared on a biennial basis, is to identify key trends in terms of progress made and challenges faced, at both national and regional levels, through the implementation of the HFA in Europe. It also compares progress made, shares lessons learned and provides recommendations on the way forward.

Overview of national platforms for disaster risk reduction in Europe

This 'living' document provides information on the history, structure, coordination and activities of the national platforms in Europe.



Overview of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction

This brochure describes the WHY, WHAT, WHO and WHEN of the European Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.



Building resilience in the Western Balkans and Turkey to foster economic development and prepare for the accession to the European Union

The European Commission DG Enlargement approved the IPA Multi-Beneficiary Project, "Building resilience to disasters in the Western Balkans and Turkey", for joint implementation by UNISDR Europe and WMO from May 2012 through May 2014. The project is part of the EC DG Enlargement Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance [IPA] Programme for the Western Balkans and Turkey. The project aims to reduce the vulnerability to natural hazards of IPA beneficiary countries in line with the HFA and increase their resilience to climate change.

Monthly briefings, promotional material, policy documents and conference proceedings



This material includes a number of insightful reviews, reports and overall programme work towards reducing vulnerability to disasters in South Eastern Europe. UNISDR Europe and the World Bank, with the support of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery and in collaboration with a number of partners, have started an initiative aimed at helping SEE countries reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and adapt to climate change. The partners in this initiative include the World Meteorological Organisation, EU and EC, Swedish Civil Contingency Agency, Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe, Regional Cooperation Council for South Eastern Europe [RCC SEE], United Nations Children’s Fund [UNICEF] and UNDP. The collaboration began in 2007 and the funds enabling the collaboration expire in 2013.



Climate change adaptation, hydromet risks, children and disaster risk reduction



In collaboration with partners such as the Council of Europe [EUR-OPA], UNICEF, EC and the World Bank, UNISDR Europe expands knowledge on risks in Europe through a number of publications aimed at assessing risks, highlighting good risk management practices and recommending ways to reduce risks.



Creation of the Bulletin to Keep European Partners Informed



The bulletin was created following the scoping assessment of the EFDRR working group on Information Sharing and Exchange and Using Financial Instruments, led by Sweden. The group identified the need for EFDRR members and other partners to receive consolidated inputs from Prevention-Web related to Europe. UNISDR Europe issues the bulletin every month, to be shared with European stakeholders on regional, national and local levels.



In 2012, UNISDR Europe was responsible for 8 press releases and 26 new articles related to disaster risk reduction in Europe.

Key Results by Strategic Objective

Strategic Objective One

Lead and coordinate – strengthened support to the implementation and coordination of the ISDR and the HFA and improved coherence with climate change adaptation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 regional platform meeting
- 2 national platforms launched [the Netherlands and Greece]
- 1 regional, 1 national and 1 local consultation held on the Post - 2015 global framework for disaster risk reduction
- 2 action plans developed with regional partners
- 20 high-level bilateral meetings on engagement in disaster risk reduction coherent action and in changing-climate adaptation [involving the participation of 16 Ministers and 3 EC Commissioners]

Result 1.1: Coherent and collective actions agreed to promote full implementation of the HFA by 2015.

European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNISDR Europe facilitated the organisation of the Third Annual Meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction in Dubrovnik, Republic of Croatia, on 1-3 October 2012. This meeting was dedicated to discussion of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, a joint review of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and to increasing local-level engagement and awareness in reducing vulnerability to disasters.

“Remember – if you are working with one child you are working with a whole family and a small part of the community”.

Sunèana Jokic

One outcome was the creation of an award for citizen engagement in building resilience to disasters, which the EFDRR is to continue on an annual basis. For a full review of EFDRR outcomes see:

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/contacts/profile.php?id=8679>



“Champion of Local Change” Award

The first European “Champion of Local Change” Award was presented to Croatian educator Ms. Sunèana Jokic for her work raising awareness on disaster risk with a special focus on children and young people with special needs. The award was presented during Europe’s Regional Platform Meeting in Dubrovnik, Republic of Croatia, on 1-3 October 2012.

*Credit © National Protection and Rescue Directorate, Republic of Croatia
Photo: Damir Cemerin [Deputy Commander of Civil Protection, National Protection and Rescue Directorate, HFA Focal Point] and Sunèana Jokic, on 1 October 2012, in Dubrovnik.*

Three working groups assisted in planning the following core topics of the 2012 EFDRR meeting:

- Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction [members: Norway (as the Chair), Germany, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Council of Europe (EUR-OPA) and UNISDR].
- Local-Level Implementation of the HFA [Disaster Risk Reduction Campaign] [members: Italy (as the Chair), Austria, EUR-OPA and UNISDR].
- Information-sharing and exchanges between countries [members: Sweden (as the Chair), Armenia, UK, EC and UNISDR]. This working group has reached its objective and will be discontinued in 2013.

The activities of these working groups are reflected throughout this report.

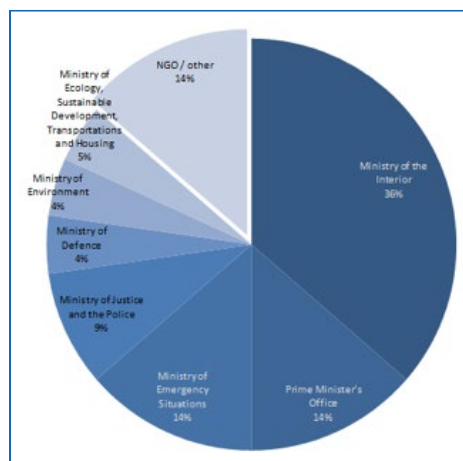
Greece and the Netherlands establish national platforms

National Platforms are nationally owned and led multi-stakeholder forum or committee working on disaster risk reduction. They reflect the commitment of its government to implement national and local disaster risk reduction activities while linking up to international efforts. In Europe, countries with National Platforms or about to finalize their National Platforms report significant and on-going reliance in addressing disaster risk reduction cross cutting issues, more than doubles in most instances compared to those countries without National Platforms. Clearly, National Platforms are having an im-

pact on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction approaches.

The Netherlands officially launched its national platform for disaster risk reduction on 6 February 2012: the National Steering Committee for National Safety and Security [Stuurgroep Nationale Veiligheid (SNV)]. Its secretariat was appointed as National Focal Point for the HFA [NL FPHFA]. A full profile of the Dutch national platform is available on the following website: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/national/list/>

This was followed, on 31 May 2012, by Greece's official announcement of its national platform for disaster risk reduction: the Hellenic National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction [HNP-DRR], which is co-ordinated by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection of the Ministry of Citizen Protection. It builds on existing disaster risk reduction capabilities.



