

**Report and information on disaster reduction for Greece  
for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction  
(Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005)**

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**Information on national contact and provider of info:**

*Name: Dimitris ALEXANDRIS*

*Position: Responsible for UN relations*

*Organization: General Secretariat for Civil Protection*

*Address: Evagelistrias 2 Str*

*State/Province: Athens*

*Zip/Post Code: 10563*

*Country: Greece*

*Phone: +30-210-3359980*

*Fax: +30-210-3359935*

*E-mail: dalex@gscp.gr*

*Website: www.civilprotection.gr*

Was the information provided consulted with other institutions? YES  NO

If yes, please list these organizations here-below:

Ministry of Environment Physical Planning and Public Works

Ministry of Mercantile Marine

Ministry of Development

Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration (IGME)

Greek Atomic Energy Commission

Hellenic Centre for Marine Research

**Component 1 Political Commitment and Institutional Aspects**

*Political commitment, strong institutions, and good governance are expected to elevate disaster risk reduction as a policy priority, allocate the necessary resources for it, enforce its implementation and assign accountability for failures, as well as facilitate participation from civil society to private sector. Due to its multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral nature, disaster reduction falls into the agenda of many diverse institutions which, for effective implementation, requires clear assignment of roles and assumption of responsibilities as well as coordination of activities.*

**1.1-Are there national policy, strategy and legislation addressing disaster risk reduction?**

According to new Law for Civil Protection (Law 3013/2003), General Secretariat for Civil Protection under the Ministry of Interior is, inter alia, tasked to work out prevention plans and programmes for all kinds of risks (natural and technological (CBRN included), taking appropriate preparedness measures and undertaking prevention, preparedness, response and recovery actions. These plans and programmes are elaborated with all the component authorities in national, regional and local level. Greece, as a member state of the European Union, takes actively part on a wider policy and strategy planning within the EU for disaster risk reduction.

**1.2-Is there a national body for multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration in disaster risk reduction, which includes ministries in charge of water resource management, agriculture/land use and planning, health, environment, education, development planning and finance?** If yes, please give detailed information (name, structure and functions). *Attach any relevant documentation or indicate source of information.*

According to the new legal framework for the Civil Protection (Law 3013/2003), the multi- sectoral coordination of public authorities in disaster prevention, response and mitigation measures, is the main responsibility of the General Secretariat for Civil Protection. Concerning multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration in disaster risk reduction:

- It works out and coordinates, in collaboration with the competent authorities, the work of information and sensitization of citizens in the sector of civil protection, in a level of general information, and also providing special directives to confrontation of concrete destruction or situation of emergency.
- It collaborates with the responsible Ministries and the familiar institutions for the syntax of regulations and specifications, to prevent natural, technological, biological, chemical, nuclear or other destructions and approves prefectural and local plans of civil protection, per category of danger
- It works out, in collaboration with the competent authorities, the annual program of supplies of all means and materials, that are necessary for the civil protection of country, based on the National Planning of Civil Protection
- It coordinates, it finances and assigns in scientific and educational institutions of training, the development and implementation of programs of education and training of specialised executives of civil protection in central and regional level. Similarly it draws special programs of education and training of voluntary organisations of civil protection, and specialised volunteers of civil protection, in collaboration with these institutions
- It approves and finances programs of applied research or studies on the civil protection

**1.3-Are there sectoral plans or initiatives that incorporate risk reduction concepts into each respective development area (such as water resource management, poverty alleviation, climate change adaptation, education and development planning)?** If yes, please indicate some examples and challenges / limitations encountered. If no, does your government have any plans for integrating disaster risk reduction into development sectors? If no, please also specify the major difficulties.

