



Networking of National Platforms on Regional level



Forest Fire

IDRC Davos
Networking National Platforms on Regional level
28 August 2008



- Green Paper
- Communication „Reinforcing the Union’s Disaster Response Capacities“
- Member States’ Approaches Towards Prevention Policy
- EU Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in Developing Countries
- Marrakesh Work programme EUR-OPA



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German Committee for Disaster Reduction
within the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)



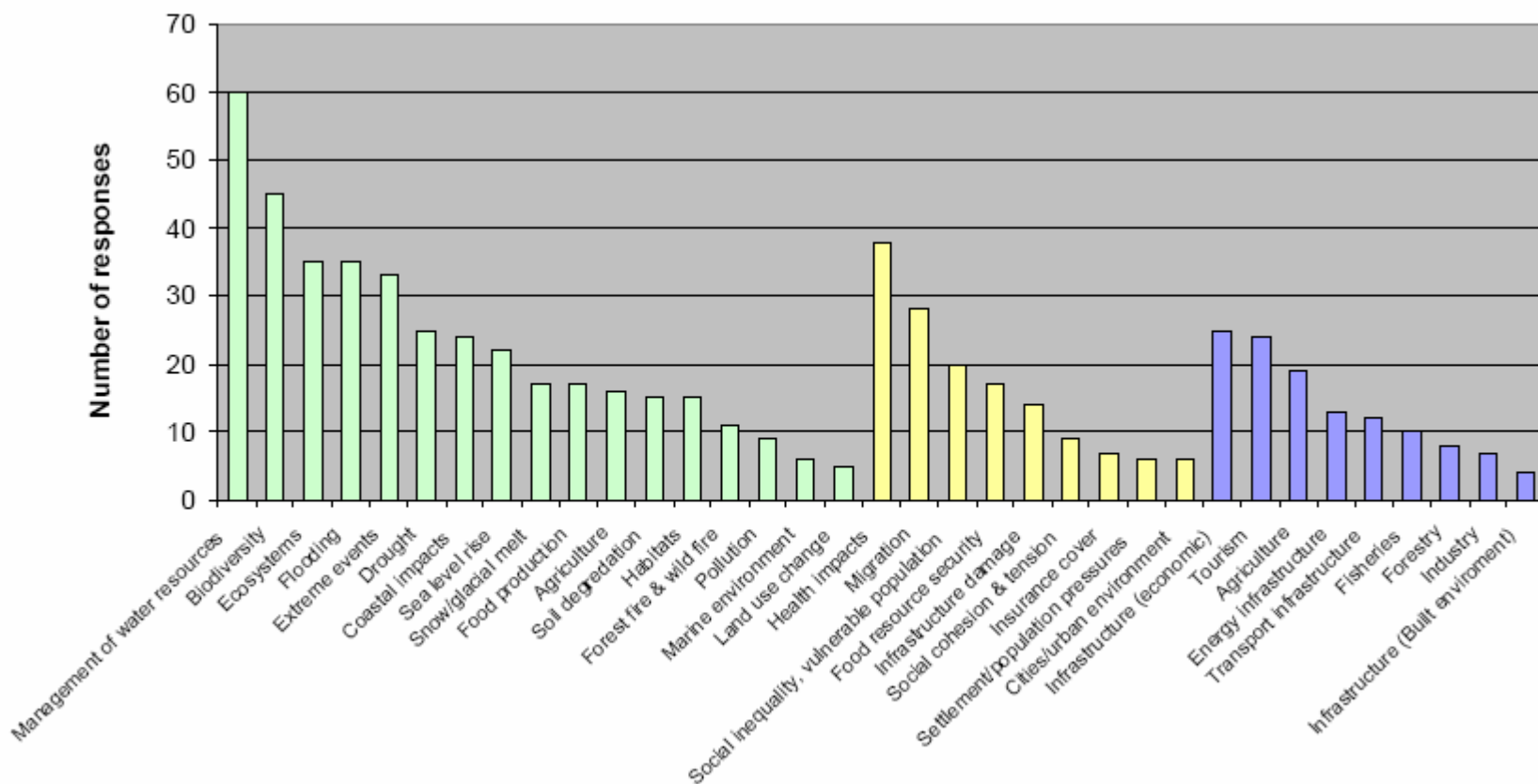
Consultation: some results: Identified key issues

- Areas missing from the Green Paper
 - Communication and awareness raising
 - Additional research and monitoring systems
 - Overarching strategic vision
 - Migration
 - Financing of adaptation
- Priorities for early action
 - EU policy: synergies need to be explored addressed, harmonised
 - Cities and urban environment
 - Role of spatial planning
 - Appropriate guidelines, standards for building and design
 - Communication, information sharing and raising awareness
 - Use of incentives to promote positive action



Consultation: some results: Most severe impacts

Green Paper





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Consultation: some results: Appropriate level for response

- EU role:
 - Development of a clear and strong strategic framework for adaptation across all sectors
 - Resolving trans-border issues and in coordinating action across Europe
- Member states:
 - Incorporate EU policy at a national level
 - Provide a strong national framework for adaptation
- Private sector:
 - Private sector could learn from the experience of the insurance sector
 - Pro-active response to the need for adaptation with programmes of research and development focused on new tools and techniques.



