



Hazard Mapping for Risk assessment and risk communication

Base information

The international project MONITOR has been launched. It was selected in an international call as a trans-national Interreg III b project. Interreg IIIb supports innovative solutions for trans-national planning problems with EU co-financing for regional co-operation.

The project aims at disaster management with focus on monitoring methods and risk communication with a duration of two years, from June 2006 to May 2008.

Experts involved are from the disciplines of forest management, hydraulic engineering, geology, civil protection, fire control, environmental protection, landscape planning, geography, spatial planning and transportation.

Project partners are

- Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management: Forestry Section (Lead Partner),
- Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein,
- Regional Government of Lower Austria: Fire Service and Civil Protection,
- Austrian Federal Railways: Department of Research and Development,
- Slovenia: Torrent and Erosion Control Service,
- Italy: Autonomous Province of Bolzano: Geological Survey,
- Italy: Veneto Region: Geological Survey,
- Czech Republic: CD – Telematika a.s.,
- Western Greece: Prefecture of Aetoloakarnania,
- Bulgaria: National Forestry Board at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

Problem focus

Project areas have experienced severe floods (e.g. in 2002, 2005), landslides and forest fires and see themselves in constant threat from natural disasters. Protection against natural disasters is thus an increasing challenge for society. The magnitude of damaging events in the last decade clearly shows the need for comprehensive and innovative risk management. The increase in quantity and extent of extreme weather events may at least partially be attributed to climate change, emphasising that solutions must be based on broad inter-disciplinary approaches across national borders.

For risk-management and early-warning purposes monitoring tools and (adequate) appropriate simulation procedures are indispensable. They have to provide necessary information for risk evaluation and successful risk management. In this context the prevention of damage is correlated with land-use planning. In endangered areas – with high pressure on available land resources – controlling mechanisms, catastrophe precautions and early-warning prevail. The methodological basis of the prevention measures is again provided by risk analysis.

MONITOR uses an integrative approach, considering the viewpoints of all relevant groups, which can be seen as an important baseline for risk communication. The most important social groups identified are politicians, administration, experts, directly affected population and media.



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Project results

MONITOR will provide a dedicated ontology of risk terms, a state-of-the art overview of risk management and best-practice monitoring methods and risk communication methods against hazards of

- natural mountain disasters
- forest fires
- floods
- and combined hazards

The focal points of the projects as well as the results are presented on the MONITOR web page, which is continuously up-dated (www.monitor-cadses.org).

The results will be presented in a series of seminars to experts for discussion and in conferences to the broad public. First results will be available by mid-of 2007.

Contact

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