As per December 2012, out of 22 National Platforms in Europe, 16 include institutions from civil society; 15 include academic and research institutions; 6 have a media presence; and 9 include the private sector. In 2012, 35 per cent of National Platforms were coordinated by Ministries of Interior, followed by the Prime Ministers' Offices (14 per cent) and Ministries of Emergency Situations (14 per cent) (see figure on the left).

HFA Focal Points and National Platforms in Europe Region as of 31 December 2012

Out of 49 Countries :

38 countries have designated **HFA Focal Points** :

Armenia, Albania, Austria, Belarus,
Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus,
Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France,
Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy,
Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro,
the Netherlands, Norway, Poland,
Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia,
Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland,
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey,
Ukraine, United Kingdom.

22 countries have developed a
National Platform :

Armenia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, France,
Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Monaco,
the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal,
Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland,
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey,
United Kingdom.

Launch of two-year project “Building Resilience to Disasters in the Western Balkans and Turkey”

A two-year project launched in Croatia by UNISDR Europe in collaboration with WMO aims to build resilience to disasters in Turkey and the Western Balkans. The project, supported by the EC-DG Enlargement through the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance, encompasses work on multiple areas and involves the promotion of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Senior officials from the South Eastern Europe region attended the launch of the project, “Building Resilience to Disasters in the Western Balkans and Turkey”, which was opened by the Croatian Deputy Minister of Environment with the EU Delegation Representative on 30 August 2012. The event was attended by several representatives of the donor community, the United Nations in the region, and institutions dealing with disaster risk reduction in EU countries. Media coverage of the event informed the public of the disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation efforts currently under way in the region.

UNISDR Europe, in collaboration with the UNISDR Information Management Unit, has created a website for the project where information and news on its implementation can be found: <http://www.preventionweb.net/ipadrr/>



*Credit © UNISDR Europe
Photo: Delegates attending the launch of the UNISDR-WMO project
“Building Resilience to Disasters in the Western Balkans and Turkey” in
Zagreb, Croatia, in August 2012.*

Strengthened coordination on building resilience to disasters vis-à-vis the EU and European institutions

United Nations Policy Group

UNISDR Europe continued its participation in the work of the United Nations Policy Group in Brussels throughout 2012. The Policy Group includes 26 United Nations resident agencies in Brussels and is chaired by the Deputy Director of the UNDP. The Policy Group provided timely inputs to the EU open consultations on its regional policies providing a “one-UN voice” to the European institutions.

Through its participation in the Policy Group, UNISDR Europe has a direct influence on relevant EU policies to incorporate appropriate concepts and references on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and the HFA. The United Nations Brussels Team agreed to further explore EU policies to identify gaps in addressing resilience in the context of “Policy Coherence for Development”. The policy work informs the EU financial instruments for development assistance, voicing disaster risk reduction as a driver for sustainable development and environmental management.

European Commission

UNISDR Europe contributed to the following consultations in 2012: European Commission Public Consultation on Local Authorities in Development; European Commission Communication on Adaptation to Climate Change; European Commission Public Consultation on “Towards a Post-2015 Development Framework”; European Parliament reports on the EC Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Common Rules and Procedures for the Implementation of the EU’s Instruments For External Action [Instrument for Pre-Accession; Partnership Instrument; DCI, etc.]; and ECHO’s draft on disaster risk reduction in humanitarian aid.

EU Parliamentarians

UNISDR Europe advocacy and awareness-raising work with EU Parliamentarians continued throughout 2012, with attention focused on the following committees: Environment, Public Health and Food Safety [ENVI]; Industry, Research and Energy [ITRE]; and Development [DEVE]. In October 2012, the Head of UNISDR Europe addressed disaster risk reduction at the Parliament in view of the new EU legislation on

the Civil Protection Mechanism. The “Union Civil Protection Mechanism” event was organized by the European Parliament’s Policy Department and the ENVI Committee.

These efforts resulted in increased awareness of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the European Parliament, with a number of Parliamentarians embracing the disaster risk reduction agenda. The awareness work undertaken in 2012 will be cemented in 2013 through a number of events aimed at gaining the European Parliament’s view on developing a successor framework to the HFA.

Strengthening region-based capacities in pre-disaster recovery planning

In Belarus and Ukraine, UNISDR Europe supported the International Recovery Platform [IRP] and the national governments with the organization of workshops on disaster recovery planning, in April 2012. The workshops, under the European Union Foreign Policy Instrument Commission (EU/FPIC) funded project “Strengthening Region-based Capacities in Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning”, enriched participants’ knowledge of integrating disaster recovery planning into their national disaster risk reduction plans. They featured building resilience to disasters and recovery within United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and other planning/programming sustainable development instruments.

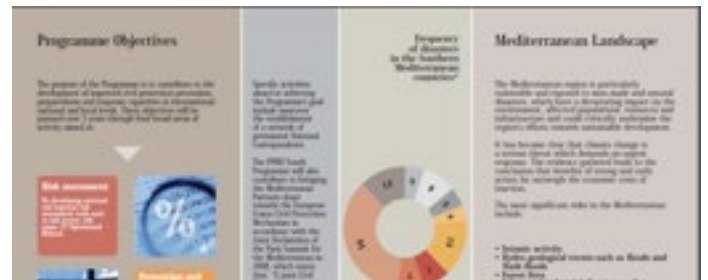
Sharing of experiences and dialogue on disaster awareness through the National Platform for disaster risk reduction in France

UNISDR Europe collaborated with the French National Platform for High-level Advocacy at the National Conference on Natural Hazards [Assises Nationales des Risques Naturels], in Bordeaux, France. The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing addressed the key role of citizens as central actors towards moving forward resilience at the national level. Ms. Kosciusko-Morizet, then Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing, and national platform coordinator, announced the upcoming launch of the National Observatory on National Risks in France and the collaboration with UNISDR Europe towards collecting data on disaster losses in France.



PPRD South Programme

In the Mediterranean and South Eastern Europe region, capacity and commitment towards building resilience to disasters has been supported through the participation of UNISDR Europe and Arab Region: as part of the consortium implementing the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters South Programme. The four-year Programme, which concluded at the end of 2012, reported among its accomplishments: the development of the PPRD South Regional Risk Atlas; increased knowledge and awareness on prevention and preparedness, with 17 thematic training workshops; and eight awareness-raising activities implemented in partner countries. For a full view of the work and achievements of the EUROMED Programme see: <http://www.euromedcp.eu/>



Kampanja za podizanje svijesti o zaštiti i spašavanju u slučaju zemljotresa



Result 1.2: Post-2015 global framework for disaster risk reduction negotiated and endorsed

Laying the foundation for the Post-2015 Disaster Risk Reduction Framework

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/199 requested that UNISDR facilitates the development of a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. UNISDR began this work through extensive consultations that will culminate at the World Conference on Disaster Risk in 2015 in Japan, where a new instrument will be agreed and put forward to the United Nations General Assembly for endorsement. In facilitating the development of the Post-2015 Framework, UNISDR Europe has initiated a participatory and inclusive approach through the following: organizing consultative meetings at regional and global platforms for disaster risk reduction; facilitating online discussions; consulting with advisory groups; encouraging and participating in national and thematic consultations; linking ongoing major international processes such as Rio+20, the post-2015 development agenda, and the United Nations climate change conferences; and referring to reports and monitoring of the existing HFA to identify progress and challenges.

