

MONITOR – HAZARD MONITORING FOR RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK COMMUNICATION

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MONITOR (Hazard Monitoring for Risk Assessment and Risk Communication), a trans-national INTERREG IIIB Cadeses project, aims at disaster management with focus on monitoring methods and risk communication.

INTRODUCTION IN THE PROJECT

Many areas have experienced severe floods, 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.



Fig. 1: Floods in August 2002 (Austria)
Arnsdorf/Wachau

For risk-management and early-warning purposes monitoring tools and 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 ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

MONITOR uses an integrative approach, considering the viewpoints of all relevant groups, which can be seen as an important baseline for risk communication.

The activities of MONITOR outline the project's field of work. Analysis of risk perception and state of risk management in a comparison study provide the base work within MONITOR. Comparison of risk monitoring methods, differentiated by risk quality and risk quantity as well as by differing legislative and organisational environments are covered by

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another working step. This contains best-practice methods for the implementation of monitoring methods on the basis of criteria of costs, reliability, quality, physical stability and re-usability as well as adaptability to other applications. To optimise the information flow in co-operation with the responsible institutions, evaluations of instruments of risk communication will be adjusted to different target groups. The most important social groups identified are politicians, administration, experts, directly affected population and media.

Regarding the European Spatial Development Perspective, MONITOR will specifically support the diffusion of innovation and knowledge in accordance to risk exposed regions. MONITOR aims at Integration of risk management activities at different national and organisational levels based on inter-disciplinary and participatory approaches for supporting spatial planning and disaster management work-flows, improving the methodology of risk-analysis and risk communication and supporting the whole process of risk evaluation and especially risk communication by increasing transparency and participatory approaches, leading the way to trans-nationally comparable standards.

The implementation of the project is realized through an interdisciplinary partnership of Austria, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Italy, Greek and Bulgaria.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- 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, Region Veneto: Geological Survey,
- Czech Republic: CD – Telematika a.s.,
- Western Greece: Prefecture of Aetoloakarnania,
- Bulgaria: National Forestry Board at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests



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