Risk reduction concepts are incorporated into most of the recent developed sectoral plans. As an example we can mention the Sustainable Residential Development of Cities and Settlements. In these plans, which are gradually implemented in municipality level, current status analysis and development assessments are included. For all kind of urban risks, risk reduction concept approach is applied. Also, efforts have been made to enhance natural hazards mapping of urban areas in Greece, as a tool for protection and development. It is stated that this must be financed by the State and be carried out in large scale to help planning and operational needs

**1.4-Is disaster risk reduction incorporated into your national plan for the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), National Adaptation Plans of Action, National Environmental Action Plans and WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development) Johannesburg Plan of Implementation?** If yes to any of these, who are the main contacts for these initiatives.

N/A

**1.5-Does your country have building codes of practice and standards in place, which takes into account seismic risk?** If yes, since when. Which are the main difficulties in keeping with the compliances of the codes.

The first Greek Seismic Design Code was established in 1959 and was amended in 1985. Procedures for the renewal of the regulation ended in 1995, while the last version is the one of 2000. This was reconciled to Eurocodes EC7 and EC8 and includes modifications and completions that arise in practice in a country which experiences continual seismic activity. Last revision of selected articles of the code started to apply in 2004.

From the engineering geological point of view, difficulties in keeping with the compliance of the above mentioned code, refer to:

- Characterisation and classification of the foundation soil, according to its behaviour under dynamic loading.
- Accordance of the real conditions in place, to those deriving from the code. Thus Seismic Zonation Studies have to be carried out in urban areas with high seismic risk.

**1.6-Do you have an annual budget for disaster risk reduction?** If yes, is this commitment represented as part of the national budget or project based? Through which institution/s? If no, what other financing mechanisms for risk reduction initiatives are available?

In Greece, there is an annual budget, as a part of the national budget, which is dedicated to prevention actions. These prevention actions are planned to serve also disaster risk reduction purposes. This annual budget is distributed on municipality level by the Ministry of Interior, after a proposal from the General Secretariat for Civil Protection. The prevention actions are mainly focus on the fields of forest fires, floods and earthquakes.

Moreover, disaster risk reduction activities are also financed on a project base. For instance, Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration (IGME), under the Ministry of Environment and Public Works, is financed either by research projects (European etc), or by the local authorities and relative bodies. In the second case only the preliminary stages of the study are usually financed.

**1.7-Are the private sector, civil society, NGOs, academia and media participating in disaster risk reduction efforts?** If yes, how? Indicate existing coordination or joint programming between government and civil society efforts in disaster risk reduction, or major difficulties or constraints for this to be effective.

Private sector is mainly participating in disaster risk reduction efforts through the participation in co-financed National and European projects. In these projects, private sector is usually in close cooperation with Research Institutes, Universities, as well as NGOs.

Large scale corporations do participating in disaster risk reduction efforts. For instance, the Hydroelectric Projects Development Department of the Public Power Corporation S. A. (PPC) is responsible for the design and the supervision of construction of large dams. In this context, it is responsible for the safe design of dams against the possibility of breach/ overtopping which would have disastrous consequences downstream. In the past, design floods against overtopping have been selected at the 1:10000 probability level in principal. For each project, a dam break study is conducted and its results are disseminated to competent authorities as well as to the Hydroelectric Power Plants Operation Department of the PPC. The latter is responsible to support competent State Authorities for drawing contingency plans. Large PPC reservoirs at the headwaters of a number of relatively large Greek rivers allow the PPC to offer flood management for the benefit of the cultivated and inhabited areas downstream. By all means, 1:100 floods may be considered almost totally manageable. Much more severe floods can only be attenuated.

Media are participating in disaster risk reduction efforts mainly through preparing and broadcasting, in close cooperation with the competent authorities, basic guidelines and instructions related to public awareness, preparedness and response in a case of an emergency.

NGOs, especially volunteer organizations activating in civil protection under the General Secretariat for Civil Protection, contribute in disaster risk reduction efforts

On a national level a better cooperation between the different key players and coordination should be achieved by the systematical collection and processing of the relevant information concerning all kind of risks.

