

Dear policymakers, practitioners or scientists,

It is deeply encouraging to see how quickly the scientific community has mobilized to play its full part in implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 with the overall aim of reducing disaster risks and losses, and shifting the emphasis from managing disasters to managing the underlying risks.

The Sendai Framework clearly recognises the strong role that the scientific community can play in improved understanding of risk and communicating on new knowledge and innovation. The European Commission took the initiative early by launching the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre in September 2015, just six months after the adoption of the Sendai Framework as a contribution to the Science and

Technology Roadmap. Now we have this insightful publication as the first fruit of its labours.

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC) have been partners to stimulate new research and to encourage the use of available science by all stakeholders.

JRC was one of the co-organisers of the UNISDR Science and Technology Conference in January 2016, which produced an ambitious Science and Technology Roadmap and launched the Science and Technology Partnership.

The JRC has worked with over 200 top scientists, practitioners and policy makers from many fields to summarise the state of the science relevant to disaster risk management, and to make it accessible in this current report. The aim is to break out of the silos, demystify work from other disciplines, encourage potential synergies across disciplines, and to identify gaps in scientific knowl-

edge for future research.

This report summarises the state of relevant science from a European perspective. We consider it as the start of a continuing process, the beginning of a wider, worldwide partnership to summarise knowledge globally, and make it available to the disaster risk management community.

The report is timely for the discussions at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Mexico in May 2017. It caters for the need to translate the wealth of available science into language understandable by stakeholders such as policy makers, practitioners and scientists from other disciplines.

We invite you to engage with us, now and in the future, to enhance the science-policy interface so that strategies for disaster risk reduction at national and local level, which will be put in place by the Sendai Framework deadline of 2020, are based on sound evidence and robust science.



Robert Glasser,
United Nations Special Representative
of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction



Vladimir Šucha,
Director General,
European Commission, Joint Research Centre