CATALYST

Research Gaps, Networks, Fostering Capacity Development

European Mediterranean Region

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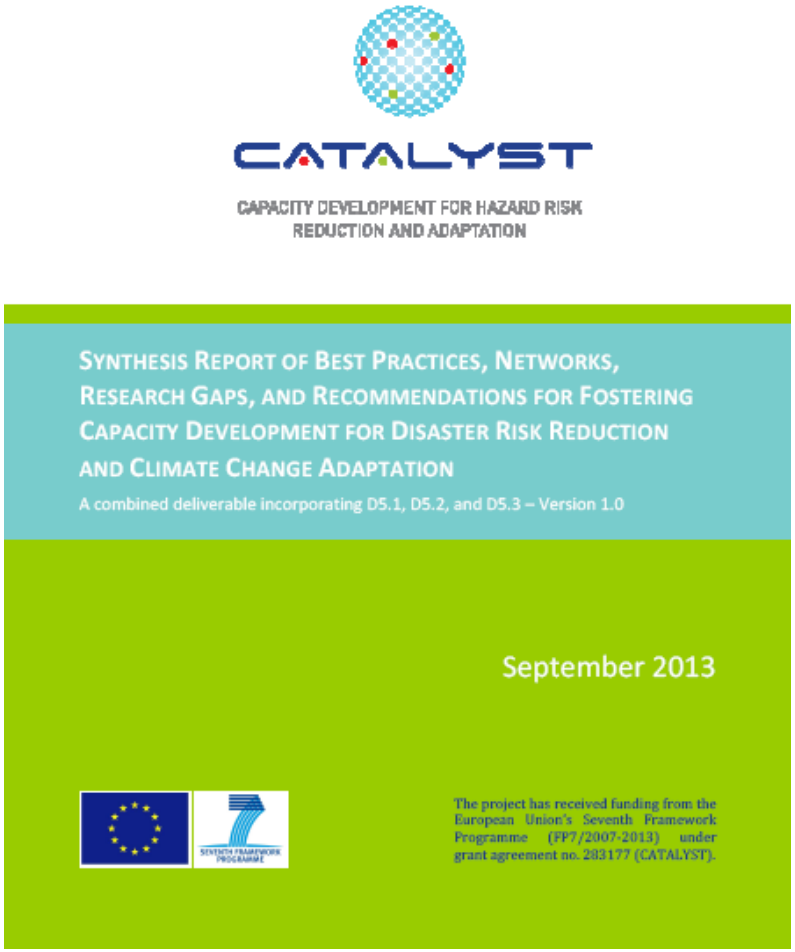
Research and other knowledge gaps



- Research gap in developing integrated frameworks and models in drought management
- Need to move away from a fragmented approach, monitoring and modelling should be combined
- Forecast studies are based on climate change scenarios (IPCC)
- Inherent uncertainty in models must be communicated to policy makers, otherwise the result can be no preventive measures taken
- For flood prediction the use of a variety of forecasting techniques and synthesising the results is recommended

Networks

Vast majority DRR and CCA efforts in the EUM region are conducted through governmental channels

European level:

- European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR)
- Federation of European Risk Management Associations (FERMA)

Local networks

- Often difficult to make a clear distinction between a local, regional, or even global institution within the EUM.
- Examples: (1) Committee on Climate Change (CCC), focusing on the UK; (2) Institution Interdepartementale des Barrages-Reservoirs du Bassin de la Seine Etablissement Public Loire; (3) Association Francaise des Etablissements Publics Territoriaux de; (4) European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is an EU network of over 140 European environmental agencies.

Fostering Capacity Development recommendations (1/4)

Drought:

- effective management of water resources;
- measures to reduce water losses and reuse of waste water;
- financial instruments. Drought dependent fees to create awareness and reduced losses;
- Water pricing and encouraging the use of less water intensive crops

Earthquakes:

- improvement of earthquake early warning systems (EEWS)
- integration of early warning into an integrated regional system;
- unified IT & communication channels; improved information sharing

Flooding:

- Accounting for the multi-hazards floods (with landslides and debris flows);
- Mitigating the effects of small and medium floods by reforestation, building of small reservoirs;
- Structural and non-structural measures including the legal and institutional aspects; involvement of multiple stakeholders most effective flood planning

Fostering Capacity Development recommendations (2/4)

Individual capacities:

- strong leadership is an important element in the development process, especially in creating awareness on disaster risks and longer term climate risks;
- incorporating scientific education;
- conventional training and institutionalising broader capacity building;
- job training, local training, especially in early warning related training and capacity building for effective communication;
- M&E for communities, local authorities and civil society organisations, incl. integrated disaster, multiple hazard, multi-sector and multilevel coordination

Fostering Capacity Development recommendations (3/4)

Organisational capacities:

- building DRR platforms accommodating single information and open access repositories;
- establishment of networks for skill, knowledge and experience sharing and establishing strategic partnership among universities
- creating synergies between wider stakeholders including local population, academic, private sector and practitioners;
- easy and open access to data among DRR practitioners keeping the needs of the people in mind;
- knowledge and awareness raising should have a broader spectrum, including formal education at elementary, secondary and university level and a non-formal mode of education at community organisations;
- improvement in the organisational component to effectively coordinate information collection and facilitate sharing of drought management info.

Fostering Capacity Development recommendations (4/4)

Technical capacities:

- Training in water management, flood prevention, wastewater management for multiple stakeholders, technical and non-technical people;
- Training on accurate data collection and compilation at policy level;
- Involve beneficiaries and end-users of the model results in the training program (policy implications are understood; trust on science is achieved);
- More comprehensive risk reduction culture needs to be promoted;
- Developing a common understanding of risk, hazard and vulnerability assessment concepts at the local level;
- Participatory approach for urban safety planning based on disaster risk and climate change impacts; considering disaster risks in planning phase;
- Use of science base techniques for risk assessment;
- Different training of skills and providing for a new framing of issues to better address the problem and to arrive at effective solutions