European regional consultation

UNISDR Europe initiated the consultation on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at an event held on 1-2 October in Dubrovnik, Republic of Croatia, with the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction. Delegates were asked to reflect on the key achievements and major challenges in disaster risk reduction since implementation of the HFA and to consider new elements that might become part of the Post-2015 Framework. For outcomes of the consultation see: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events/v.php?id=27513#outcomes>

National consultations

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency held a national platform meeting on 14-15 November 2012 which included consultations on the Post-2015 Framework. The meeting brought together the agencies within the national platform, scientists and academics, NGOs and cities in the Making Cities Resilient campaign to discuss what is beneficial about

the current HFA, what challenges it faces, and what, therefore, needs to be included in a new or modified action plan/set of principles for disaster risk reduction.

The Swedish consultations resulted in a consensus among the Swedish stakeholders that the existing national platforms must be continuously recognized as important mechanisms in the new framework. The consultations also called for clear indicators in the new disaster risk reduction framework, for better and clearer integration of climate change in disaster risk reduction and for better adaptation of the framework from the national to the local level.

Local consultations

During the PPRD South/UNISDR Urban Resilience Workshop in Lisbon, Portugal, on 15-19 October 2012, 29 participants representing mostly civil protection authorities and a few local authorities from Mediterranean countries [Europe and the Arab States region] gathered to discuss the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction with particular focus on preparedness for response action.

Result 1.3: Improved recognition of disaster risk reduction as integral to planning on climate risk management and sustainable development.



The role of hydro-meteorological services in disaster risk management

The exchange of best practices on hydro-meteorological services for disaster risk reduction was the subject of an international event held in March 2012, in Washington DC, by UNISDR's Europe, and Central Asia, regional offices and the World Bank, in collaboration with WMO. The event concluded with a number of recommendations to reduce hydromet risks in Europe and Central Asia, as well as highlighting a number of opportunities and successes in disaster risk reduction.

The event was organised in the context of the World Bank and UNISDR South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Program [SEEDRMAP], which was launched in 2008 under the auspices of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. One of the priority areas, in collaboration with WMO, is a focus on hydro-meteorological forecasting, data sharing and early warning. For further information see: <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/27645>

Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Europe

The institutional framework in which European countries mainstream disaster risk reduction measures into their national climate change strategies was the focus of UNISDR Europe's work in 2012. In the context of the EFDRR Working Group on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction [chaired by Norway in 2012, which also took the lead in organizing the survey, UNISDR Europe contributed to the development of a pan-European survey on how governments include disaster risk reduction measures into their national climate change adaptation strategies. A total of 23 countries completed the survey. While in 2012 the activity increased knowledge-sharing among European countries developing national strategies for adaptation to climate change, in 2013 the survey is envisaged to be further developed through an analysis of its findings for recommendations. The main findings were presented at the 2012 Global Risk Forum, in Davos, Switzerland, in August 2012, and at the European



Credit © UNISDR Europe
Photo: From the Opening session on Climate Change Adaptation. EFDRR Chair 2012 Damir Cemerin [Croatia], Irene Andreassen [Norway], EFDRR Co-Chair and Working Group Chair Dag Olav Høgvold [Norway].

Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction in Dubrovnik, Republic of Croatia, in October 2012.

In 2013, the Working Group will be enlarged with the envisaged participation of the EC DG Climate Action in the discussion.

Emerging risks in Europe: wildfires in a changing climate

UNISDR Europe highlighted the regional and global situation regarding wildfire risks at an international seminar promoting solutions based on trans-boundary cooperation activities in prevention and response. The International Seminar on Fire Prevention and Supervision Activities was organised by Russia in Moscow on 5-7 September 2012. UNISDR Europe reinforced its collaboration with the Global Fire Monitoring Center [GFMC] in Fribourg and the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group. Wildfire is a major risk for several European countries.



Credit © EMERCOM
Photo: Participants at the International Seminar on Fire Prevention and Supervision Activities in Moscow, Russian Federation, in September 2012.

Strategic Objective Two

Credible evidence – producing and disseminating credible evidence to strengthen decision making at local, national and regional levels in support of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **1 peer review of the HFA in the UK: 45 entities consulted and the views of 90 actors collected**
- **4 countries undertaking the development of disaster-loss databases**
- **1 innovative reinsurance programme focused on disaster risk reduction**
- **1 pioneering regional survey among European countries on linkages between national climate change adaptation strategies and disaster risk reduction measures**

Result 2.1: National priority setting and planning for disaster risk reduction informed by accessible and organized information in particular produced through the government-led monitoring and peer review of HFA implementation.

HFA peer review for the UK

Since the adoption of the HFA in 2005, there has been no external review of the information submitted by participating countries. Since May 2008, information has been provided by designated national authorities and HFA focal points through their reporting of progress on HFA implementation, generated through a multi-stakeholder review process. The United Kingdom volunteered to participate in the first ever HFA peer review, which was conducted from 16-26 September 2012. The peer review team, consisting of representatives from Finland, Italy and Sweden and a joint Secretariat [UNISDR Europe, EC (DG ECHO) and OECD], carried out the peer review mission, interviewing some 90 people, including representatives from 45 entities such as government departments, NGOs and businesses across the UK. The peer review was carried out with financial support from the EC (DG ECHO), and with an in-kind contribution from the OECD and UNISDR Europe, as well as the dedicated

time and expertise of the participating peers. It is envisioned that such a review will help improve the varying quality of the information and subjectivity in the national self-assessments, and assist in assessing national strategies for policy implementation.

The Civil Contingencies Secretariat of the UK Cabinet Office is raising the awareness at the national level towards a more coordinated approach and commitment to reduce vulnerabilities to disasters in the UK. Furthermore, it is expected that the final report might influence the debate on any new monitoring tool, which might accompany the expected introduction of a new post-HFA agreement on disaster risk reduction in 2015.

“There is no doubt that the peer review has considerably raised the profile of the Hyogo Framework for Action at ministerial level and among senior civil servants. Everyone was impressed with the quality of the team, their professionalism and commitment.”

*Steven Barnes,
Policy Manager of
the Civil Contingencies Secretariat,
UK Cabinet Office*



Credit © UNISDR Europe - Jason Garrett, Country Programme Manager, World Vision UK; and Dr Kate Crowley, Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor, official Catholic aid agency for England and Wales [CAFOD], at the UK HFA peer review in London.



