

AUSTRIA
NATIONAL SUMMARY REPORT
I D N D R

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SECTION A: PROFILE

(This section contains relevant basic information about your country.
 Please complete and check the information already included.)

1. Composition of National Committee (Focal Point):

(Please list the names of the institutions represented and indicate in the brackets the number of members for each group)

Ministries - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - - []	Non-Governmental Organizations - - - []
Academic & Research Institutions - Austrian Academy of Sciences - [5]	Media - - []
Private Sector - []	Insurance - []
Public Services (e.g. meteorological, etc) - - []	Others - - []

2. Internal organization of the National Committee

(Please describe hierarchy, responsibilities, coordination and cooperation mechanisms in natural disaster reduction activities.)

The Committee was chartered under the auspices of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and consists of 5 scientists from various disciplines of geosciences and representatives of appropriate government departments. The Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is acting as liaison between the National Committee and the IDNDR Secretariat.

3. Prevailing hazards

Type	Location	Affected Population
- Storms		Few victims
- Avalanches		
- Floods		
- Landslides		

(Please attach additional information if necessary)

4. Recent natural disasters

Type	Location	Affected Population	Losses
- Floods	Danube Carinthia		
- Storms			

5. National socio-economic conditions

• Population:

5. National socio-economic conditions

- Population: 7,884.200 (1992)
- Gross-National Product (GNP): 164 Billion US \$
- Per-Capita Income: 20.958 US \$

6. Availability of assistance to other countries in the field of natural disaster reduction.

(Please list potential resources, scientific expertise, technology, etc.)

Austrian Forces Disaster Relief Unit (AFDRU)

Authorized by: Ministry of Defense

Operational area: Earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions

Efficiency:

**203 persons, 32 rescue dogs; 14 days autarky in supply.
Operational within 12 hours after receipt of an official request.
Rescue, saving and medical first aid.**

7. International assistance required for natural disaster reduction

(Please indicate requirements for scientific expertise, technology, resources etc.)

No international assistance required for normal cases; bilateral agreements for frontier crossing assistance signed with FRG and Liechtenstein, under negotiation with Hungary, under discussion with the remaining neighboring countries.

The Ministry of the Interior supports an all-European agreement on disaster assistance; in the frame of the Central European Initiative an agreement on disaster prevention was signed.

SECTION B: STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

(This section deals with current or planned strategies and activities.)

1. Steps towards achieving the 3 main Decade targets

- (a) Comprehensive national assessments of risks from natural hazards, with these assessments taken into account in development plans;

Four pilot research projects associated with natural disasters relevant to alpine regions are being focused (described in point 4).

- (b) Mitigation plans at national and/or local levels, involving long-term prevention and preparedness and community awareness; and

- (c) Ready access to global, regional, national and local warning systems and broad dissemination of warnings.

2. Present national plan for natural disaster reduction

a) Time span covered:

No time span defined.

b) Agencies, institutions and organizations involved:

Executive committee of the national crisis handling, which coordinates similar committees installed on the province and district level.

c) Implementing agencies:

No dedicated units for civil protection are available.

The operational organizations are the executing element, supported by the various relief organizations, the executive, and the army.

d) Funds available for implementation:

As the federal provinces are responsible they carry the main financial burden.

As governmental support a disaster fund was arranged in 1966, which gives financial assistance for exceptional damages.

3. Legislation introduced and enacted in relation to natural disaster reduction

Provisions for disaster prevention, protection, and mitigation can be made by the government as well as the federal provinces. Special laws are effective. All federal provinces except for Styria have comprehensive laws for disaster reduction.

4. Disaster mitigation activities completed or underway:

a) Identification of hazard zones: hazard assessment

Title of project:

1. Crustal deformation as earthquake precursors.
2. Assessment of mass transport associated with natural disasters in the alps.

Status:

1. Hard/Software preparations completed, first part of GPS-measurements conducted, evaluation in progress.
2. Assessment of mass-movements along the alpine-dinaric lineament in Carinthia (2000 km²); detection of neotectonic movements by investigating water tables of lakes.

