

Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre

New challenges, new opportunities

In the current landscape, in which the intensification of the effects of natural and technological hazards due to climate change is combined with new ways of threatening our societies, the establishment of strong alliances to reinforce our capacities to better protect our future has become a must.

A growing number of European Commission services are collaborating to reinforce the links between the different policies relating to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and disaster risk management (DRM). The aim is to maximise the impact of an optimised implementation of DRR and DRM policies. Policymakers and risk managers increasingly rely on the wealth of existing knowledge at all stages of the DRM cycle: adaptation, mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery and reconstruction.

While complexity and uncertainty are growing and many developments cannot be predicted, a stronger anticipation culture would strengthen the EU's resilience. Understanding disaster risk is essential to increasing resilience and contributes to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Commission Knowledge Centres

The Commission officially endorsed the concept of knowledge centres in the Commission communication on data, information and knowledge management (C(2016) 6626). These centres bring together experts and knowledge from inside and outside the Commission, creating a new instrument for developing and pursuing informed and evidence-based EU policies.

The Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC) provides a networked approach to the science-policy interface on DRM, across the Commission, the EU Member States and the DRM community within and beyond the EU.

Integrated disaster risk management

The driving force of the DRMKC is collaboration. Relying on the expertise of the wider DRM community, the DRMKC proposes and coordinates actions to consolidate collective knowledge across scientific disciplines and economic sectors, while reinforcing the existing links between DRM- and DRR-related policies.

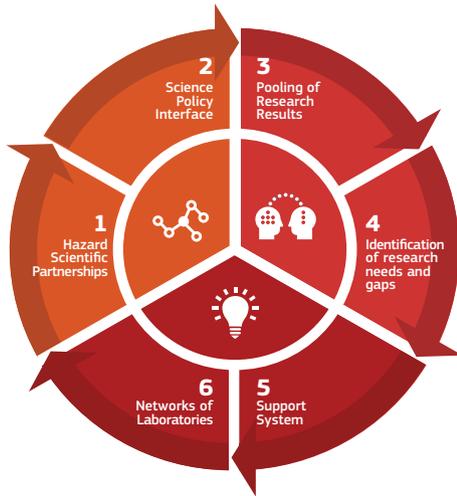
While knowledge is abundant, gaps do, of course, still exist. The DRMKC contributes to mapping these gaps, thus fostering more focused and needs-driven policy development.

In practice

Supported and empowered by cooperation between experienced scientific networks, the DRMKC offers a collaborative space and takes a multidisciplinary approach to the complexity of DRM, putting forward specific collective goals to be reached in support of the development of a more sustainable future.

The DRMKC builds on three pillars:

Partnerships. To achieve the ambitious goal of fully exploiting complex science and translating it into useful policy and applications in DRM, the DRMKC works to foster the transfer of knowledge and technologies between networks specialising in different hazards and threats (the source of the knowledge) to enable these networks to strengthen the science–policy interface by providing integrated support to the policy cycle (where that knowledge applies).



Knowledge. Scientific research results and operational knowledge gained from lessons learned, exercises, training, peer review and other assessment tools need to be better exploited in the DRM cycle to mitigate risks and vulnerabilities and to improve responses when disaster strikes.

- A common repository of relevant research and operational projects and results is accessible through DRMKC Projects Explorer.
- DRMKC Gaps Explorer offers science-based knowledge and targeted recommendations on the way forward, tailored to different stakeholder profiles and hazards.
- Summarising science and contributing to the identification of new challenges are key objectives of the DRMKC, which are implemented with the involvement of the larger DRM community through the regular preparation of Science for DRM reports.

Innovation. There is a strong need for a common space where continuous sharing, testing, training, benchmarking, validation and promotion of more and more focused innovations relating to all phases of the DRM cycle can take place.

- The DRMKC Risk Data Hub is a multi-hazard geoportal intended to provide a common tool for scientists, practitioners and policymakers and to support the bridging of science and policy, the past and the future, and different levels of governance in the context of DRM.
- The Index for Risk Management (Inform) provides quantitative assessments of the risk of humanitarian crises in multi-hazard contexts, with a major focus on developing countries.
- The European Crisis Management Laboratory (ECML) is a permanent infrastructure hosted by the Joint Research Centre that acts as an research and development and test facility for ICT-focused solutions. ECML integrates devices, applications and crisis management-related information sources to support crisis management needs, such as threat analysis, common situational awareness, training and collaborative decision-making.

The DRMKC is supported and coordinated by a number of Commission services in partnership with a key network of Member States. Its steering committee meets regularly to propose, discuss and establish the activities and priorities of the knowledge centre.

The DRMKC web platform (<http://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>) facilitates information and knowledge sharing, while reinforcing connections between science, operational activities and policy.