Credit © UNISDR Europe - Professor Virginia Murray, Head of Extreme Events and Health Protection, Health Protection Agency; Katie Carmichael, HPA, Environmental Public Health Scientist Extreme Events and Health Protection Section; and Carla Stanke, HPA, Environmental Public Health Scientist Extreme Events and Health Protection Section, during the UK HFA peer review.



Credit © UNISDR Europe - Sarah Mukherjee, Water UK, Director of Environmental Policy; Nick Ellins, Water UK, Drought Liaison Adviser; Mike King, Bristol Water, Competition and Regulation Manager; Luke De Vial, Wessex Water, Head of Water Resources and Supply; Mike Pocock, Veolia Water, Head of Strategic Planning; Yvette De Garis, Thames Water, Head of Environmental Sustainability; and Jean Spencer, Anglian Water, Regulation Director, during the UK HFA peer review in London.

Governance of risk: putting science and policy interface at the core

In 2012, UNISDR Europe continued its collaboration with the EC DG Research, promoting linkages between science and policy. Both organizations have worked to keep the European networks of universities and other academic institutions involved in regional research projects [such as the EU FP7 projects], and in constructive discussions with those policymakers involved in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation investment decisions at the national level [such as the HFA focal points]. In November 2012, DG Research promoted, at the FloodRisk Conference in Rotterdam [The Netherlands], two interactive sessions on the EU Floods Directive potential barriers/opportunities and best practices in science-policy interfacing to which UNISDR Europe contributed. As a tangible result, a matrix of current gaps in the science-policy dialogue was identified along with concrete actions aimed at filling the gaps and making the public investment decision in flood prevention anchored to sound scientific findings. DG Research will in turn consider the outcome of the discussions for the future structuring of the thematic areas that European research projects shall consider with respect to flood risks.



Flooding in Dresden. Photo from the floodrisk 2012 website: <http://www.floodrisk2012.net/>

The value of knowing better: assessment of losses from natural hazards

As part of the EC-funded “Policy-relevant assessment of socio-economic effects of droughts and floods [PREEMPT]” project, UNISDR Europe contributed to an exchange event organised by the FEEM [Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei] which focused on the impact of knowledge on disaster losses, for European policy-makers. The “Policy Expert Workshop”, held in Venice on 29-30 November 2012, aimed to help policy-makers in their public investment decisions with respect to disaster risk reduction. UNISDR Europe brought practical examples from non-European countries, and of work that has been done in other regions in building databases for disaster losses. It also brought experience of the practical implications of these databases when building probabilistic risk models and plan national and local investment decisions. The workshop was attended by national representatives of disaster management services, research institutions, the EC and other European organizations. The project outcome included contributing to knowledge-sharing at regional level on existing local risk assessments and collection of disaster data, especially in relation to Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Italy.

Result 2.2: Disaster risk reduction and climate risk management reflected in national planning instruments and business strategies based on improved risk information, including on hazards, exposure and vulnerabilities.

Turkey’s national earthquake strategy

Turkey has revised its national laws to include risk reduction and resilience to disasters. Furthermore, Turkey has published its “National earthquake strategy and action plan 2012-2023 [NESAP 2012-2023]”, consistent with the HFA, with a sound disaster resilience approach. The NESAP is a cooperative programme of earthquake monitoring, research, implementation, education and outreach activities. The strategy refers to the role of the national platform and HFA guidance. Funds are allocated for the implementation of the strategy and the development of an Earthquake Investigation Fund.

National strategies in disaster risk reduction

A number of European countries [Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus and Bulgaria] requested assistance in setting up or strengthening their national coordination mechanisms and disaster risk reduction strategies. As a result, Belarus participated in its first EFDRR annual meeting, submitted its first HFA monitoring report and nominated its HFA focal point. In 2013, Belarus will launch its national platform and arrange ministerial-level attendance for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Through the guidance of UNISDR Europe in 2012, Bosnia and Herzegovina is ready to announce its national platform, with strengthened collaboration at regional level beginning in 2013.



*Credit © UNISDR
Photo: IRP recovery training in Belarus, on 17 April 2012.*

Dissemination of evidence and papers to our national counterparts

UNISDR serves as a resource to European nations, furnishing research, evidence and white papers to deepen the understanding of disaster risk reduction.

Disaster-loss database

Accounting for disaster losses is a key tool for national governments to fully understand the costs of not investing in disaster risk reduction. In turn, developing national and local databases on disaster-related economic losses is a tool to inform decision makers on the most appropriate risk reduction investments.

Five European countries are building national disaster-loss databases. Albania and Serbia received access to resources through UNISDR Europe to establish disaster-loss databases in their countries and expect to have their respective databases established by mid-2013. Italy and France are also working towards establishing national disaster-loss databases. The Republic of Croatia will establish a disaster-loss database with the financial support of UNDP.

Risk-based regulatory framework for catastrophe insurance and reinsurance [EuropaRe]

The Europa Reinsurance Facility Ltd. [Europa Re] is a catastrophe risk insurance service and reinsurance company owned by countries of South Eastern Europe. It offers insurance market infrastructure services and technology solutions to local insurance companies, enabling them to provide homeowners, farmers, enterprises and government organizations of South Eastern Europe with affordable insurance products against weather-risk and geo-related perils. Europa Re's services also include optional reinsurance support to local insurers for Europa Re-designed catastrophe- and weather-risk products. Europa Re was established to increase the level of catastrophe insurance penetration among households and small and medium enterprises in the region.

With regard to the South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaption Programme Focus Area III – financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery and disaster-risk transfer – a comprehensive risk-based regulatory framework for catastrophe insurance and reinsurance that would stimulate the growth of this market was developed by assisting regulatory authorities in Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, all Europa Re member countries. The initiative is designed to help countries harmonize the regulation of catastrophe risk insurance envisaged under the EU risk-based Solvency II framework.

UNISDR, in collaboration with the World Bank, maintained its support for Southeastern Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility [SEEC CRIF] activities, mobilizing resources through the UNISDR-WMO project “Building Resilience in the Western Balkans and Turkey” and funded by the EC DG Enlargement. The project aims to strengthen the capacities of the governmental insurance regulators and

of the local insurers to create an ‘enabling environment’ for the penetration of disaster insurance, while at the same time raise awareness of the benefits of having disaster insurance coverage. Disaster shocks have a serious impact on SEE countries’ fiscal positions and disaster insurance is a key tool to mitigate this impact by partially transferring the risk of financial losses to the global insurance markets.



Where do we stand?

