



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Implementing the HFA in Europe

Advances and Challenges, 2009 - 2011

www.unisdr.org

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

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UNISDR Europe

2011 Reporting to Monitor Progress and Challenges

Of the 36 national authorities/HFA Focal Points included in the HFA Monitor tool for Europe, a total of 22 have reported:

Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, FYR of Macedonia, Moldova, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey.

The following regional organizations and regional entities contributed reports:

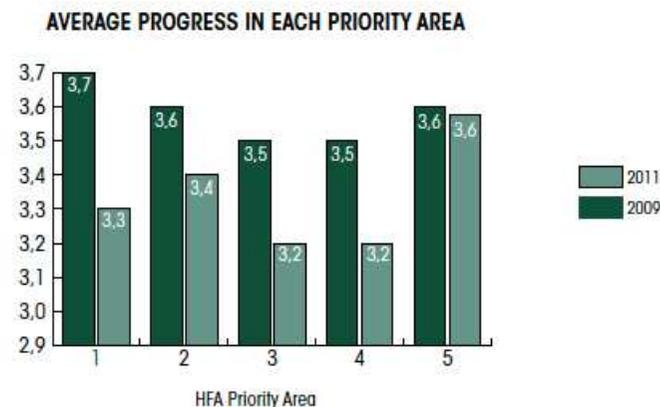
The Council of Europe (EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement), European Commission, the Central European Disaster Prevention Forum, the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe, the Regional Cooperation Council for South Eastern Europe, the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) and A European Network of National Platforms.

Average Progress in Each Priority Area

Two significant findings emerge from analysis of the country and regional reports

At first glance, little change is seen in the quantitative levels of progress relative to what had been reported in 2009. In four of the five HFA Priorities for Action, the average progress reported by countries declined slightly in 2011 relative to what had been reported in 2009 of the HFA Priorities for Action, 2009 – 2011)

A deeper analysis of the qualitative information provided in the texts of the country and regional reports reveals an evolution from a mindset of crisis and response to one of proactive risk reduction and safety.



The second significant finding concerns the effectiveness of regional organizations. The 2011 HFA Europe report finds that the European Commission and EU Member States have been responsive to the needs identified in the 2009 report.

Priority for Action 1: Ensuring that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation

Progress:

- Expansion of National Platforms in new countries and deepening of capacity in existing ones
- Establishment of legal and policy frameworks

Challenges:

- Ensuring adequate resources for DRR

Priority for Action 2: Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.

Progress:

- Enhanced multi-risk assessments
- Improved assessment and cooperation on regional/transboundary risks

Challenges:

- Inadequate financial resources for DRR
- Need to engage more diverse stakeholders, particularly in the private sector
- Difficulty assessing non-traditional risks

Priority for Action 3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

Progress:

- Enhancing early warning systems
- Disseminating relevant information at all levels
- Innovations in educational curricula to address DRR
- Engaging diverse stakeholders in the “Resilient Cities” campaign
- Improved multi-risk assessments, data gathering

Challenges:

- Developing effective public awareness strategies
- Implementing MIS and knowledge management to make most effective use of data

Priority for Action 4: Reduce the underlying risk factors.

Progress:

- Integration of DRR in environmental policies
- Strengthening building codes for safety
- Performing impact studies to assess critical infrastructure

Challenges:

- Addressing the vulnerability of at-risk populations
- Establishing the return on DRR investment

Priority for Action 5: Strengthening the disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

Progress:

- Strong policy frameworks, training drills
- Innovation in insurance capacity within certain transitional economies

Challenges:

- Inadequate financial resources at local levels
- Lack of contingent capital among transitional countries

National Platforms in Europe (Since 2009)

Armenia

Bulgaria

Croatia

Czech Republic

Finland

France

Germany

Hungary

Italy

FYR of Macedonia

Monaco

Poland

Portugal

Russian Federation

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

United Kingdom

Turkey (6 May 2011)

National Platforms Make a Difference: Approaches to cross-cutting challenges

| Approaches to Cross-Cutting Challenges | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Significant and ongoing reliance | All Reporting Countries 2011/ (2009) | Countries with NPs 2011 |
| Multi-Hazard Approach | 40% (36%) | 75% |
| Gender | 30% (36%) | 100% |
| Capacities | 35% (43%) | 86% |
| Security/Social Equity | 40% (50%) | 88% |
| Engagement/Partnership | 40% (43%) | 100% |

Each of these approaches to cross-cutting challenges is critical to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction to build a culture of resilience.

In comparing the countries that reported significant and ongoing reliance on each of the approaches to cross-cutting challenges, little change is seen between 2011 and 2009.

However, in examining the levels of countries with National Platforms and those that are close to finalizing NPs, a very different result is observed!

Regional Organizations – Progress Reported

- Advances in political and technical levels (EC)
- Data collection and standardization (EC, EEA, EUR-OPA)
- Training and raising awareness (EC, EUR-OPA, DPPI, EFDRR, ENNP)
- Research activities (EC, DPPI)
- Mainstreaming climate change adaptation (EC, EUR-OPA, EFDRR)
- Financing risk and risk reduction (EC, SEEDRMAP)
- Advocacy (EFDRR, ENNP)

Recommendations – National Level

- Increase engagement with private sector (45% of NPs lack private sector participation).
- Engage communications and media professionals to develop public awareness campaigns.
- Consider less capital-intensive insurance instruments to finance risk, thereby protecting public resources.
- Engage social welfare experts in NPs to work on mainstreaming gender issues in the disaster risk reduction agenda.
- Renew efforts to protect socially critical infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals.
- Develop knowledge management and management information systems appropriate to facilitate rapid retrieval of risk and hazard data.

Recommendations – Regional Level

- Support the establishment of new NPs and deepening of capacity in existing ones.
- Expand contingent risk facilities, possibly to diversify regional risks, thereby lowering capital costs of covering such risks.
- Develop an explicit analysis on the costs and benefits of investment in disaster risk reduction.
- Expand the “Resilient Cities” campaign throughout all of Europe to engage local stakeholders.
- Improve public communications to support the disaster risk reduction agenda.

Thank you

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