

The Social and Economic Dimensions of Vulnerability



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Hazard

x

Vulnerability

= Risk

→ Impact

→ Response



Vulnerability management

Abstract

Risk management

Diffuse

Crisis management

Emergency management

Disaster management

Concrete

Concentrated



The main Projects:



- **ARMONIA: Applied Multi-Risk Mapping of Natural Hazards for Risk Assessment**
- **CAPHAZ-NET: Social Capacity Building for Natural Hazards**
- **CONHAZ: Costs of Natural Hazards**
- **ENSURE: Enhancing Resilience of Communities and Territories Facing Natural and Na-Tech Hazards**
- **MOVE: Methods for the Improvement of Vulnerability Assessment in Europe**
- **SCENARIO: Support on Common European Strategy for Sustainable Natural and Induced Technological Hazards Mitigation.**





Social and economic studies of vulnerability

Filling the gaps in basic knowledge:

There is a huge lack of knowledge of social & economic vulnerability in Europe: projects address this and redress the balance with respect to studies from other continents.



Social and economic studies of vulnerability

Understanding the complexity of Europe: The collaborative perspectives inherent in FP7 projects have thrown light on geographical and cultural diversities and shown how they affect vulnerability to hazards and climate change.

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Social and economic studies of vulnerability

Awareness raising is fundamental: projects are not only creating and providing knowledge, they are also studying the process of **knowledge utilisation** to ensure that it is efficient and effective.



**Projects are building bridges:
they are dealing with multiple risks,
interdisciplinary consequences, and
dynamic and complex vulnerabilities.**

**Social and economic
studies of vulnerability**



Projects are building bridges:
they are connecting researchers with
other constituencies: policy-makers,
planners, technical experts, academics,
and communities of citizens.

**Social and
economic
studies of
vulnerability**



Prevention is paramount: projects on vulnerability are also studying resilience, coping capacity, and the efficiency and effectiveness of prevention measures.



Social and economic studies of vulnerability



Primary
• cause and effect

Resilience
and coping
capacity

Disaster risk
reduction

VULNERABILITY

Secondary
• interaction of causes
• coincidences

Complex
• complicated
interactions

Case Studies



Issues to be tackled in future projects:

- deliverables should be made available in different European languages
- European climate change policy is beginning to favour adaptation: vulnerability studies must reflect this
- global change is causing fast evolution of people's exposure to hazards, with many demographic, social and infrastructural changes.

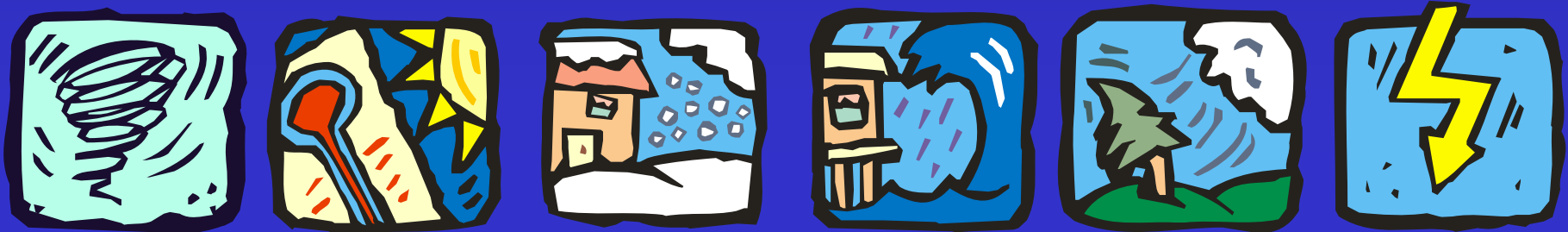




Conclusions

These projects represent a concerted effort to understand, research and diffuse useful information on European vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change.

Only by understanding the causes of disaster in terms of patterns and webs of vulnerability can we make the vital shift from reaction to prevention.



utilised

registered

adopted

archived

LESSONS

learned

forgotten

ignored



The gap is being bridged between
physical and social sciences
and between
researchers and stakeholders

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Thank you for
your attention!

MOVE
Methods for the Improvement of
Vulnerability Assessment in Europe

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SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