Reinforcing the Union's Disaster Response Capacity

Activators/Catalysts

- Tsunami
- Lebanon War
- Wildland/Forest fires

Aims

- Greater Coherence
- Effectiveness
- Visibility

Ascertained proposals

- Development of MIC to an operative centre
- Construction and increasing in capacity of a European disaster response
- Survey of available capacities
- Stand-by capacities
- Further reserve capacities (particularly with regard to wildland/forest fires and floods)
- Strengthening of assessment and reaction mechanisms



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Reinforcing the Union's Disaster Response Capacity

Ascertained proposals

- Development of an advanced European training network for disaster response
- Improvement of the preparedness within and outside of the EU



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Member state approaches
towards prevention policy

A survey on behalf of de DG Environment

- case studies
 - France
 - Portugal
 - Romania
 - Sweden



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Member state approaches
towards prevention policy

Conclusion on elements for possible EU intervention

- Cross border compatible decision information
- Cross cutting national vulnerability assessments and development of scenarios covering the EU and scaled down versions for each Member State.
- Mechanism to improve exchange of best practice for disaster prevention is seen as a true EU role. The European network of National Platforms for disaster reduction (under the UN/ISDR framework) was mentioned as a good example and could serve as a precursor mechanism to be implemented at EU level including all MS.
- Initiatives addressing public awareness of prevention including climate adaptation.

Conclusion on elements for possible EU intervention

- EU should take on itself to be catalyst on focus (watch dog) to support a stable political focus on disaster prevention. This could be done through constantly keeping the focus through applying various means and mechanisms, this would include striking a balance between the types of potential disasters, thus avoiding that some types are more on the agenda than others with equal or even more detrimental consequences.
- EU EU should play a role in capacity building e.g. regarding earthquakes or disaster prevention in general.



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EU Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in Developing Countries

Why an EU strategy?

- Increase in disasters
- Climate Change
- Vulnerability
- EU as world largest donor

Definitions, scope and objectives of the strategy

- Natural disasters but also multi hazard approaches
- Prevent, where possible, natural hazards from turning into disasters
- Improve preparedness of developing countries and societies in the event of disaster
- Mitigate the risks and limit the impact of disasters on developing countries and societies

Approach and principles

- DRR as cross-cutting issue
- Integration into PRSP's
- Integration/mainstreaming
- Primacy of national ownership
- Based on subsidiarity
- Focus on most disaster prone and poorest countries

Strategic areas of intervention

- Integrate DRR better into development and humanitarian policies and planning as well as crisis response
- Improve identification, and assessment and sharing of disaster risk and support specific strategic measures
- Develop and strengthen DRR institutions, mechanisms and capacities
- Enhance knowledge and public awareness on DRR
- Address and reduce the underlying risk factors



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EUR-OPA

The Agreement will enhance its political dimension, insuring that disaster risk reduction becomes a national and political priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.



EUR-OPA

- Policy, legislative and institutional aspects of risk reduction
- Training, education and information: building a culture of risk reduction
- Research aimed at identifying, assessing and monitoring risks and their impact and enhancing early warning



EUR-OPA

- Specific programmes aimed at reducing the underlying risk factors
- Effective response through service activity: European Warning system, psychological assistance to victims



Summary

- Till the end of the year
 - Presentation of the White Paper of adaptation to climate change
 - Adoption of an inner-EC-strategy to disaster risk reduction
 - Adoption of an extern-EC-strategy to disaster risk reduction



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Activities

- Session on National Platforms at the UNISDR Global Platform
- Participation in the consultation process on the Greenpaper of the European Commission on Adaptation to Climate Change
- Submission of coordinated comments to the European Commission on the Greenpaper
- Seminar in Divonne on: Disaster risk reduction and emergency response : two separate worlds in Europe ?
- Submission of two proposals for a call of FP7 of DG Research
- Submission of coordinated comments on the Working Paper on DRR in Developing Countries
- Workshop on National Platforms Davos



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Thank you very much for your attention