Risk Data
and the
EU Solidarity Fund

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Johannes Wachter
Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF) - Main Characteristics

- Set up in 2002 to provide financial assistance to Member States and accession countries (TR, MN, RS) in response to severe natural disasters

- **No emergency/rapid response instrument**

- Addresses exclusively the *response and recovery phase* of the disaster risk management cycle (also ex post)

- Support for **public** emergency and reconstruction operations

- No financing of prevention and preparedness measures

- No coverage of private damage

- **Revision 2014** inter alia to strengthen risk management responsibilities of Member States
**EUSF - What can it do?**

- Support public emergency and recovery operations:
  - restoration of **essential infrastructure** (transport, water/waste water, energy, education ...)
  - **rescue operations** and **temporary accommodation**
  - securing of **preventive infrastructure** and protection of **cultural heritage**
  - **Cleaning-up** operations

- Excluded from support are:
  - Losses falling under **third-party liability**
  - **private losses** (individuals, businesses, agriculture...)
  - **prevention** measures
EUSF - Budget/Financing

- Provides additional **fresh money** over and above EU budget
- Annual allocation: up to **€500 million** (2011 prices) plus unspent amounts from preceding year
- Mobilisation by **decision of EP and Council** following Commission proposal
- Possibility of rapid 10% **advance payments**, max. €30 million
- **Implementation by affected States** ("shared management") within 18 months of full payment by Commission
- Complementarity with economic recovery investments through **European Structural Funds**
**EUSF - Results**

- **139 applications** received, of which **85 applications** accepted
- over **€5.2 billion in aid** mobilised
- Aid amounts between 240 000€ and 1.2 billion€, median aid amount 13.5 million€
- **24 beneficiary countries**, 
  - Biggest beneficiaries: **IT >€2,5 bn, DE >€1 bn, FR €253 mio** (AT: €171 mio)
  - Largest number of interventions: IT (9), RO (7), FR (6)
  - 2/3 of all disasters caused by **flooding** and **storm**, highest single damage caused by **earthquakes**
  - Other categories: forest fires, drought, severe winter, volcanic eruption
EUSF – Assistance paid

Total EUSF contribution approved per beneficiary State since 2002
(€ million/rounded)
EUSF - loss data, what we know

- **Highest number of disasters, biggest overall damage:**
  - 2002 **floods** DE, AT, CZ
  - 2013 **floods** DE, AT, CZ

- **Highest single direct losses:**
  - IT **earthquakes** 2016/17 (£ 21.8 billion)
  - IT Emilia-Romagna **earthquake** (£ 13.3 billion)
  - IT L'Aquila **earthquake** (£ 10.2 billion)
  - DE **floods** 2002 (£ 9.1 billion)

- **Forest fires:** dramatic but limited damage, many do not qualify
EUSF – Occurrence by type of disaster

85 EUSF applications approved since 2002
- division by disaster

- Flooding: 51
- Drought & fires: 13
- Storm: 9
- Forest fires: 6
- Earthquakes: 3
- Volcano eruption: 1
- Adverse winter: 9
- Other: 1
EUSF - Cost of main hazards in Europe since 2002 (mio €)

- Forest Fires: 7000
- Floods: 58500
- Earthquakes: 49850
EUSF - Conditions for mobilisation, a closer look

- Upon **application** of national government within 12 weeks
- **Natural disasters** only
- **Direct damage above country-specific threshold**
  - Major disasters: 0.6% of GNI or € 3 billion at national level,
  - Regional disasters: 1.5% of GDP at NUTS 2 level
  - « Neighbouring » disasters
**EUSF - Why risk data matters**

- Total direct **damage** is **key criterion**
  - for EUSF **mobilisation**, and
  - for determination of **aid amount**

- Time factor: Damage assessment by Member States delays application (max. 12 weeks)

- No harmonised methodology

- Lengthy (plausibility) assessment of applications by Commission

- How to achieve reliable results?

- How to accelerate payment of assistance?

- How to ensure equitable treatment?
EUSF – more information online

- EUSF website:
  - Legal texts
  - Application forms
  - Guidelines
  - Threshold tables
  - Method for determining aid amounts
  - Press releases
  - Annual reports ….. and much more
Thank you for your attention!