

Action Pledges to the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

Name of your organization: DKKV

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Background	
Title of Action Pledge	Return on Experience for Enhanced Integrated Prevention REX-INTEGRATED-PREVENTION
Overall objective¹	Climate related risks and extreme events; Adaptation planning and practice
Activities to be undertaken and key outputs	
Action Pledge purpose	<p>On February 23, 2009 the Commission issued a Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters". Reason for this communication was the marked increase of disasters between 1990 and 2007 affecting the European Union. This negative trend created the understanding that a strategic approach for disaster prevention would be needed at the level of the Commission. With consideration for the almost comprehensive knowledge on the disaster triggers and the carefully designed plans to prevent disasters, the rather frequent occurrence might be regarded as surprising. Even more surprising are these occurrences when publicly announced postdisaster improvements are considered.</p> <p>From the technical point of view there are a number of paths for a natural hazard to trigger a disaster: one is the insufficient consideration of the loads exerted on the existing infrastructure and its effects including weakening of existing structures through ageing and/or neglect, another is a planned design threshold allowed to be surpassed by the size of a, however rare, disaster triggering event. To improve on the future design of disaster prevention plans, it is essential to learn more on the combination of the causes for failure by studying relevant past disasters.</p>
Actions	REX-INTEGRATED PREVENTION will tackle the critical issue whether the agreed and implemented thresholds are sufficient to deal with rare hazard events using data from an extended area in the central parts of Europe, the four contributing countries considered. Do we have to redesign our thresholds?

¹ The two aspects of the objective of the NWP are: to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States to:

- * improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change;
- * make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.

	<p>This question will become especially relevant in view of changing society (e.g. urbanization) and the expected changes of weather induced extreme events due to Climate Change. Each of the partners will contribute a number of relevant disasters and lessons learned. The lessons learned need to be presented on the different time scales and for all parts of the disaster cycle separately, from the immediate reactions in the wake of the event, the first plans, and the realization of the plans. The latter one might take times up to decades, if i.e. building codes are concerned. It seems necessary to tackle the problem of disaster prevention optimally and systematically using the experience with past disaster events. The basis for really learning from experience is to analyze and understand how learning was structured in real cases.</p> <p>The lessons learned drawn out from the first analytical phase of the project will be synthesized, reviewed and feed into a workshop. The workshop will evaluate, whether the intended lessons to be learned were put into force. In working groups it will be discussed which parts of the synthesis are transferable and can be used to shape the agenda for the future especially with regard to threshold and design criteria. The national administrative bodies responsible for civil protection are important contributors and partners in the workshop.</p>
<p>Expected results</p>	<p>The outcomes will be integrated together with the data synthesis in a final report. The final report will contain recommendations of how to learn from other's lessons. The more technical recommendations will be differentiated for two categories : the disasters triggered by events within the design threshold, and those exceeding the threshold. The first one will provide indications on how to address management and maintenance of preventive measures. The latter ones give an outlook on how to prepare for future changes of triggering events. The overall recommendation will address the successes, failures and hindrances when trying to implement lessons learned from the disasters as collected in the project with the support of the administrative Bodies responsible for the civil protection.</p>
<p>Indicators of achievement</p>	<p>The achievements beyond the project phase are not under control of the project</p>