## **Component 2 Risk Identification**

*Identification of risks is a relatively well-defined area with a significant knowledge base on methods for disaster impact and hazard and vulnerability assessment. Systematic assessment of losses, social and economic impact of disasters, and particularly mapping of risks are fundamental to understand where to take action. Consideration of disaster risks in environmental impact assessments is still to become routine practice. Early warning is increasingly defined as a means to inform public and authorities on impending risks, hence essential for timely actions to reduce their impact.*

**2.1-Has your country carried out hazard mapping/assessment?** If yes, please describe for which hazards, when they were updated and for what geographical scale they exist. Do they include characteristics, impacts, historical data, multi-hazards approach? Which institutions are using the results of the hazard assessment? To whom are they available? (*attach any relevant documentation*)

Greece has already carried out hazard mapping for major hazards. Hazard mapping is not complete for all hazards, but lot of efforts are still underway to complete and integrate hazard mapping.

In Greece, hazard mapping is available for the following hazards:

- Floods
- Earthquakes
- Landslides
- Forest fires
- Multi-hazard
- Industrial hazards- Seveso establishments
- Nuclear
- Contaminated land
- Volcanoes
- Maritime pollution

### **FLOODS:**

- Maps of the areas where floods have been occurred (1/100000) for the whole territory.
- Maps of the areas in the city of Athens that can be flooded because of overflow of sewage networks. The maps will be based upon a theoretical model. The project is still under development.
- Mapping of rivers and torrents and relevant information for the whole territory at local level are available. This information is prepared by local authorities.
- Maps of the dams across the country. Relevant information and plans are available.
- Other relevant information and maps are collected and prepared in Universities and Institutes.

### **EARTHQUAKES:**

- Division of the Greek territory in seismic zones of different seismic hazard, based in the maximum expected horizontal peak ground acceleration. A list of all cities in Greece with the corresponding values of the peak ground acceleration is also available with the above-mentioned map. According to this map the seismic design of structures in Greece is achieved so far. Three different levels are defined corresponding to the ground acceleration. The map is available in electronic format and in the Internet ([www.oasp.gr](http://www.oasp.gr)). The following methods are used a) statistical method (recent seismological data – historical seismological data – damping data b) data from neotectonic maps relevant to possible activation of existent faults.
- Neotectonic maps where all faults are shown (1:100000). The faults are divided in seismically active, possible to be seismically active and non active. A volume where all the characteristics of each one of the faults are described is also available (type of the fault, kind of the movement, magnitude of expected movement, return period if known, areas prone to liquefaction, etc) The above mentioned neotectonic maps are part of a current project that takes place now in Greece and mainly concerns areas densely populated having a high seismic risk. When the project will be completed will cover the whole region of Greece. The method used is detailed neotectonic mapping with statistical methods of neotectonic analysis, satellite images, catalogues of epicentres and microcosmical observations.

- Seismic micro-zonation maps (1/5.000-1/2.000). The degree of completion varies from 2% to 5 % for the detailed scale concerning mainly urban areas.

#### **LANDSLIDES:**

- Hazard maps for the whole territory of Greece (1/100000). The maps are based on geological, slope gradient, rainfall and seismic hazard data. 3-4 level of hazard will be defined. The project will end mid November 2003.
- Landslides hazard mapping (1/5.000-1/2.000). The degree of completion varies from 2% to 5 % for the detailed scale concerning mainly urban areas.

#### **FOREST FIRES**

- Mapping of the regions that are considered as extremely dangerous for forest fires. The map is available for the whole territory (1:200000).
- A Daily Fire Risk Map that specifies the probability of a fire occurring over time and space is issued during the fire period from the General Secretariat for Civil Protection.