South Eastern Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (SEEC CRIF)

The SEEDRMAP objective is to reduce the vulnerability of SEE countries to disasters, including the loss of life, property and economic productivity caused by weather extremes and other natural hazards. Since financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery, and disaster risk transfer (disaster insurance) represent one of the focus areas of SEEDRMAP, the World Bank, UNISDR and RCC SEE are facilitating the creation of the South Eastern Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (SEEC CRIF).

The commercial insurance market in South Eastern Europe does not offer affordable and dependable Insurance coverage to protect individuals and small businesses against material losses arising from catastrophes caused by natural hazards. Consequently, the establishment of the SEEC CRIF will make a visible difference to the lives of citizens and small businesses. This unique facility could play an important role in reducing the level of economic and fiscal exposure to disasters caused by natural hazards in SEE. The facility

has been expanded to cover countries in the Caucasus which have similar risks and expressed an interest in participating.

The proposed facility is being established as a regional catastrophe risk pool owned by countries.

The facility will greatly contribute to the development of a catastrophe insurance market in South Eastern Europe and the Caucasus and reduce government post-disaster budgetary outlays on reconstruction. Regional risk diversification and extensive donor assistance will promote a growing private market for catastrophe insurance, which will in turn provide homeowners and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with the opportunity to purchase affordable insurance coverage. The initiative has received financial support from the GFDRR and the Government of Switzerland, with the latter contributing US\$4.5 million in the form of a dedicated trust fund to support the technical preparatory work in support of the facility's operations in SEE countries.

6

Source: South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme at a glance [page 6]. For full text see: <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/18135>

Strategic Objective Three

Advocacy and outreach – increased public- and private-sector investments in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation through advocacy and outreach.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **1 Champion of Local Change award**
- **1 declaration on Local Level Resilience and Cultural Heritage**
- **1 Council of Europe Resolution 399 [2012] on Making Cities Resilient adopted**
- **24 new European cities join the Resilient Cities Campaign**
- **3 city-to-city exchanges and learning experiences [exchange programmes]**

Result 3.1: Increased awareness and actions mobilized by national and local governments to reduce risk and build resilience.

Resilient Cities in Europe

The “Making Cities Resilient – My City is Getting Ready!” campaign, launched in May 2010, addresses issues of local governance and urban disaster risk. With the support and recommendations of many partners and participants, and a Mayor’s Statement made during the 2011 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Making Cities Resilient campaign will carry on beyond 2015. Currently, 407 European cities have joined the campaign, of which 8 are Role Model Cities and one is European Champion for disaster risk reduction and cultural heritage protection.

Haut Comité Français pour la Défense Civile as a new partner to the resilient cities campaign

The Haut Comité Français pour la Défense Civile [HCFDC] joined the UNISDR Campaign as an official partner, in September 2012. HCFDC will collaborate with UNISDR Europe in building resilience to disasters at the local level and in fostering partnerships among European cities.

By December 2012, some 407 Europe cities had joined the UNISDR campaign “Making Cities Resilient – My City is Getting Ready!” Globally 1,286 cities had signed up.

Armenia: Yerevan, Gyumri

Austria: 279 cities incl. Innsbruck, Lienz, etc.

Croatia: Town of Bjelovar, Dubrovnik, Zagreb

Denmark: Copenhagen

France: Nice, Sommières

Germany: Bonn

Greece: Patras

Iceland: Arborg

Ireland: Dublin

Italy: 51 cities incl. Ancona, Venice, Rome, Florence

Kosovo [as defined by UNSCR 1244]: Pristine

Portugal: Amadora, Cascais, Lisbon

Serbia: 50 cities including Nis

Spain: Bullas, Lugo, Madrid

Sweden: Karlstad, Kristianstad, Gothenburg, Jonkoping

Switzerland: Davos

Tajikistan: Dushanbe

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Strumica

Turkey: Antalya, Istanbul, Yalova

United Kingdom: Stoke-on-Trent

Ukraine: Ivano-Frankivsk, Grabovets, Roslina, Yarblunka

The cities of Lienz [Austria], Nice, Sommieres [France], Bonn [Germany], Venice [Italy], Gothenburg, Jonkoping, Karlstad and Kristianstad [Sweden] are Role Model Cities.

Participating local governments in Europe.

Source: <http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/cities>

“We wish to thank you and your colleagues at the UNISDR office in Europe for the continual support in many endeavours. These are, to name a few, the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, international conferences, scientific and technical reports, coordination with DG ECHO Civil Protection Unit, Making Cities Resilient campaign and PreventionWeb. All of these efforts assist the European countries in achieving the aims of the HFA.”

*Mr. Nils Svartz,
Deputy Director General, and Janet Edwards,
Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency.*

Result 3.2: Broad range of stakeholders demanding and investing efforts to build the resilience of communities.

The Venice event “Building cities’ resilience to disasters: protecting cultural heritage and adapting to climate change”

UNISDR Europe and the City of Venice jointly organized the international event “Building cities’ resilience to disasters: protecting cultural heritage and adapting to climate change”, on 19-21 March 2012. The event saw the attendance of mayors and representatives, the EC, European parliament, national government representatives, the private sector, media, regional organisations and United Nations agencies.

Following the conference, the “Venice Declaration on building resilience at the local level towards protected cultural heritage and climate change adaptation strategies” was adopted. The Venice Declaration raises awareness of resilience vis-à-vis cultural heritage. Two cities from the Republic of Croatia, Dubrovnik and Zagreb, joined the Resilient Cities campaign at the workshop. The Making Cities Resilient campaign attracted donor support for expansion in South Eastern Europe.

UNISDR Europe and Marsh McLennan [in the context of Public-Private-Partnership] jointly organized back-to-back workshops titled “Strengthening our Cities’ Resilience; Protecting our Cultural Heritage”. The findings of the Venice event and the UNISDR Europe-Marsh workshop will be fea-

ured in a publication related to cultural heritage and disaster risk reduction to be made available at the 4th session of the Global Platform in May 2013.



Council of Europe – Congress of Local and Regional Authorities – Resolution 339 [2012] Making Cities Resilient

In 2012, UNISDR Europe continued the collaboration initiated under the Memorandum of Understanding [2008] agreed with the Council of Europe [EUR-OPA] to promote disaster resilience in Europe.

In this context, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in the Council of Europe adopted Resolution 399 [2012] on Making Cities Resilient at its 22nd Session on 20-22 March in Strasbourg, France. The resolution acknowledges the need for Council of Europe Mayors and local authorities to address urban resilience by embracing the Resilient Cities Campaign “Ten Essentials”.

