

**MULTI-HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING:  
LESSONS FROM THE MISRAR, PRISMA AND CRISMAS PROJECTS**

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**ABSTRACT**

In the EU, the use of holistic multi-hazard risk assessment as a basis for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) strategies is on the rise. The EU requires national governments to perform a multi-hazard National Disaster Risk Assessment. Also regional and local governments level try to integrate sectoral risk assessments – from floods to disruption of critical infrastructures, from social unrest to pandemic zoonosis, from extreme weather to industrial accidents – into a holistic approach to inform DRM and resilience policies. However, the interconnection of this all hazard approach with existing sectoral safety regulations, environmental protection policy and spatial planning processes remains a daunting quest, especially for sub-national governments with their limited resources.

Since 2010, local and regional governments from nine different countries -the Netherlands, Portugal (Aveiro and Mirandela), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Moldova and Norway - are cooperating in three consecutive EU-funded projects. The aim of the first project - MiSRaR (Mitigation of Spatial Relevant Risks in European Regions and Towns) - was to exchange knowledge on spatial risk mitigation, including methods for risk assessment, capability planning and stakeholder involvement. The shared insights have been compiled into the practical, non-technical MiSRaR handbook, aimed to help local governments to develop risk management processes. In the second project - PRISMA (Promoting Risk Management and Assessment) - the lessons of MiSRaR have been simultaneously tested on local cases for external safety, urban fire safety and wild fires, whilst the international project partners were learning from each other's experiences. In the third project – CRISMAS (Community for Risk Management and Assessment) – the lessons from the previous two projects are being used to develop the local risk management practice outside the EU: in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Norway.

The main aim of this presentation is to share the practical lessons learnt of the eleven local governments. These lessons cover a wide range of subjects, including coordination and stakeholder involvement, all-hazard risk identification, the use of different risk analysis methodologies, political risk evaluation and implementation of local DRM policies.

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