#### **MULTI-HAZARD**

- Landslides across water pipes with local problems of landslides across open channels between two dams that provide water in Attica.
- Maps elaborated for seismic zonation in several cities prone to seismic hazard, also examine the probability of occurrence of other potentially damaging phenomena that could be triggered by seismic activity (earth movements, e.g. landslides, subsidence, rock-falls, debris flows).
- Hazard maps have been developed in Greece for intensely contaminated land in urban, rural and agricultural areas. The multi-hazard maps that have been developed, concern contamination of lead (Pb) in surface soil in relation to child blood-lead levels, different sources of pollution and land use activities.

#### **SEVESO and INDUSTRIAL**

- There are detailed lists of all the SEVESO installations across the country.
- Study and development of an operational center for large scale industrial accidents.
- Mapping of three extended industrial areas in Attica (2 areas) and Thessaloniki (1 area) in the framework of large scale technological accidents planning.
- Maps for limited industrial areas are also available.
- For the determination of the industrial risk in security studies, risk levels and zones for the protection of the population and the suppression teams are used.
- Specifications for the introduction of the solid waste disposal areas into categories have been defined. The conditions and measures for the management of the solid waste disposal areas and also the monitoring of environmental indices are also defined, to attain their normal operation.

#### **NUCLEAR**

The critical radiological installations have been identified. Also, the possibility for a major nuclear accident outside the country has been taken into consideration

#### **CONTAMINATED LAND**

The process of hazard mapping with respect to contaminated land is in its infancy, because of the amount of data and information required. Hazard maps have been developed only in certain areas where there are serious health related problems due to toxic element contamination. A particular urban and semi-rural case study covers an area of about 7 square kilometres, and the map scale of the hazard maps is 1/5 000. Whereas the rural and agricultural case study covers an area of approximately 170 square kilometres at a scale of 1/25000.

As far it concerns soil contaminated hazard mapping, different levels are defined for the five different types of hazard assessment maps that have been compiled:

- (a) deterministic,
- (b) probabilistic,
- (c) deterministic-probabilistic,
- (d) semi-quantitative, and
- (e) quantitative.

#### **VOLCANOES**

The last years have been elaborated maps of the recent volcanoes from the south Aegean arc where the main potential volcanic hazard activities occur. The volcanic hazard mapping produced in 1/50.000 scale. The projection is the EGSA 87 (national system). As far as concern recent volcanoes the elaborated maps are static

## MARITIME POLLUTION

Areas prone to maritime pollution have been identified, based on the number and frequency of occurrence.

Hazard maps are used by Governmental and Intergovernmental Agencies (Civil Protection, Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration, Earthquake Protection and Planning Organization, the Ministry of Environment and Public Works), Research Institutes, and Universities. The main uses of hazard mapping are:

- Communication to the public
- Infrastructure owners and managers (transport, energy...)
- Targeted information communication amongst decision-makers
- Land use/spatial planning
- Emergency response plans
- Targeted allocation of resources for prevention
- Visualisation of information

In general every organization, authority, body/entity or citizen can access the information, but there are also exceptions where maps can not be copied or are not available if the project is still under development. There are also information, maps and plans that are confidential.

**2.2-Has your country carried out vulnerability and capacity assessments?** If yes, please describe the methods used and major social, economic, physical, environmental, political and cultural factors considered in the assessment(s). Who are the main contacts for these assessments (*or attach any relevant documentation or contact information.*)

Although the process of vulnerability and capacity assessments is in its infancy, Greece has carried out vulnerability and capacity assessments but not in a systematic way. For instance, Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration (IGME) carries out physical and environmental vulnerability assessment as far as concern foundation soil properties (e.g. Microzonation studies), mass movement susceptibility as well as land and water contamination.

**2.3-Does your country have any mechanisms for risk monitoring and risk mapping?** If yes, who is responsible?

For risk monitoring and risk mapping several special networks (seismological network, meteorological network, radioactivity telemetric network, agricultural meteorological network, pollution monitoring network) were established providing information for development and update risk maps.

**2.4-Is there a systematic socio-economic and environmental impact and loss analysis in your country after each major disaster?** If yes, are the results available?