Source: <http://preventionweb.net/go/26362>



UN-HABITAT – World Urban Forum

During the World Urban Forum in September 2012, UNISDR, the Italian Civil Protection Department and UN-HABITAT jointly organized a workshop that brought together local government representatives and other key stakeholders to share lessons, models and approaches in building resilience in their respective cities. The workshop gave special recognition to the work of the Italian Civil Protection Department and the Italian cities that participate in the Resilient Cities Campaign. During a High-Level Networking Panel and the launch of the Resilient Cities Report, the Head of the National Italian Civil Protection, Mr. Franco Gabrielli, addressed the role of civil society in disaster risk reduction. The Mayor of Venice and the UNISDR Campaign Champion in Europe, Mr. Giorgio Orsoni, addressed protecting cultural heritage from the risks of disasters. A separate signing ceremony was held for the City of Gothenburg, which joined the Campaign during the World Urban Forum.



Credit © UNISDR Europe
 Photo: The international event “Building cities’ resilience to disasters: protecting cultural heritage and adapting to climate change”, on 19-21 March 2012, Venice, Italy.

Venice Declaration on Building Resilience at the Local Level towards Protected Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Adaptation Strategies

We, Mayors and Local Government representatives together with National Government Officials, representatives of the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the Private Sector, UNESCO, UNHABITAT and UNISDR,

1. Having participated in the event "*Building Cities Resilience to Disasters: Protecting Cultural Heritage and Adapting to Climate Change*" organized by the City of Venice and UNISDR,

2. Recognizing that:

- a) More than half of the world's population now lives in cities or urban centres, which serve as the economic engines of nations, and where around 100 cities are in control of 30 per cent of the world economy;
- b) Cities, including over 200 World Heritage urban properties, are living evidence, a physical store of cultural heritage that represent a source of cultural identity and a non-renewable human asset, and that urban vulnerability to risks are one of the most significant threats to the preservation of such assets;
- c) A well-conserved historic environment, supported by living traditional knowledge and skills, considerably reduces underlying disaster risks' factors, strengthens the resilience of urban communities and saves lives.
- d) Sustainable development must integrate disaster risk reduction and resilience building at all levels through planning across sectors to increase urban resilience to disaster;
- e) Disaster risk is driven higher by climate change particularly in urban areas due to the increased incidence of extreme weather events, such as flooding, flash floods, tropical cyclones, drought, wildfires and heat waves, which affects the growing populations of cities;

3. Recalling:

- a) The World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2015 Making Cities Resilient: "My city is getting ready!" which is aimed at achieving resilient sustainable urban communities based on the principles of the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- b) The Mayor's Statement on Resilient Cities at the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which calls on UNISDR to work with city networks, UN entities and civil society organizations to sustain local preparations for disaster risk reduction and local resilience-building;
- c) The Strategy for Disaster Risks Reduction at World Heritage Properties, which was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st Session in 2007.

Resolve to:

- a. Ensure the continuation of exchanges of experiences and good practices within communities, cities and local governments on achievements related to disaster risk reduction at the local level;

- b. Actively encourage exchanges between cities facing challenges posed by the protection of cultural heritage in a changing climate;
- c. Further the engagement of European local level city networks in embracing resilience to disasters with a particular focus on cultural heritage protection and climate change adaptation by promoting and embracing the objectives of Making Cities Resilient Campaign;
- d. Support the integration of heritage concerns into national and local disaster risk reduction policies and plans and, at the same time, ensure that disaster risks are taken into consideration within management plans and systems for heritage properties in their territories, notably for World Heritage Cities;
- e. Ensure that sustainable development strategies reflect disaster risk reduction measures at the local level for urban sustainability and resilient growth;
- f. Encourage communities, cities and local governments to take advantage of existing sources of information such as the Making Cities Resilient website, national databases and other available information related to the activities of participating cities to ensure that achievements and obstacles in addressing vulnerabilities to disasters are shared and built upon;
- g. Integrate the Ten Essentials of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign into local risk reduction plans as a way to accelerate efforts to make cities safer and to prevent the loss of lives and assets;
- h. Foster partnerships for disaster risk reduction with the private sector to analyze the root causes of continued non-resilient activity in the urban built environment, related infrastructure and cultural heritage, and to enhance collaborative exchanges regarding dissemination of risk data;
- i. Encourage the use of the Local Government Self Assessment Tool as a channel for sharing advances and challenges in reducing risks at the local level towards building cities resilience.

Adopted on 20 March 2012.








10th European Week of Cities and Regions

In the context of the 10th European Week of Cities and Regions Open Days 2012, held in October, UNISDR participated in events raising awareness on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to foster support for investing in resilience at local levels. Together with the European Commission DG Climate Action, UNISDR Europe organized the workshop “Community Involvement for Disaster Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation.” Based on both UNISDR’s “Making Cities Resilient – My City is Getting Ready!” cam-



Credit © European Union - Photo: The 10th European Week of Cities and Regions Open Days 2012, workshop “Community Involvement for Disaster Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation.”

paigned and on the DG Climate Action initiative “Adaptation Strategies for EU Cities”, the workshop explored options for active participation of communities in building sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban environments and identified success factors. The workshop gathered 65 participants from the United Nations, the EC and local-level representatives from across Europe.

We’re raising awareness

- The Head of UNISDR Europe featured disaster risk reduction and climate change during an event organized by Local Governments for Sustainability [ICLEI] in collaboration with the European Commission DG Climate Action called “Climate change adaptation and EU Cities”. The Campaign Handbook and the Resilient Cities Report, along with the International Day for Disaster Reduction, were also featured.
- Together with DG Climate Action, UNISDR Europe organized a workshop “Community Involvement for Disaster Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation”. The workshop explored options for active participation of communities in building sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban environments and identified success factors. The workshop gathered 65 participants from the United Nations, the European Commission and local-level representatives from across Europe.
- The Head of UNISDR Europe featured disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters at the local level in the context of an event organized by the “GAIA Project”. The Gaia Project is raising awareness on local strategies for green growth that are transferable to other regions in Europe. The project is coordinated by the municipality of Bologna and four project partners: IBIMET CNR [Institute of Biometeorology], Impronta Etica, Cittalia and Unindustria.
- The European Commission DG Regional Policy and the Committee of the Regions jointly organized the 10th European Week of Cities and Regions. Over 6,000 individuals attended the events, including over 450 elected politicians.

Nine Italian cities join the Resilient Cities Campaign

The signing ceremony was held for nine cities in the Basilicata region of Italy during a session organized by UNISDR Europe, the Italian Civil Protection Department and UN-HABITAT at the World Urban Forum in Naples welcoming more members to the Resilient Cities Campaign. The session, with UNISDR Deputy Director Helena Molin-Valdes, brought together local government representatives and other key stakeholders to share lessons, models and approaches in building resilience in their respective cities in a jointly organized event during the Forum in September 2012. The workshop gave special recognition to Italian civil protection and Italian cities in the campaign.



Credit © UNISDR Europe - Photo: Signing ceremony for nine cities in the Basilicata region of Italy World Urban Forum in Naples.

