

Balance of Competences Review – Foreign Policy Report: UNISDR submission

The nature of the reply concerns the Civil Protection sphere in the context of EU and accession process countries on the topic of building resilience to disasters.

EC Risk Assessment Guidelines:

Risk Assessment has been identified as one key activity by the Hyogo Framework for Action: Building Resilience of Communities to Disasters. The Hyogo Framework (HFA) adopted at the World Disaster Reduction Conference held in Kobe Japan 2005, is the first plan to explain, describe and detail the work that is required from all different sectors and actors to reduce disaster losses.

Risk Assessments are a fundamental step towards enhancing disaster prevention and preparedness activities and contribute significantly to planning and capacity building. The EC developed risk assessment guidelines to improve coherence among the risk assessments undertaken in the EU Member States at national level in the prevention, preparedness and planning stages and to make these risk assessments more comparable between Member States. This will lead to a greater transparency and facilitate co-operation in efforts to prevent and mitigate shared risks, such as cross-border risks.

The need to enhance common methodology towards the support of comparability and standardization of data emerged in the Regional Report for Europe on the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Europe.

For Hyogo Framework for Action see: <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/hfa>

For the Report of the Implementation of the HFA in Europe see:

<http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/19690>

For EC Risk Assessment Guidelines see:

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/civil_protection/civil/prevention_risk_assessment.htm

Hyogo Framework for Action PEER Review:

Since 2008 the HFA designated national authority (HFA focal points) have reported on progress on HFA implementation, generated through a multi-stakeholder review process. Since the adoption of the framework in 2005, there has been no external review of the information submitted by the countries.

Exchanges of good practises and lessons learnt among countries is one of the most relevant ways to ensure advances in reducing risk of disasters. The EC (DG ECHO) in collaboration with UNISDR and with OECD has supported the development of the PEER Review on the Hyogo Framework for Action to motivate European countries to review their efforts in disaster risk reduction activities. The UK, through the Cabinet Office CCS, volunteered to participate in the HFA Peer Review. The peer review team, consisting of representatives from Finland, Italy and Sweden and a joint Secretariat (UNISDR Europe, EC and OECD), carried out the peer review mission from 16-26 September 2012, interviewing some 90 people including representatives from 45 entities including government departments, NGOs and businesses across the UK.

The PEER Review final report will be available in the near future.

For further information on the UK Peer Review contact: Steven Barnes, representing the UK Civil Contingencies Secretariat.

For HFA Monitoring and Review see:

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/hfa-monitoring/?pid:223&pil:1>

For HFA National Reports Monitoring see:

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/hfa-monitoring/national/?pid:73&pil:1>

For National HFA Reports see:

http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/progress/reports/index.php?o=pol_year&o2=DESC&ps=50&hid=0&cid=rid3&x=5&y=8

Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into EU Policy, funds and ongoing Civil Protection Legislation development

The Commission has developed a comprehensive and integrated approach on disaster risk reduction, both within the EU and in third countries. On 23 February 2009 the Commission adopted the Communication "EU Strategy for Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction in Developing Countries", in a package with the Communication on a "Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters" addressing disaster risk reduction within the EU. Subsequently, on 18 May 2009, the General Affairs and External Relations Council endorsed the EU DRR Strategy.

The Council Conclusions (Ditto) invited the Commission – in close cooperation with Member States – to set up an appropriate framework for the preparation of an Implementation Plan clarifying key actions, responsibilities, main instruments and sequencing of implementation. Following up the Council Conclusions, the Commission established a Steering Group comprising Member States and relevant Commission services. The Steering Group was assisted by an outside contractor in gathering and analyzing the relevant data on EU external actions on DRR, material that was included in the "Support Study for the Implementation

Plan of the EU Strategy for Supporting DRR in Developing Countries". It represents an important step towards the ultimate aim of a comprehensive and innovative EU strategy on DRR – covering both inside and outside EU – which could be the topic of further policy work in 2011/2012. DGECHO has supported the developments of the strategy within the EU countries.

The EU DRR Strategy is fully in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action. DG ECHO has supported the reflection of DRR issues in a number of documents such as the EC Environmental Impact Guidelines.

Further the ongoing Civil Protection Legislation (to be finalized around June 2013) currently reflects considerations related to disaster risk reduction and prevention.

For Implementation Plan of the EU Strategy for supporting disaster risk reduction see:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/environment/documents/implementation-plan-disaster-risk-reduction-2011-2014_en.pdf

For further information on the Civil Protection Legislation see:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=->

[//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A7-2013-0003+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN](#)

and

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201211/20121115ATT55606/20121115ATT55606EN.pdf>.

Sharing good practises on risk reduction among countries through the CP Exchange of Expert Programme.

To find out more on the added value of the programme see the below weblink leading to a Presentation made by Sweden at the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EC - DG ECHO is part of it) held in Croatia in October 2012

To see Presentation from EFDRR on added value of CP Exchange of Expert Programme see:

http://www.unisdr.org/files/27513_15efdr3oct2012croatiawg2edwardsexc.pdf

To Find out more about the Croatia meeting hosted by the Croatia National Protection and Rescue Directorate see:

<http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/27513>

To find out more on the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction see:

<http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/19800>