After a major disaster a socio-economic and environmental impact and loss analysis are performed and the results are in general available to every organization, authority, body/entity or citizen. For instance, after strong earthquakes socio-economic analysis is carried out for the disaster area and studies of macroseismic observations in the affected areas are usually carried out, describing damages on structures and secondary geological phenomena, such as surface ruptures, subsidence, landslides, rock falls etc. Also seismic zonation studies, in urban areas suffered strong earthquakes.

**2.5-Are there early warning systems in place?** If yes, for what hazards and for what geographical scope. Do you have any example when the system was activated lately? Which are the main institutions involved? Please indicate any relevant lessons-learned from the use and public reaction to early warnings issued.

There are early warning systems in Greece, especially in the field of severe weather, forest fires, atmospheric pollution and nuclear accidents. The main institutions involved in early warning are:  
National Meteorological Service (for severe weather forecast)  
Ministry of Environment and Public Works (air pollution)  
Greek Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) (Nuclear Accidents)  
Public Power Corporation (dam failure)

## Component 3 Knowledge Management

*Information management and communication, education and training, public awareness and research are all parts of improving and managing knowledge on disaster risks and their reduction. Inclusion of disaster reduction at all levels of education, effective public awareness and information campaigns, media involvement in advocacy and dissemination, availability of training for communities at risk and professional staff, and targeted research are the ingredients to support the knowledge base for effective disaster reduction.*

**3.1-Does your country have disaster risk information management systems (governmental and/or non-governmental)?** If yes, what kind of information on disaster reduction is available, how is it collected, how is the information disseminated and who are the main users? (indicate relevant sources of information, if applicable)

A governmental disaster risk information management system is now under development in the General Secretariat for Civil protection. All disaster risk information are going to be collected and evaluated.

**3.2-Are the academic and research communities in the country linked to national or local institutions dealing with disaster reduction?** If yes, please describe the mechanisms for information sharing and indicate any example of usefulness and effectiveness. Which are the main research and academic institutions dealing with disaster reduction related issues (please list, if available, and indicate how their research work is related to the country's disaster risk reduction needs.)

There is a strong collaboration of the academic and research institutions with other national and local institutions, mainly in the context of national and European projects

**3.3-Are there educational programmes related to disaster risk reduction in your public school system?** If yes, for what age-range? Do you have any educational material developed to support the teachers in this area? (*please attach any relevant documentation*)

There are special information courses in elementary and high schools related to student awareness, preparedness and response in a case of an emergency. These courses, which mainly focus on earthquakes, severe weather, floods and forest fires, provide

- basic response guidelines to students in school and home environment, and
- basic prevention activities

Moreover, several institutes, like Earthquake Protection and Planning Organization or Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration, occasionally participate in high school level seminars. Special courses are also provided to University students concerning disaster risk reduction. For instance, in the syllabus of post-graduating studies run by Greek Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) and Greek Universities, special courses about the radiological risk are included.

**3.4-Are there any training programmes available?** If yes, please list (if available indicate scope and target audiences of the courses). Do you have any indication on how these courses have been useful to change any practices at local or national scale?

Seminars concerning disaster risk reduction are provided by governmental services and institutions to special target group (decision makers, workers, etc). These seminars are in general raise the awareness and familiarize target groups with the concepts of disaster risk reduction. These information are mainly useful at local level planning, where disaster risk reduction concepts are gradually integrated to planning activities.

**3.5-What kind of traditional indigenous knowledge and wisdom is used in disaster-related practices or training programmes on disaster risk reduction in your country?**

N/A

**3.6-Do you have any national public awareness programmes or campaigns on disaster risk reduction?** If available, who are the main players for raising public awareness? How are the mass media and schools involved? Who are the targeted groups and how do you evaluate the programmes?

