



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**



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 adaption**

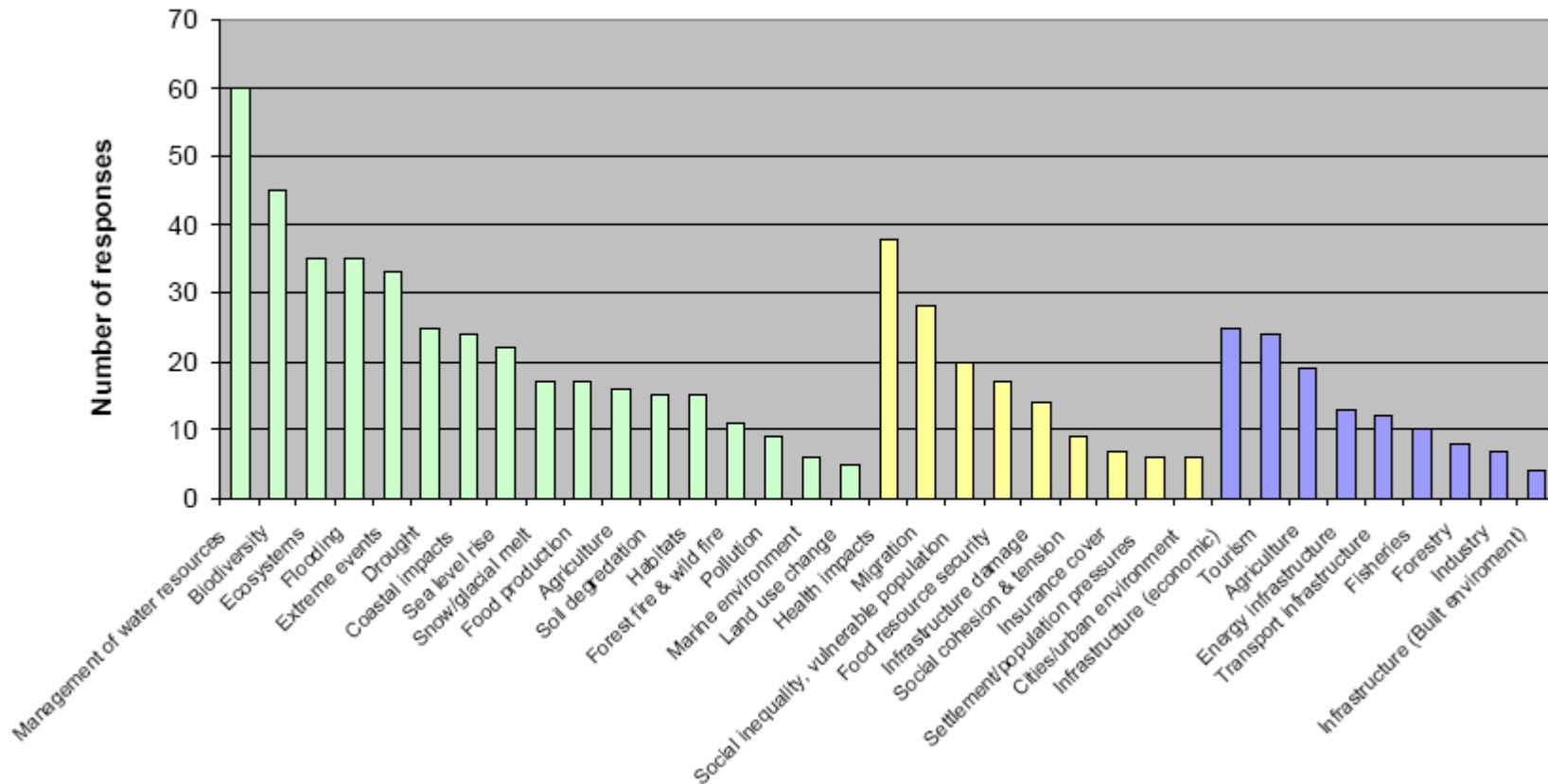
▪ Priorities for early action

- **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





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**



Reinforcing the Union's Disaster Response Capacity

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**



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**



**Member state approaches
towards prevention policy**

A survey on behalf of the DG Environment

- **case studies**
 - **France**
 - **Portugal**
 - **Romania**
 - **Sweden**



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.**



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**



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**



Deutsches Komitee Katastrophenvorsorge e.V.
German Committee for Disaster Reduction
within the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)





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