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

1. Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica, Roma
Ministrstvo za Okolje in Prostor (Geodetska Uprava), Ljubljana
Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen, Wien
- 2.

Costs of project:

1. Estimated costs: 450.000 US \$ (for 5 years)
2. Estimated costs: 700.000 US \$ (for 10 years)

Sources of funding:

- The Ministry of Science and Research has provided some funding.

Implementing agencies:

1. Institute for Space Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Graz
Central Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics, Vienna
2. Geological Survey of Austria (GBA), Vienna

Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:

1. Lustbühelstrasse 46, A-8042 Graz, T: ++43-316-472231, F: ++43-316-462678
2. Rasumofskygasse 23, A-1030 Wien, T: ++43-1-712567482, F: ++43-1-712567456

b) Monitoring, prediction and warning

Title of project:

3. Mesoscale short-term prediction model in conjunction with hydrometeorological problems.

Status:

3. Development of further parameters for indicating "catastrophic" weather conditions to be used as an aid for high-resolution forecasting/analysis models (development of divergent and rotating fields, energy of eddies, ...); development of a precipitation model for Austria.

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

3. Working Group on Limited Area Modelling for Central Europe (LACE)

Costs of project:

3. Estimated costs: 850.000 US \$ (for 10 years)

Sources of funding:

- The Ministry of Science and Research has provided some funding.

Implementing agencies:

3. Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics, Vienna

Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:

3. Hohe Warte 38, A-1190 Wien; T: ++43-1-364453/3030, F: ++43-1-365612

c) *Short-term protective measures and preparedness*

Title of project:

Status:

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

Costs of project:

Sources of funding:

Implementing agencies:

Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:

d) *Long-term preventive measures*

Title of project:

Status:

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

Costs of project:

Sources of funding:

Implementing agencies:

Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:

e) *Land-use and risk management*

Title of project:

4. Experiments and computer simulation regarding the safety of dams as consequences of earthquakes.

Status:

4. **Vibration tests at the "Schlegeissperre", Tyrol, with nearly full reservoir and radial forcing and with half full reservoir and radial/tangential forcing; data analysis; comparison of calculated and evaluated resonance frequencies and the effective damping coefficients.**

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

Costs of project:

4. **Estimated costs: 600.000 US \$ (for 8 years)**

Sources of funding:

- The Ministry of Science and Research has provided some funding.

Implementing agencies:

4. **Institute for General Mechanics of the TU-Vienna
Dept. of Dynamics and Acoustics of the Bundesversuch- und Forschungsanstalt
(BVFA)-Arsenal Vienna**

Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:

4. **Wiedner Hauptstrasse 8-10/201, A-1040 Wien; T: ++43-1-58801/5530, F: ++43-1-5876093**

f) Public education and information

Title of project:

Status:

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

Costs of project:

Sources of funding:

Implementing agencies:

Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:

5. Plans to fully achieve Decade targets by the end of 1999

(As in 4 above, for each area of activity [i.e., hazard zoning/assessment, monitoring, preparedness, etc] please indicate as applicable, the project title, the participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level, the costs of projects, the sources of funding and the implementing agencies.)

SECTION D: EVALUATION

(This section analyses national progress and outlines possible improvement.)

1. Overall evaluation of national disaster mitigation programmes including, but not limited to, those initiated after IDNDR and achievements up to now

(Please elaborate on whether the targets set by the National Committee, if any, the national disaster mitigation plans or other IDNDR activities have been met. If not, please indicate reasons.)

2. Review of the IDNDR

(Critique of the Decade to date and suggestions for improvement/modifications in the second half.)

SECTION C: INTERACTIONS

(This section focuses on international involvement in the IDNDR.)

1. Publications on IDNDR-related subjects:

(E.g. manuals, brochures, bulletins and other publications of relevance to IDNDR. Please mention title, author/institution, place and year of publication)

- Early results of the pilot projects will be presented in a forthcoming brochure named "Austrian Contributions to the IDNDR"

2. IDNDR meetings and conferences held or planned:

(Please indicate, date, location, organizing agency, national and international participation.)

3. Current or planned partnerships and cooperation related to IDNDR with other countries

(Please indicate Governments, National Committees, Institutions or Organizations involved.)