City-to-city exchanges

The European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction organized programmes for sharing local level disaster risk reduction experiences. They included:

- The cities of Jönköping, Sweden, and Lienz, Austria, participated in the EU Exchange of Experts in Civil Protection programme. The first visit took place on 12 September 2012 to Jönköping. In January 2013, representatives from Jönköping were to visit Lienz. The exchange resulted in strengthening both cities' capacity in risk management, climate change, municipality, and county risk assessments and early warning.

- In Portugal, the city of Amadora has oriented an implementation strategy on disaster risk reduction using the HFA. The strategy reflects the principles of the Resilient Cities Campaign, especially as regards awareness and public-private partnerships. The city presented at the 3rd Annual Meeting of the EFDRR their work on historic loss data [fire, flood, landslide, gas explosion and extreme weather], hazard assessment and identification of high-, medium- and low-risk areas. Furthermore, the city has a strong focus on school and local community training.



UNISDR CAMPAIGNS

The Making Cities Resilient campaign

<http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/>

CASE STUDY: LEARNING FROM EXCHANGES KRISTIANSTAD, SWEDISH NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER REDUCTION AND UK ENVIRON- MENT AGENCY

Study trip on flood management to London, York and Hull

"Risk reduction work must be done in a timely manner so that the city is protected long before a flooding event. In order to take effective prevention and mitigation measures, cities need adequate financial support from central government. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency provides partial financing to those cities in need of assistance. Solutions that the city has come up with are continuously shared with other cities."

*Anders Pålsson,
Kristianstad Municipality's coordinator for partici-
pation in the Making Cities Resilient campaign.*

The Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is committed to assisting, in cooperation with UNISDR Europe and the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction's working group on Information Sharing and Exchanges, those Swedish municipalities participating in the Making Cities Resilient campaign to take part in a field trip or exchange that would benefit their current work.

The cities of Kristianstad and Karlstad were interested in learning about flood mitigation practices in cities at risk of flooding from various sources, including fluvial, coastal and surface water. Kristianstad, which already has good practice in terms of flood management, planned a study trip to the United Kingdom at the end of 2011 to take part in exchanges with cities that face more frequent floods, such as London, York, Hull, and with the UK Environment Agency.

Key to the success of this field trip were the international network of national platforms for disaster risk reduction, the support of UNISDR and the interest of local-level experts in the initiative. The participants had constructive discussions comparing practices in their respective countries and cities and shared experiences through presentations and guided tours. The UK Environment Agency was very interested, for

example, in the experience of the Swedish cities, which appear to more easily engage the public in flood risk issues than is the case in the UK. Notable in this is the extensive use of household resilience measures that prepare citizens to take preparatory action in advance when there is a risk of flooding.

This field trip was realized within the framework of the regular municipal budget. It was a great success and was highly valued by the participants. Kristianstad and Karlstad each made contacts in the UK to share knowledge and good practices that have already been followed up via email. They are now considering further exchanges with other cities facing flood risk to stimulate new thinking about a common problem.

Kristianstad works to continuously improve its flood-risk management and also participates, along with national agencies and local actors, with the Swedish organisation VAKA to protect drinking water supplies during an emergency situation.



Bert Andersson, Karlstad Municipality, Andy Bachelor, Environment Agency, and Anders Pålsson, Kristianstad Municipality, at the Thames Barrier in London.

**CASE STUDY: CITY ENGAGEMENT TO REDUCE VULNERABILITY TO DISASTERS
CITY OF ANCONA, ISPRA AND ISCR
ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN TIME [ACT]**

“The arguments against new ideas usually go through three different phases: from “it’s not true” to “it could be true, but it’s not important”, to “it’s true and important, but it’s not a novelty, we always knew about it”.

Marco Cardinaletti, ACT Project Manager

Adaptation is, together with mitigation, one of the two concurrent actions that must be undertaken to face the problem of climate change. As the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change has stated: mitigation aims at avoiding the unmanageable impacts, while adaptation aims at managing the unavoidable impacts. It aims at increasing the resilience of natural and human systems to current and future impacts of climate change.

Based on this, the project “Adapting to climate change in time” aims at demonstrating that through an inclusive and participative process, shared by all the local actors involved, it is possible to develop a “local adaptation plan” which will support the forecast and mitigation of environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable areas of the European cities in the Mediterranean basin. Within the ACT project, each City Partner, supported by the Scientific Partner [ISPRA], carried out a qualitative and quantitative analysis in order to evaluate the risk exposure of their cultural heritage.

Objectives of ACT:

- To develop a process to create a local adaptation strategy. This process will lead to the identification of areas of intervention and specific actions to be undertaken by directly involving a wide range of local actors, which represent all sectors that will be affected by climate change [including urban planning, construction, water management, hydro-geological risk management, health system, industrial risk management].
- To involve, by increasing their awareness, local actors [industries, citizens, health system, civil protection, etc.] in the development of local adaptation strategies. This will al-

low the selection of proportionate, appropriate and cost-effective measures to be included in the adaptation strategy.

- To create and disseminate guidelines that can encourage other European communities to adopt the same process and to develop their own local adaptation strategies. The partners are chosen to represent towns of different dimensions [Ancona, Patras and Bullas] in order to facilitate the application of this process in various contexts.
- To enhance the competence of local authorities in understanding the effects of climate change, and hence in planning and implementing policies and actions to adapt to them.
- Help them to develop synergies between adaptation and mitigation policies that might already be in place.
- To establish a baseline scenario by scaling down a regional climate change scenario for the Mediterranean basin against which to assess specific environmental and economic risks.

This impact assessment results in the identification of the most vulnerable sectors, which will be targeted in the development of a local adaptation plan. It will also :

- Provide the cities within the Mediterranean area, characterized by different territorial, socio-economic and climatic conditions, with a shared methodology for local impact assessment.
- Identify where further work is required to understand climate impacts.
- Recommend where emergency plans should be formed for low-probability, but high-consequence, risks.

Risk analysis of 27 cultural heritage sites in Ancona

The Municipality of Ancona worked with three main local stakeholders, Superintendence on Cultural Heritage, The Institute of Research [ISCR] and ISPRA, to identify the space/time distribution of the risk to the cultural heritage sites [which involved 25 architectural monuments and two archaeological sites] in order to plan maintenance activities and reduce the more expensive and invasive restoration works.

To calculate the level of the risk, the following data were collected :

- Distribution of cultural properties in Ancona.
- The impacts [represented by material loss estimation for architectural and archaeological items].
- The vulnerability of the 27 items selected in Ancona [determined by a variable indicating the level of exposure to environmental/territorial hazards in relation to the superficial conservation condition of each cultural heritage asset].