General Secretariat for Civil Protection, in close cooperation with competent authorities, carried out in regular basis national campaigns in order to raise public awareness in the fields of prevention, preparedness and response to emergencies. In these campaigns, disaster risk reduction concepts are included. During the campaigns, leaflets with guidelines are distributed to the public and special audiovisual material are broadcasted by mass media. Special attention is paid on schools, where special

leaflets and audiovisual material are distributed. Especially for forest fires, these campaigns seem to be very effective.

#### **Component 4 Risk Management Applications/Instruments**

*For effective disaster risk reduction, synergies are needed between sustainable development and disaster risk management practices. Moving from analyzing of and knowing about risks to taking concrete actions to reduce their impacts is a demanding step. Ideas and practices coming from different disciplinary areas will complement what is already practiced in disaster risk management. For example, instruments for risk management have proliferated especially with the recognition of environmental management, poverty reduction and financial management.*

*Environmental and natural resource management is among the best-known applications to reduce flood risks, control landslides (through reforestation) and control droughts (through ecosystem conservation). Physical and technical measures, such as flood control techniques, soil conservation practices, retrofitting of buildings or land use planning, are effective in hazard control. Financial instruments in the form of insurance, calamity funds, catastrophe bonds are useful to lessen the impact of disasters.*

**4.1-Is there any good examples of linking environmental management and risk reduction practices in your country** (key areas of environmental management may include coastal zone, wetland and watershed management, reforestation and agricultural practices, amongst others). If yes, please indicate in what areas. (Attach any relevant documentation ore references)

There are several good examples of linking environmental management and risk reduction practices, like:

Urban development Studies  
Natural gas pipe-line  
Dams  
Land and water contamination

**4.2-Are financial instruments utilised in your country as a measure to reduce the impact of disasters** (e.g. insurance/reinsurance, calamity funds, catastrophe bonds, micro-credit finance, community funds, etc.)? If yes, please describe what these instruments are and when they were established, who manages them and who are eligible to them.

In Greece, there is an annual budget, as a part of the national budget, which is dedicated to finance response and mitigation efforts during and after an emergency. This budget is distributed to ministries responsible for response and mitigation efforts and is available only after the occurrence of a major disaster.

In the case of natural disaster the Earthquake-stricken Restoration Service is responsible for the immediate restoration of damaged buildings and infrastructures and the temporary sheltering of affected people. This service established in 1981 and is under the Ministry of Environment and Public Works. In a case of a disaster, the Earthquake-stricken Restoration Service co-finance restoration efforts in buildings, and damaged home appliances. Eligible to this finance are all citizens in the disaster area who experience damages. Especially for companies, finance compensation is carried out from the Hellenic Organization of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and Handicraft S.A. (EOMMEX S.A.) which is a non-profit public Organization operating under the auspices of the Ministry of Development.

**4.3-Please identify specific examples of technical measures or programmes on disaster risk reduction that have been carried out in your country (see below, case studies).**

There are numerous National and European projects dealing with disaster risk reduction issues. Some of them are:

NEMISREF ( New Methods for Mitigation of Seismic Risk of Existing Foundations) project, which will be completed in 2005

TERRAFIRMA project, which aims to provide a Pan – European Ground Motion hazard information service

FOREGS “Geochemical Baseline Mapping” project, which is at present being carried out in 26 European countries, with funding from the national Geological Surveys of each country, will produce the first continental scale maps for approximately 60 chemical elements

ESTIA “ Advanced Software Program and Integrated system for decision support and Seismic risk management

AMPHITRITE “Combined on/offshore techniques for the development of an innovative – integrated methodology for seismic hazard assessment aiming at the safety of infrastructures in coastal areas

Some examples of technical measures are:

Opening up roads after an earthquake for better response to future earthquakes

Construction by the government of new buildings in replace of damaged by earthquake buildings

## **Component 5 Preparedness and Contingency Planning**

*Preparedness and emergency management has been used as a means for reducing life losses from direct and indirect effects of disasters. A well-prepared system is expected to be effectively informed by early warning, endowed with regularly rehearsed national and local contingency and evacuation plans, fitted with communications and coordination systems, as well as adequate logistical infrastructures and emergency funds. Local-level preparedness, particularly at community level, including training, deserves special attention as the most effective way of reducing life and livelihood losses.*

**5.1-Do you have disaster contingency plans in place? Are they prepared for both national and community levels?** If yes, please describe their main components, who is responsible for activating the plan(s)?Are the plan(s) updated on annual basis? Have you ever used the contingency plan(s) that was or were developed? If yes, what was the result?

