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# KNOW-4-DRR: ENABLING KNOWLEDGE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN INTEGRATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

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The fact that natural disasters continue to cause high social and economic losses in Europe makes the need for effective disaster risk reduction and adaptation policies apparent. Despite considerable efforts made hitherto, the risk from natural hazards is projected in the future to further increase in many regions due to a series of processes among them an on-going concentration of human activities in risk-prone areas, as well as the projected effects of global warming.

Enabling knowledge for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) requires a strong joint effort of scientists, practitioners, decisions makers, educators and civil society actors with the common goal to develop appropriate skills of sets and solutions for disaster reduction and management. In practice, however, knowledge even if available, is often fragmented within and among these groups and not adequately integrated in decisions on DRR and the further implementation of risk reducing measures.

The relationship between knowledge, decision-making, and implementation in the context of DRR and CCA is one of complex interactions, as multiple levels and scales are involved, as well as a wide range of stakeholders and competencies dealing with constantly changing risks that require dynamic adaptation. Additional scientific information and understanding of natural processes does not necessarily lead to more effective DRR and CCA, as there are various barriers to the implementation of knowledge besides the common one that information is disregarded or not known to the user.

FP7-EU funded research project KNOW-4-DRR (http://www.know4drr.polimi.it) tries to contribute to a better use of knowledge for decision making and implementation for DRR and CCA. The main aim of the project is to establish a framework for a knowledge management system that may be considered as a comprehensive framework reference for establishing, reinforcing or revising current prevention, mitigation and adaptation strategies. Such knowledge system will embody what has been achieved in different arenas and by different actors in the field of prevention, preparedness and adaptation.

The project has already completed a detailed analysis of main knowledge fragmentation issues within and across the following four stakeholder groups identified by the consortium: scientists, public sector (decision-makers in public and practice), private sector, and civil society. The analysis employed thirteen diverse experience reports provided by the project partners, in order to identify the main stakeholders in DRR and CCA in different contexts and disaster phases and to pinpoint where fragmentation issues exist. At the end, barriers as well as pathways in knowledge production, sharing, maintenance, and usage for DRR and CCA have been put forward. These provide input for the development of the KNOW-4-DRR knowledge system for enabling knowledge for DRR and CCA.

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