Towards an EU Policy on Disaster Management

Ian CLARK
European Commission
• Disaster management a national responsibility – EU role ‘support and complement’

• Civil Protection Mechanism now 10 years old – response focus

• Rising trend in number and intensity of disasters

• Need to modernise and enhance policies – cover whole disaster cycle
Challenges facing the EU in Disaster Prevention

- Understanding the risks we face
- Making other policies perform better for disaster prevention
- Increasing investment in disaster resilience
- Coordination between the actors
- Raising awareness to build a culture of prevention
Key issues - information gaps, comparability, lack of spatial information

EU situation
- For some hazards no comprehensive overview
- Inclusion of more events and impacts especially economic losses
- Further spatial information (spatial resolution, GIS-data)
- Improved and standardized definitions and terminology for economic losses and/or damage costs, affected people, etc.
- Making more data publicly accessible
- More comparable and harmonized methodologies and data models
• Risk Assessment increasingly important in EU policy making

• Guidelines to help – focussing on process and methods and multi-risk assessments

• Use Member States and (inter-)regional good practice plus R&D results

• Member States producing own risk assessments (2011-12)

• EU overview of risks 2012 including emerging risks
Integration of DRR in EU policies – links to Climate Adaptation – strategy early 2013

Integration into legislation – environmental impact assessment, nuclear safety, cross border threats to health

Prevention conditionality in EU funding – risk assessment

Increased use of disaster insurance policies

Broadening the scope of training
Flood prevention on the Tisza river (Hungary)

- Construction of 7 flood reservoirs along the river in 2007-2013 (Operational Programme ‘Environment’ of Hungary)
- Investment of € 290 M by Cohesion Policy out of € 400 M
- 1 flood plain already co-financed in 2000-2006
Advocacy, coordination, capacity-building and dissemination of best practices

Guidelines on standards for governance and data

EU support for good practice exchange including experts

Use the full potential of new technologies
Overall aim to enable European and Asian institutions to learn from each other through joint research, development, implementation and dissemination of strategies that will enable more scientifically sound management of the consequences of urban flooding in the future.

Assessment of flood impacts and possible through different scenarios of relevant drivers: urban development, socio-economic trends and climate changes.

Evaluation of cost-effectiveness of resilience measures and integrative and adaptable flood management plans for the defined scenarios.

10 partners from Europe, EC contribution of 3.5 M€, end March 2014 – International partners: Bangladesh, China, India
Development of real time system (using sensor technology) to monitor the state of flood embankment, analyse performance data and predict flood risk

**A DIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO WGF FLOODS**

- ICT project: real time use of sensors and related data based on both physical processes and artificial intelligence to detect anomalies
- Main relevance for flood risk management but also for groundwater and climate change
- Focus on emergency, flood event forecasting and management

- Perspectives: upscaling if used at a larger (catchment scale) – need to achieve integrated operation and maintenance across numerous defence structure owners, flood risk management and emergency service organisations
- Need to quantify the reduction in flood risk arising from improved monitoring systems to help prevent catastrophic flood events
2011 Proposal to revise legislation:

- Response and Preparedness: Need to shift from *ad hoc* coordination to a pre-planned, pre-arranged and predictable system:
  - Better planning (reference scenarios, mapping of assets, contingency plans)
  - Ensuring availability of key assets

- Prevention
  - Enhanced Risk Management Planning
  - Prevention training
  - Increased networking
  - Link to Climate Adaptation
More information: