

## The legal basis for dealing with natural hazards in spatial planning in different EU countries

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Many countries have established different national policies and legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction. At the European level, the EU can influence the implementation and content of certain laws and acts through directives. However, there is no common framework for risk management and reduction. Instead, risk reduction is managed through sectoral directives, such as the Seveso Directive and the Flood Directive (Llosa and Zodrow, 2011). Due to the missing overall EU framework and to prevalent differences in the development of a certain risk awareness and resulting legislation, national approaches of dealing with natural hazards differ throughout the EU.

The study presented involves a comparison of the legal basis for dealing with natural hazards in spatial planning in Poland and France. The selection of this focus is guided by the fact that spatial planning is a risk management instrument and therefore plays an important role in risk prevention. Thus, it is essential that spatial planning anticipates potential future risks and confronts them with possible consequences of actions taken (Fleischhauer et al, 2006). In consideration of these statements, an effective framework is needed that regulates how natural hazards should be taken into account in spatial planning.

Results of the study are based on evidence taken from field visits and stakeholder meetings in the Polish and French case study areas of the Marie Curie ITN, CHANGES<sup>1</sup> and supported with desk research. Preliminary results indicate that France has a well-elaborated framework of natural hazard management due to the long tradition of hazard mapping and risk management instruments. In contrast, in Poland the legal framework for dealing with flood and landslide hazards is mainly characterized by recent changes. These changes are often consequences of subsequent natural events overlapping political transition, which encourages continuous alteration of these frameworks. By comparing the respective strategies and procedures in the case study sites at the local level, further results indicate shortcomings and potential best practices that may help improve national and local (spatial planning-related) risk management approaches in the future.

### Preliminary bibliography:

Fleischhauer, M, Greiving, S. and Wanczura, S. eds., 2006. Natural hazards and spatial planning in Europe. Dortmund: Dortmunder Vertrieb für Bau- und Planungsliteratur.

Llosa, S. and Zodrow, I., 2011. Disaster Risk Reduction Legislation as a basis for effective adaptation. [online] Available at:  
[http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2011/en/bgdocs/Llosa\\_&\\_Zodrow\\_2011.pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2011/en/bgdocs/Llosa_&_Zodrow_2011.pdf)

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