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to disasters

## Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!

World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2011

## Amadora is getting ready!

### Amadora, Portugal



Population: 175,872

*Type of Hazard: Earthquakes, Flash Floods, Urban and Industrial Fires, Landslides, Heavy Storms and Windstorms*

Amadora is a satellite city of Lisbon located in the Northwest of the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. Composing an area of only 23.77 square km, Amadora municipality is one of Portugal's smallest municipalities. However, with 7 343 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> Amadora has the highest population density of any municipality in Portugal.

Over the last 20 years the major disaster risks were flash floods (urban area), urban fires, industrial fires, landslides, storms (fallen trees, damaged buildings, infrastructure, etc.) and road accidents. Amadora municipality has some vulnerability: a highly urbanized territory and population insufficiently aware and/or sensitized about the risks and hazards.

The entire structure of civil protection is making some progresses to reduce this vulnerability. The establishment of partnerships (civic and scientific-academic spheres of life) not only has allowed to optimize resources but has also led the development and application of innovative methods of prevention and intervention in emergency situations, as well as to contribute with data and other relevant information for scientific and technological projects. This collaboration has culminated in the annual organization of International Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, with five editions in until now.

## Disaster Risk Reduction activities

In the context of the preparation, it is worth mentioning the training and awareness-creation project for the school community, entitled "Civil Protection Club", which addresses the issues of risks that exist in Amadora (e.g., seismic risk, flood areas, etc.) and identifies the self-protection measures.

It is worth noting that there has been a continued effort towards a culture of safety and prevention creating in Amadora. The local institutions have made remarkable efforts to reduce the vulnerability of the population by issuing warnings not to occupy areas of risk.

The planning for the seismic risk and the mapping of the flood areas, are also good examples of such efforts, including the risk analyses (zoning of critical areas) and planning for emergency situations. The whole structure of civil protection has made remarkable efforts to involve a great number of institutional partners from both civic and scientific-academic spheres of life.

*"The risks are a biophysical fragility of the territory. Their impact on the infrastructures and population involve a strong strategy. Preparedness, mitigation, prevention are the key of success. Our task is promote a campaign with maximum possible number of agents from the local, scientific and academic communities, demonstrating the relevance of risk reduction and of the amount of natural disasters that afflict the territory."*

*Joaquim Moreira Raposo,  
Mayor of Amadora*

