

## Areas to strengthen in Viggiano

- Greater coordination between stakeholders could improve the sharing of relevant information between organisations.
- Development of a joint understanding of risks with neighbouring municipalities could help planning ahead of disasters to ensure a coordinated response amongst cities if a wide area is affected.
- Information about risks other than earthquakes could be better communicated to Viggiano's community to help people to prepare for different types of risk and, particularly, for cascading impacts.
- The impact of industrial risks on future urban development may need further consideration, including maintaining reasonable distances between homes and industrial sites processing potentially hazardous material.
- Development of a local climate change strategy could ensure the full impacts of climate change are understood for Viggiano.
- Improved communication between some national and regional organisations with the municipality could help these organisations to understand and mitigate the impact of their projects and actions on the resilience of Viggiano.

- Development of a process to record and implement the lessons identified in disaster exercises could ensure these lessons are embedded in future plans.

## Has the Review already made a difference?

An important part of the Uscore2 process is assessing its impact and whether the investment of time and money in the review adds value to disaster risk reduction. Using the Uscore2 impact evaluation methodology, Viggiano was able to identify the immediate gains the review has given the city:

- Improved knowledge acquisition and transfer
- Building of collaborative partnerships
- Developing disaster risk reduction and city resilience strategies.

Teams from Viggiano who have then reviewed other cities have increased their knowledge of risks and resilience strategies. This increase in skills and experience in disaster risk reduction has been brought into subsequent work in Viggiano.

Further Information is available from:  
[www.Uscore2.eu](http://www.Uscore2.eu)

ISO22392 is being drafted and will contain further information about peer reviews



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## AN INTERNATIONAL PEER REVIEW OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN VIGGIANO, ITALY.

### SUMMARY

The peer review was undertaken in October 2017 using the Uscore2 process.





What is Uscore2?

Uscore2 is a peer review process designed for cities by cities. Using funding from the European Commission, Uscore2 enables cities across the world to share their experience and learn from each other about good practice in disaster risk management. City-level peer reviews are a way for experts in disaster risk management from one city to suggest to another city how to reduce the risk of disasters and, in case they should happen, ways to prepare to respond quickly and effectively.

Why did Viggiano choose to be peer reviewed?

In 2015 UN Member States, including Italy, adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which aims to make the world a safer place for all



by reducing disaster risk. In its Making Cities Resilient Campaign, the UN describes ten essential activities a city must undertake to improve its approach to disaster risk reduction and achieve the commitments made in the Sendai Framework. Uscore2 is based on these ten essential activities.

Viggiano joined the Making Cities Resilient Campaign in 2011 and, in 2015, only 4 years later, was recognised as one of the Campaign’s international role models. Keen to pioneer the peer review process, Viggiano invited two other role model cities to review it - Salford in the UK and Amadora in Portugal.

This was the first international city-to-city peer review for disaster risk reduction anywhere in the world!

What did the Review look at?

In discussion with many people and organisations working on disaster risk reduction in Viggiano, 5 priorities for the city’s review emerged:

- The understanding of the risks Viggiano might face such as earthquakes, forest fires and industrial accidents
- How Viggiano is developing a resilient urban environment taking the risks of disaster into account
- How the city is safeguarding green spaces and protective eco-systems that keep Viggiano safe, together with current understanding of the potential impacts of climate change
- The resilience of communities including how people are educated about risk and about how to assist one another to prepare for disasters
- Viggiano’s preparations for responding to disasters effectively.

How was the Viggiano Peer Review carried out?

The key facts and figures:  
**Review Duration:** 3 days (October 25-27, 2017)  
**Review Team:** 13 international experts in disaster risk reduction

**Methodology:** Presentations, interviews and site visits, together with a full scale emergency drill simulating the response to an earthquake disaster, with participation of about 35% of the population, to test the City Emergency Plan.

**Participants:** 47 stakeholders including politicians, the community, voluntary groups, municipal departments, other agencies, academia and the private sector.

What have we learnt?

The review team were impressed: “This is a city which consistently punches above its weight in disaster risk reduction and within which learning and improvement are at the heart of its approach.”



Areas of strength and good practice on which the city can build Plans based on effective risk assessment

- Viggiano’s emergency management plan is comprehensive and takes into account a wide range of hazards Viggiano faces and their likely occurrence.
- The assessment of geological and seismic risk, especially the exposure of homes to geological risk, is particularly advanced. Viggiano often draws down national financial assistance to improve the safety and energy efficiency of buildings.
- Urban development practices avoid creating new risks and try to reduce the impacts of existing risks, also promoting resilience through a balanced approach to land use to avoid over-densification or urban sprawl.
- The role of the Appennino Lucano National Park as an ecological buffer against industrial activities has been identified. There is strong understanding of environmental risks and the value of natural capital.

People - engagement and resilience

- The number and contribution made by volunteers in Viggiano is truly impressive, as is the equipment, skills and capabilities that volunteer organisations such as Gruppo Lucano have available to them.
- The number of people in the community who rehearsed the response to an earthquake during the 2-day exercise demonstrated a high level of risk awareness and a commitment to being prepared for earthquakes.
- Resilience building activities within Viggiano’s schools teach young people how to keep themselves and their families safe.

City capacity

- Viggiano has made a considerable investment in emergency control centres, both for the city administration and for the volunteer activity.
- The city can draw on specialist support. As an example, in forest fires a well-rehearsed firefighting capability is available together with advanced satellite and technological resources for early detection of fires.

