

**National Report of the Czech Republic  
towards the WCDR in Kobe 2005**

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

*Name: Ivan Obrusník*

*Position: director of CHMI, chairman of the Czech National Committee for Disaster Reduction*

*Organization: Czech Hydrometeorological Institute*

*Address: Na Šabatce 17, Prague 4*

*State/Province:*

*Zip/Post Code: 143 06*

*Country: Czech Republic*

*Phone: (+420) 241 765 614*

*Fax: (+420) 241 760 603*

*E-mail: obrusnik@chmi.cz*

*Website: www.chmi.cz*

Was the information provided consulted with other institutions? **YES** NO

If yes, please list these organizations here-below:

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Interior, Czech National Committee for Disaster Reduction

## **ANNEX: REFERENCE GUIDE FOR PREPARATION OF NATIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Component 1 Political Commitment and Institutional Aspects**

**1.1-Are there national policy, strategy and legislation addressing disaster risk reduction?** If yes, please describe to what extent current national efforts and main priority areas of the policy, and mechanisms to enforce the implementation of the policy and legislation are applied (*and/or attach any relevant documentation*)

The Czech Republic has a relatively new policy of crisis management, which includes especially early warning, dissemination of warnings with precisely specified responsibilities and competencies of all main "players" like Fire and Rescue Service (FRS), Army, various state institutions (ministries), and also regional institutions (regional administrations, regional FRS, and others). Similarly the system goes down to communities and their administrations.

The Crisis Management system together with Integrated Rescue System has been defined by a new legislation package valid since January 1, 2001. The whole system has been successfully used during the 2002 August catastrophic Flood in the Czech Republic (and Central Europe). The government in January 2000 approved General Strategy for flood prevention.

Some other precaution related more to prevention of disasters (mainly floods) in future are solved in Water Act or other specific norms.

**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.*

Such body is well defined for disaster reduction in the stages before and during crisis as well as in the first stages of disaster relief (crisis management laws, Water Act etc.). For this kind of prevention Ministry of Interior or Ministry of Defence takes the lead and control (coordination) role. Concerning the disaster risk reduction in longer term (Water resource management, etc.), coordination is done by an appropriate ministry (Water - ministry of environment together with ministry of agriculture), ministry of health and also ministry for development and planning. The ministry of finance should support all these activities providing that laws or governmental decrees define the activities.

**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.

Such plans exist for water resource management, climate change adaptation, education and development planning. For instance, long-term water management flood prevention is organized via River Basin Boards and lead by the ministry of agriculture, while early warning for floods is lead by the ministry of environment in cooperation with the ministry of agriculture. Flood warning itself is coordinated by the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute in cooperation with River Basin Boards in particular regions and, with regional and local administrations (e.g. preparation of Flood prevention plans). Education – some principles of disaster reduction are taught at schools, the main problem is still general awareness of people. Therefore, it has been a topical issue for the Czech National committee for Disaster Reduction and also for local and regional administrations.

**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.

Up to now, disaster reduction has been solved by the above-mentioned national means. However, The Czech National Committee for Disaster Reduction (Czech NC DR) has been aiming to help in coordination of all these activities among various partners (state sector, communities, private sector, etc.). The means of the Committee are, however, limited, as it is functioning as NGO.

**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.

As the territory of the Czech Republic is relatively very safe for seismic risks, it has not been necessary. However, seismic risk has always been taken into account for very important buildings like nuclear power plants (in this case – special building codes have to be applied)..

**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?

As it has been mentioned earlier, various parts of disaster prevention are covered from the budgets of responsible or leading ministries (interior, defence, environment, agriculture, health, etc). In some cases, prevention is organized by means of special programs jointly by several ministries like flood prevention (environment together with agriculture, etc.).

**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.

All the above-mentioned bodies participate in disaster risk reduction efforts. However, coordination of all these activities is rather difficult.

## **Component 2 Risk Identification**

**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*)

Hazard mapping has been done on sectoral bases by several institutions. Recently, the ministry of environment launched a project for mapping in GIS various kinds of hazards and also risks (Seveso chemicals, land slides, floods waste and combined hazards have also been considered e.g. flooding of waste etc. These databases and GIS will be available for ministries, regional administration and institutions supplying data. However, an access will be limited. On the other hand, some hazard mapping has also been carried out by insurance companies.

**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.*)

N/A

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

Risk monitoring and mapping is under development as a part of the overall crisis management. However, it will be finished within about 2 years.

**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?

Yes, in very important and significant cases like catastrophic floods in 1997 or 2002 – in both cases, special projects financed directly by the government evaluating completely these events (including the impacts) have been carried out (see: [www.chmi.cz](http://www.chmi.cz)).

**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.

The Czech Republic has a highly developed early warning system which is connected to the state and regional emergency (crisis management) systems in accordance with the crisis management laws and more specific laws like Water Act (for flood warning). In the case of floods national hydrometeorological service (Czech Hydrometeorological Institute) together with River Basin Boards are responsible for flood warning. Moreover, a system of flood commissions and in more serious cases – crisis management staffs, has been established on state, regional and community bases. Similarly, warnings for other types of disasters (man-made) have been treated in similar way. All warnings issued by the above-mentioned institutions and services are then disseminated by means of Fire and Rescue Services. The overall early

warning and emergency management system passed successfully through a real test during the catastrophic flood in August 2002. Reaction of public has been tested also by exercises.

### **Component 3 Knowledge Management**

**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)

Relatively well developed is risk information management system for floods (flood prevention plans and management) – on all levels of state, regional and community administration. For other kinds of disasters it is not so developed due to low frequency of such events in comparison with floods.

**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.)

Yes. Special research programs supported by the state deal with flood risk reduction, development of modern tools etc. Main research institutions deal mostly with water and environment (Czech Hydrometeorological Institute, Water Research Institute of TGM, Institute of Atmospheric Physics etc.).

**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*)

Some of the problems of disaster reduction are treated within physics, chemistry etc. for the age range 10-15 years.

**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?

Some programs exist on regional and community (municipal) basis. It is also one of the goals of the Czech National Committee for DR to help with organization of training programs and especially on training of trainees.

**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?**

The Czech Republic has a long tradition in flood prevention, as over 90% of disasters in the country have been floods. Therefore, the most of efforts and trainings are directed to this kind of disaster.

**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?

Schools (secondary) included some aspects of disaster prevention into their programs. It is more difficult to educate adults. Mass media are involved but not in a systematic way. Their interest about disaster risk reduction increases during disasters.

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

**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*)

Examples of linking environmental management and risk reduction practices in the Czech Republic have been mostly coordinated by the ministry of environment or agriculture – by means of research projects air pollution impacts, reforestation, agricultural applications, etc.

**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.

These instruments are mostly established and managed by insurance companies.

**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).**

These programs are mostly related to disaster reduction for the cases of floods as floods are the most frequent disasters in the country.

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

**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?

Such plans (crisis preparedness) are being prepared on various levels and coordinated by the Fire and Rescue Service under the lead of Ministry of interior. Preparation is under development now. Responsibility for activating the plans is on managers and responsible departments on state institutions, companies and regional and community administrations.

**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.

Yes, and a special institution (State Material Reserve) stores emergency relief items and distributes them during and after disaster accordingly with state, regional and local needs.

**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?

Responsible body is ministry of interior by means of Fire and Rescue Service. They have enough resources.

## **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.

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

Early warning and its continuous improvement both on scientific and organizational bases.

Increase of public awareness and preparedness.

Use of modern technologies

Modern legislative support.

International cross-border cooperation and exchange of warnings.