

**INTEGRATING RISK MANAGEMENT IN SPATIAL PLANNING:
THE CASE OF STAVANGER**

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ABSTRACT

Spatial and land use planning instruments contain the most fundamental opportunities for prevention. To strengthen the relation between local spatial planning and local Disaster Risk Management (DRM), the EU projects of MiSRaR (Mitigation of Spatial Relevant Risks in European Regions and Towns), PRISMA (Promoting Risk Management and Assessment) and CRISMAS (Community for Risk Management and Assessment) aim at the exchange of knowledge and experience between local governments.

The confrontation of 'risk managers' from the emergency services and civil protection with spatial planners shows fundamental differences in their basic paradigms. They might use the same words, but with different meanings. Their political story telling is fundamentally different, with the one talking in terms of 'threats' and the other in 'opportunities'. Also their time horizons for planning might differ. As 'it takes two to tango', the challenge is to find a shared rhythm for their dance. This requires a basic logic for cooperation, as well as practical instruments to enable the inclusion of risk concerns in spatial planning and vice versa the inclusion of the spatial aspects in risk management. In the MiSRaR project, the partners have defined the basic logic of the so-called RISCE approach:

- Risk assessment: insight in risks is the starting point for successful mitigation;
- Integral: only when all effects and all vulnerabilities are taken into account a meaningful mitigation strategy can be designed. A successful strategy includes measures in all aspects of the DRM cycle;
- Structural: mitigation is a continuous process, which has to be embedded in the relevant organizations;
- Cooperation: all relevant government agencies, civil society, industries and inhabitants need to cooperate;
- Early: risks can be most effectively mitigated if safety is considered in spatial development as early as possible.

In the CRISMAS project, the city of Stavanger has shown how spatial planning can benefit from practical instruments that fit with the language of spatial planners. The transformation of multi-hazard risk concerns into practical principles and checklists, has resulted in a paradigm shift for the spatial planner. Instead of perceiving risk as something 'difficult', they ask for more and more risk information to inform balanced development decisions.

Keywords: Risk management, multi-hazard risk assessment, prevention, sustainable development.