Views on Making Cities Resilient from Swedish National Platform for DRR

Benefits:

• An opportunity for cities to show their expertise.
• Information sharing leads to increased knowledge for all those engaged.
• Opportunity for exchanges with other experts at the local level.
• Individual city needs and ambitions can be addressed.
• Cities can gain access to possible solutions for problems they are wrestling with.
• Well worth participating – a win –win situation.
Lessons Learnt

1. There are different ways to proceed to promote participation.

Sweden’s process is guided by the national platform:

- Invited a guest speaker from UNISDR to national platform’s steering group meeting. Inspiration is important! It should be a person who truly believes in the campaign. Sweden’s champion city Karlstad emerged as a result of the impression made on the Director Generals.

- National platform working group performed an analysis and found certain suitable role-model municipalities that are already working on climate change adaption / DRR.

- When this was presented to the national platform’s agency network, one replied: "How can we decide which municipalities should participate?"

- An invitation to join the campaign was sent to all 290 municipalities in Sweden.
Lessons Learnt (continued)

2. Use the campaign to profile the good work already in progress.
   - A national Making Cities Resilient seminar organised 17 May 2011 for municipalities. Invited landslide geotechnician and risk manager from Ancona, Italy – a resilient city. A field trip will be arranged between Ancona and a Swedish municipality.

3. One needs several means of communicating to reach many municipalities.
   - Set up an MCR Information table and roll-up at other conferences. Sweden’s first role-model city, Kristianstad, decided to join the campaign while at the fire prevention conference.
   - European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction also promotes MCR.
   - Swedish National Platform maintains a web site on MSB’s home page. A page in Swedish about the campaign and links to PreventionWeb has been added. Now we will expand the English page to communicate with international partners.
Needs

1. Stimulate the processes on the local, national and regional level that promote the Making Cities Resilient campaign.

2. In addition to the handbook for mayors, provide good tools and examples on the PreventionWeb.

3. Provide a road map for national platforms or others that wish to arrange a national seminar on ”Making Cities Resilient”. Include information on how to handle the media.

4. Guidance is needed regarding private-public cooperation.

5. Give rewards / recognition to those municipalities who have made a difference in the campaign and implementation of the ”10 Essentials”. Success inspires all!
Recommendations for the Way Forward

1. Scientific research on Making Cities Resilient should be encouraged. The results of such research should be integrated into decision-making at the local level.

2. Facilitate city-to-city exchanges for those that are in the campaign.


4. Investigate the use of financial instruments and assure that those seeking funding know how to apply for this support.

5. Disseminate information about successes - it adds momentum to the campaign.
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