Greece has the General Plan for Civil Protection named “XENOKRATIS” which recently (2003) was amended. This plan has annexes for respond to all natural and technological disasters. The annexes are updated regularly. This Plan is applied both in National and local level, depending on the magnitude of the disaster. Responsible for activating this Plan is the General Secretariat for Civil Protection, which also has the coordination of the response and recovery actions.

The “XENOKRATIS” plan was used in the Athens earthquake on 1999, and despite some shortfalls it seems to be sufficient.

**5.2-Has your government established emergency funds for disaster response and are there national or community storage facilities for emergency relief items – mainly food, medicine, tents/shelters?** If yes, please provide some details.

Greece has an annual budget, as a part of the national budget, which is dedicated to finance response and mitigation efforts during and after an emergency (see Component 4.2).

Storage facilities for emergency relief items are in place both in National and local levels. National storage facilities provided by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, which is also responsible to provide emergency relief items to local level. In local level, storage facilities exists in each of the 13 Regions and 54 prefectures of Greece. These facilities contain tents, blankets, food, medication, power generators and other emergency materials.

**5.3-Who is responsible for the coordination of disaster response preparedness and is the coordination body equipped with enough human and financial resources for the job?** Please comment on the effectiveness of the coordination work done so far?

General Secretariat for Civil Protection is responsible for the coordination of disaster response preparedness. The General Secretariat for Civil Protection is well equipped and financed, but due to its substantial role more human resources are especially needed.

## **Component 6 Call for good practices in disaster risk management**

Based on the above analysis and information provided, please provide at least two examples of any successful implementation of disaster reduction activities in your country (could be of local, national or regional scale); any project or community based experience, national policy, interaction between sectors, etc., would be welcome. Provide maximum one page on each example, indicating area of work, institutions and actors involved, duration, impact of the activities, lessons-learnt and if the example have been replicated. You may also kindly direct us to relevant web-based information/organization.

N/A

## **Component 7 Priorities you want addressed at World Conference on Disaster Reduction**

What do you think are the priority topics to be agreed upon at the World Conference to enhance and strengthen national policy and practice to reduce risk and vulnerability to natural and technological

hazards? Please list any other thematic areas or specific topics of discussion that you consider of importance to increase the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction for your country. Please also indicate any particular experience or project that your country would like to exhibit or present at the Conference.

Dealing with natural and technological risks on a local, regional, national and International scale requires a systematic approach. We have to focus our efforts to mitigate risks using modern methodologies that demand risk analysis through hazard and vulnerability assessment. Integral risk management makes use of the complete set of prevention, preparedness, intervention and recovery strategies.

We believe that hazard mapping, vulnerability analysis concerning critical infrastructures, the habitat, the societal and ecological systems, should be established through a uniform way and manner.

A very important issue is the improvement of public preparedness. Natural and Technological Hazards are perceived differently. The way that a community responds to a certain risk depends on the previous information and education. There is a big need for better knowledge of people's methods of handling risks. Therefore projects and campaigns as well as school programs aiming to increase public awareness should be strongly encouraged and promoted. The added value of these projects could be of great importance if they are based at the cross-border cooperation and the exchange of experience and best practices.

Common terminology is another important issue, especially in cross border cooperation in case of an emergency.

The design and development of monitoring systems should also be a major priority of any initiative towards risk mitigation. Early warning that is based on reliable data flow from monitoring networks, is the major tool for scientists and decision-makers before any effective measure towards prevention, preparedness and response.