The statistical analysis showed that the main forms of decay on considered assets are due to humidity, to materials powdering and to superficial alteration. Moreover, superficial vulnerability data indicate that the 25 architectural cultural assets studied in this project show vulnerability values that are generally 'medium-high', although the global vulnerability values are 'high' for the archaeological sites.

Output :

- Geo-referred monument charts with a complete database on the local cultural heritage.
- Possibility to upload new information and improve the analysis of the risk.
- An easy tool for orienting political decisions and planning possible action over maintenance and conservation.
- To better address financial resources.
- Possibility to exchange information and compare it with other cities, because the methodology provided by ISCR is applicable to other potential pilot cities.
- The project website: www.actlife.eu [where it is possible to gather further information].

Lessons learned :

To maximise the adaptation capacity of works of cultural heritage it is important to plan rigorous and frequent maintenance activities to improve their condition. In conjunction, it is also important to conduct risk assessment analyses, and collect and update data and information on all cultural assets. Investing in the maintenance of cultural heritage means investing in an important local economic resource, which is valuable for sectors such as tourism and of strategic importance for the sustainable development of a territory. Key to the effective implementation of every project is the sharing of ideas, procedures, plans and resources [humans, technological and financial].

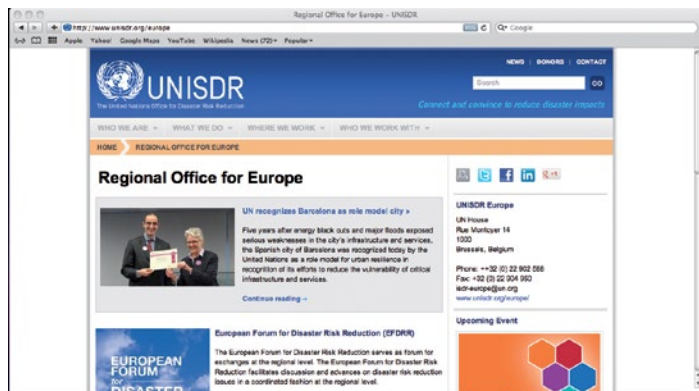
Strategic Objective Four

Deliver and communicate results – for a more effective, results-oriented, UNISDR to carry out its mandate.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 12 monthly bulletins
- 1 event organised in the context of the private – public partnership
- 1 event, 1 review and gender issues promoted in South Eastern Europe
- 1 UNISDR Europe webpage and 1 UNISDR Europe snapshot presentation UN Portal Brussels

Result 4.1: Communications and knowledge-management tools effectively support UNISDR objectives



Source: <http://www.unisdr.org/europe>

Communication and advocacy is critical to UNISDR's mandate. In 2012, UNISDR Europe made significant progress in this area. The European regional offices produced 12 monthly news bulletins to be shared with our European stakeholders to further engage and increase awareness on disaster risk reduction. The bulletin covers disaster risk reduction activities, publications, documents, news and meetings in Europe.

UNISDR Europe is increasingly viewed as a valued resource for technical assistance in disaster risk reduction, and has contributed its expertise to a number of works by its partners,



Source: <http://www.unbrussels.org>

including annual reports and other publications for the United Nations Secretary-General, colleagues in other UNISDR regional offices and headquarters, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the United Nations Brussels Team, the EU and EC, including the EC/IPA Multi-Beneficiary Programme.

Disaster risk reduction measures in Europe have been featured in seven press releases and 28 news stories issued over the course of 2012 and through our input into four speeches and statements dealing with disaster risk reduction in Europe.

UNISDR Europe's increasing visibility has resulted in a number of calls towards the use of information and knowledge collected by other actors. This includes strong efforts on how to adapt the "Stop Disasters" game with translations into local languages in Balkan countries, as well as online on the Institute's web page, and translating Stop Disasters into the Polish language by the Polish Geographical Society. The Polytechnic of Milan, in Italy, reported to UNISDR Europe the success in using Stop Disasters with its students as a way to increase knowledge of disaster risks to the future generation. In addition, the Italian company QueSITesri requested UNISDR Europe's collaboration in developing educational tools for young people on civil protection issues.

Result 4.2: Enlarged, sustainable and predictable resource base

The resource mobilization efforts of UNISDR Europe must ensure adequate capacity to respond to requests for technical assistance to ensure deepening engagement on disaster risk reduction issues.

UNISDR Europe's effectiveness in carrying out its mandate was recognized by EC/IPA, which invested €1,135,000 towards "Building Resilience to Disasters in the Western Balkans and Turkey" for two years and a further €291,822 for four years in support of the Enhance Project [Enhancing risk management partnerships for catastrophic disasters caused by natural hazards in Europe].

Result 4.3: Results-focused implementation, monitoring and reporting of UNISDR strategic priorities

Many advances under Result 4.3 have been undertaken at UNISDR Headquarters. UNISDR Europe supported those activities such as the Functional Review on optimizing staff-function ratios and the adjustment for the Strategic Framework and Work Programme 2012-2015. Furthermore, UNISDR Europe has participated at the Office Retreat in September 2012 under the theme "Working Together: Delivering to 2015". Professional development, strategic planning and programme review exercises, with a view to enhancing programme delivery, were key activities undertaken at the retreat and resulted in a set of clear priorities and messages for the next three years.

Result 4.4: Gender equality and empowerment of women promoted in UNISDR work programme

International Day for Disaster Reduction

The International Day for Disaster Reduction [IDDR], which took place on 13 October 2012, focused on women and girls. The EU Commissioner for Climate Action, Ms. Connie Hedegaard, and EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, participated in videos promoting the Day that were then shared on the IDDR website. The IDDR was celebrated in countries across Europe, including Spain, Italy, Serbia, France, Sweden and Portugal. All organized events

around the IDDR theme of women and girls. PPRD South organized a thematic roundtable on IDDR and Serbia used the occasion to offer a programme on gender and disaster risk reduction.

UNISDR Europe and UNDP partnered with the Republic of Serbia to offer a round table discussion at the country's National Assembly titled "Women and Girls: the [in]Visible Force of Resilience" on the IDDR.

In the build-up to the event, a round table discussion was held on "The Value Added of Women in Civil Protection", organized by the EU-funded PPRD South on 26 March 2012. The event was the first of this kind in the Mediterranean region and gathered 30 civil protection professionals [mostly women] from Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Jordan, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Portugal, Slovenia and Tunisia. The round-table discussion resulted in a set of recommendations for mainstreaming gender issues in the overall disaster management cycle.

United Nations Development Assistance Framework

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNISDR Europe supports the United Nations Country Team efforts in addressing disaster risk reduction in its United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The UNDAF will also include gender considerations in disaster risk reduction.



<http://www.unisdr.org/2012/iddr/>

Credits and Acknowledgements

The production of this report would not have been possible without the help of our partners.
We look forward to continuing our work with them as we strive to make the world safer against disasters.

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