



## REPORT AND INFORMATION ON DISASTER REDUCTION FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION

### 1 - POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

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

Yes. Portugal has made a large effort in order to create legislation addressing disaster risk. For example, municipalities are obliged to identify flood risk areas and to use that information in their Municipal Landuse Plans; there are laws concerning prevention measures to control fire ignitions (e.g., it is forbidden to use fire for soil renewal during summer); there is a national strategy for climate changes which could lead to prevention of extreme events, such as floods, forest fires or heatwaves; there are roles concerning major industrial accidents and transportation of dangerous goods.

#### 1.2 - Is there a national body for multi-sectorial coordination and collaboration in disaster risk reduction ...?

There is a National Centre for Operations on Civil Protection Emergencies, which is responsible for coordination of response to extreme emergencies. This Centre aggregates collaboration from organizations belonging to the Ministries of Interior, Environment, Health, Agriculture, Defense. However, this Centre only deals with emergency management issues (prevention and risk reduction strategies are not in the scope of action).

#### 1.3 - Are there sectorial plans or initiatives that incorporate risk reduction concepts...?

Yes. It is being drawn the National Plan for Land Management Policies, where the National Service for Fire and Civil Protection is been asked for contributions. In the past, Civil Protection was also involved on the National Water Plan, in issues concerning flood and drought risk reduction.

#### 1.4 - Is disaster risk reduction incorporated into your national plan for the implementation of...?

N/A

#### 1.5 - Does your country have building codes of practice for seismic risk?

Portugal has several codes, which are updated once in while for buildings, dams and all types of new constructions. No legislation applies to buildings existent prior to 1961, date of the first code regarding specifically to seismic risk in construction.

#### 1.6 - Do you have an annual budget for disaster risk reduction?

Not specifically. Budget is spread through several organizations connected with those issues, such as the National Service for Fire and Civil Protection, Water Institute, National Laboratory for Civil Engineering, Environment Institute, General-Directorate for Forests, etc. Additional budget can be obtained through national, EU and international projects.

#### 1.7 - Are the private sector, civil society, NGOs and media participating in disaster risk reduction efforts?

There are several initiatives involving other organizations. For instance, surveillance in forest areas (prevention of forest fire risk) or cooperation with private sector for dam-break risk management. Additionally, universities and other scientific organizations cooperate with Civil Protection in risk evaluation (seismic risk, fire risk, technological accidents risk, etc.)



**Serviço Nacional de Bombeiros e Protecção Civil**

**2 – RISK IDENTIFICATION**

**2.1 - Has your country carried out hazard mapping/assessment?**

Yes, for forest fires (fire probability), floods (flood-risk areas), seismic risk and technological hazards. In most of the cases, this includes historical data, such as impacts of past events. For hydrological risks (floods, dam-break, droughts) hydrodynamic computation models are used. For studies concerning technological accidents dispersion models are used. All data is available for Civil Protection and organizations connected with each risk (Water Institute, General-Directorate for Forests, Environment Institute, etc.).

**2.2 – Does your country carried out vulnerability and capacity assessments?**

N/A

**2.3 – Does your country have any mechanisms for risk monitoring and risk mapping?**

Yes. Risk monitoring is available for meteorological risks (Met-Office), for floods (Water Institute) and for radiological emergencies (Environment Institute). Risk mapping is available for forest fire (Met-Office; General-Directorate for Forests), floods and dam-break (Water Institute).

**2.4 – Is there a systematic socio-economic and environmental impact and loss analysis after each major disasters?**

No. Only in specific disasters (example: economic damage after 2003 forest fires).

**2.5 – Are there early warning systems in place?**

There is still no systematic early warning system. However, early warning actions are performed in case of meteorological (heavy rains, strong wind, heatwaves, coldwaves, snow, etc.) and hydrological extreme events or facing radiological/nuclear emergencies. Public reaction to issued early warnings is variable.

**3 – KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT**

**3.1 – Does your country have disaster risk information management systems?**

In process.

**3.2 – Are the academic and research communities in the country linked...?**

Yes, for risk evaluation such as described in question 1.7. Academic and research community is involved due to cooperation agreements made with Civil Protection.

**3.3 – Are there educational programmes related to disaster risk reduction...?**

Issues connected with risk reduction are being more focused on schools, mainly in ages from 7 to 14. At the moment is being developed educational material to support teachers. There are also leaflets for children with advices in case of disasters.

**3.4 – Are there any training programmes available?**

Universities and private institutions have training programmes for civil protection agents, fire-fighters, municipalities staff, etc. There is also a National School for Fire-Fighters with operational training.

**3.5 – What kind of traditional indigenous knowledge is used in disaster-related practices...?**

N/A



**3.6 – Do you have any national public awareness programmes or campaigns on disaster risk reduction?**

Yes, for instance at the moment there is a large campaign to reduce forest fire risk, developed by the General-Directorate for Forests.

**4 – RISK MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS/INSTRUMENTS**

**4.1 – Is there any good examples of linking environmental management and risk reduction practices?**

N/A

**4.2 – Are financial instruments utilised in your country as a measure to reduce the impact of disasters?**

Yes, calamity funds to help people affected by extreme disasters (such as 2003 forest fires or 2001 floods).

**4.3 – Identify technical measures or programmes on disaster risk reduction...?**

Evaluation of Seismic Risk on the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon and neighbourhood areas; National Water Plan; National Plan for Land Management Policies; Forest Activities regulations, etc.

**5 – PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

**5.1 – Do you have disaster contingency plans in place?**

In Portugal, emergency planning is performed in three levels: national, districtal (which means, more or less, regional level) and municipal (more or less it's a community level). All these three levels have general emergency plans, describing several components such as risk analysis, identification of vulnerabilities, organizational structure, intervention proceedings, coordination, chain-of-command, public information, communications, evaluation of means and human resources, cartography, etc. For some risks there could be specific plans at each level, for instance the National Emergency Plan for Floods or an Emergency Plan for Forest Fires in a district.

Activation and direction of the plan depends: for municipal level plans, activation is performed by the Mayor; for district plans, activation is performed by the Civil Governor (which can delegate that mission on the District Emergencies Coordinator); for national plans, activation is made by the Prime-Minister (that can delegate on the Ministry of Interior or on the president of the National Service for Fire and Civil Protection).

Most of the plans are usually updated on an annual basis.

**5.2 – Has your Government established emergency funds for disaster response...?**

Portugal has emergency funds and storage facilities for emergency relief items.

**5.3 – Who is responsible for the coordination of disaster response preparedness...?**

Coordination of disaster response preparedness is made by Civil Protection Services at municipal, districtal and national level.

**6 – CALL FOR GOOD PRACTICES IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT**

N/A

**7 – PRIORITIES AT WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION**

Forecasting and early warning; climate risk assessment.