



Monitor II

new methods for linking hazard
mapping and contingency
planning

SHORT SUMMARY by Günter Siegel



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The future impact of climate change in Europe may include an increase of temperatures as well as a rise in the frequency of extreme weather events accompanied, among others, by increased flooding or large forest fires leading to negative effects for the population, economy and environment. Although Europe appears to be less affected by catastrophic natural hazards than other parts of the world, the experienced damages have increased steadily. Therefore strategies to avoid or mitigate natural hazards induced by climate change have recently gained increasing attention by the European Union.

The management of natural hazards constitutes a common challenge in South East Europe. Therefore the main objective of the project MONITOR II is to improve the provision of information necessary for disaster management by strengthening the communication between hazard experts, decision makers and civil protection services through enhancing the flow of information along the entire risk management cycle.

The achievements of Working Group 3 on 'State-of-the-art analysis and methodology' are summarised in the brochure 'MONITOR II - new methods for linking hazard mapping and contingency planning'.

The considerations of Working Group 3 are building on the Continuous Risk Management Cycle consisting of Preparedness, Response and Recovery. Underlining that the identification and assessment of situations are a primary prerequisite in risk management, the concept of scenarios, a description of a course of future events, based on a consistent and plausible set of assumptions about future conditions has been introduced to enable an effective assessment and evaluation of the related risks.

Within the broad range of hazards, MONITOR II is specifically focusing on floods and landslides, as prominent examples of natural hazards. Nonetheless, the concepts and solutions of MONITOR II are being developed in a general way allowing their application and adaptation to other types of hazards as well.

A major goal of the MONITOR II project is to contribute to the definition of a harmonised methodology for hazard mapping and contingency planning within the EU-member states, based on the experiences of the organisations participating in this project. Building on the state-of-the-art analysis and evaluation of hazard mapping and contingency planning practices prevailing in the participating countries and organisations, recommendations for improvement, harmonisation and adaptation of existing hazard maps and contingency plans have been elaborated.

MONITOR II is also contributing to the identification and reduction of gaps still existing in hazard and contingency planning as well as to the improvement of the usability of the relevant plans. Scenario models have proven to serve effectively as a tool aiming at preventing the loss of information at the interface between hazard mapping and contingency planning. The multiple aspects of scenarios have been carefully described and the potential of the use of scenario models has been broadly discussed.

The analyses of Working Group 3 have revealed a high, demanding need for information along the whole risk management cycle. Flow charts developed for the various phases of the risk management cycle are illustrating the complexity of the data required for the preparation and implementation of the measures necessary to prevent or mitigate natural hazards.



MONITOR II is aiming at the development of a "Continuous Situation Awareness" (CSA) system, facilitating the planning of tasks, the assessment of the situation at all phases of the risk management cycle, decision making as well as communication and documentation of natural hazards. In particular, MONITOR II is striving for the development of regular update procedures for emergency preparation as well as the provision of real-time information in the case of emergency.

Furthermore, MONITOR II is promoting the international harmonisation of the underlying standards and procedures necessary to facilitate an effective cooperation in the case of transnational emergencies.

The brochure can be found under the following address: www.monitor2.org