

# **Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Europe**

## **A review of Risk Governance**

Presentation of the EUR-OPA-UNISDR report

International Workshop on governance of climate-related risks in Europe: the need for policy oriented research  
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# Climate Change Adaptation

Knowing risk

Communication

Climate change

Multiple actors

Flow of information

Up-front investment

Cross sectoral

Multi-level

Long-term investment

Scattered

# RISK GOVERNANCE

Science and policy interactions

Impacts

Hazards

Capacity building

National platforms

Making scientific research

policy oriented

Disaster Risk Reduction

# Governance of climate-related risks in Europe

New types of partnerships on DRR

European adaptation projects  
information  
level  
framework  
Adaptation  
important  
study  
community  
EC  
strategies  
frameworks  
hazards  
issues  
researchers  
change  
organisations  
INTERREG  
Process  
risks  
regional  
climate  
policy  
risk  
Action  
academia  
Water  
EU  
research  
makers  
national  
international  
EU Platforms  
local  
governance  
decision  
programmes  
funding  
National  
UNISDR  
need  
reducing  
guidance  
practical  
Climate

DRR

# Overview

Major issues of governing risk in Europe

European actors and networks

Five key recommendations

for issues.

# Governance

Governance is local, national and international

Technical and financial resources, access as much as availability

Political influence to create policy environment and facilitate projects

for issues.

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The 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction suggests the incorporation of CCA and DRR in a **central planning location or a relevant ministry with funds and the authority to support a risk reduction agenda**. Planning departments generally have a propensity for long-term projects and they also have good access to funding and to politicians.

for issues.

# Flow of Information

Access and usability of data, despite huge volumes of relevant information

Lack of communication in relevant knowledge networks: weak links between researchers, governments, international organisations, and affected communities

Policies, programmes and projects created with little coordination

Conflicting definitions and working languages: no common ontology

Multi-lingual barriers, especially for research

for issues.

# Accountability

Governments need to be held responsible for CCA and DDR

Risk assessment for CCA and DDR is difficult, crosses institutional boundaries

Disasters are complex processes: difficult to link a single action to accountable actors



# European actors

Global institutions: advisory and intermediary roles across borders and in framing issues

European policy institutions: coordination and directives, working with member states

European research institutions: blue sky and applied research, training and applications

works

yogo Framework for Action

WHITE PAPER of Climate Adaptation

ancun Adaptation Framework

Water Framework Directive

ommunication on “Addressing the challenge  
f water scarcity and droughts in the European  
nion”

U Flood Framework Directive

U Civil protection, prevention of disasters

ean Funding Programmes:

ixth Framework Programme (2002-2006)

eventh Framework Programme (2007-2013)

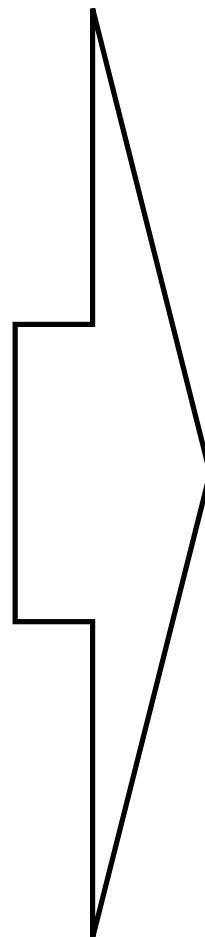
INTERREG IIIB North West Europe

INTERREG IVB North West Europe

INTERREG IIIC (2002-2006)

INTERREG IVC (2007-2013)

INTERREG Baltic Sea Region (2007-2013)



Project Categories:

- Policy Assessment
- Science Assessment
- Policy and Science Assessment
- Cooperation and Networks
- Knowledge Sharing
- Water, Floods & Sea Rise

Water Directive

EC White Paper on C

Civil protection

Drought communication

Hyogo Framework

Flood Directive

UNFCCC Accord

Recommendations.

# Communication

UNISDR as broker of contacts and information

Projects include relevant policy makers at outset, engage with E science advisor

Annual meetings of major funding bodies to review bi-annual initiatives

Facilitate opportunities for researchers and policy makers to exchange information

Recommendations.

# Communication

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Annual meetings of major funding bodies to review bi-annual initiatives

Facilitate opportunities for researchers and policy makers to exchange information

- ***Enhance existing forums to link CCA and DRR***
- ***Strengthen policy evaluation by science advisors***

Recommendations.

# Capacity building

Host workshops on specific topics of the science-policy interface for CCA and DRR

Prepare educational curricula

Fund projects that facilitate good communication practices; quantify the costs and benefits

Build a common understanding of concepts relevant to CCA and DRR

Recommendations.

# Capacity building

Host workshops on specific topics of the science-policy interface for CCA and DDR

Prepare educational curricula

Fund projects that facilitate good communication practices; quantify the costs and benefits

Build a common understanding of concepts relevant to CCA and DRR

- ***European and global organisations to host workshops***
- ***Governments and leading policy organisations to support and participate in curriculum development***
- ***Project developers include communication objectives and indicators***
- ***UNISDR to convene a multi-actor process to reconcile terms and improve communications***

Recommendations.

## Joint projects

Joint capacity building workshops to enhance networks

Identify projects where CCA and DRR have potential links—synergies or overlaps



Recommendations.

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Joint capacity building workshops to enhance networks

Identify projects where CCA and DRR have potential links—synergies or overlaps

- ***International organisations to coordinate on capacity building***
- ***Coordinate evaluations (and evaluators) of CCA and DRR projects***
- ***Joint review of Cancun Adaptation Framework and Hyogo Framework for Action***
- ***Donors and policy organisations to identify critical issues***

Recommendations.

# National platforms

Serve as an intermediate body between policy and researchers

Active role in research by linking steering committees to major projects

Create partnerships among research communities, governments and private sector

Extend beyond their national borders; twinning among European National Platforms is a cost-effective way to share best practice

Recommendations.

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- ***Expand the number and effectiveness of National Platforms***
- ***Improve links between policy makers and researchers***
- ***Increase Platform involvement in national research projects***
- ***Increase Platform participation in thematic groups***

Recommendations.

# Information

EU CCA clearinghouse (due in 2012) and PreventionWeb (with extensive list of subscribers) are useful foundations

Local knowledge is essential for documenting damages and designing effective CCA and DRR

Communication in national languages and translation into English are essential to communicate lessons learned

Recommendations.

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- ***Portals to build specific synergy to ensure data and information are widely disseminated among CCA and DRR communities***
- ***Support community based CCA-DRR in recording local disaster data and interventions***
- ***Develop translated versions of key documents;***



A journey of a thousand miles  
begins with a single step...