FP7 Cooperation Work Programme 2010: Environment Sub-activity 6.1.3 Natural Hazards

Science for better forecasting, prediction & early warning

There is a need to improve our knowledge from hazard – to risk assessment & develop science underpinning our capacity to forecast & predict possible scenarios for key hazards. We should address in an exhaustive way the issue of forecasting-predictability & early warning as a strong component of risk prevention & sustainable risk management. The approach will cover science underpinning the geophysical phenomenon & the social/economic dimensions. The international cooperation is encouraged with some regions of the world vulnerable to geological hazards: Earthquakes (Asia), volcanoes (Latin America) & Tsunamis (Mediterranean countries)

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Climate-related disaster risks reduction

Higher temperatures induced by climate change & effects on extreme events, including floods, droughts, storms & avalanches are projected to have increasing impacts on the environment & society as a whole. Research in this area will improve preparedness for the adaptation/mitigation to hydro-meteorological climate related extreme events & risk situations for society. Options will be designed to develop disaster reduction & adaptation strategies, policies & measures, taking into account land use, multiple risks, changing vulnerability, resilience patterns & cost efficiency requirements, in order to reduce the extent to which extreme events result in disaster.

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Vulnerable communities, capacity building & resilience

Global climate change may increase the frequency, intensity & coverage of climate related hazards or disaster related issues. Demographic changes may expose populations & consequently increase the vulnerability of natural & human systems. It is important to increase the resilience capacity of the environment (natural & human systems) & develop risk management strategies, tools & measures considering the societal behaviour, in order to provide a reliable frame for action to reduce vulnerability. This capacity should be build at national, regional & international level in order to facilitate coordination & networking at the improvement & harmonisation of methods & tools employed in exposure assessment, risk assessment & health impacts assessment of the environmental stressors. Research on greater integration between the fields of the environmental & human risk assessment will lead to increased efficiency & less duplication of efforts, more complete assessments & the possibility of using wildlife as sentinels for human risks.

FP7 Cooperation Work Programme 2010: Environment Sub-activity 6.5.1 Dissemination & horizontal activities

Uptake of research results through knowledge platforms with international collaboration partners

After many years of international dialogue & collaboration, several research networks have been established between Europe & third country researchers in the area of environmental research. The uptake of results from these networks needs to be furher promoed through knowledge platforms involving stakeholders; that is researchers from past or current EU funded projects, local authorities, NGOs SME, educational partners etc. Knowledge plaforms should promote good practices for uptake of research results with focus on e-tools. Priority should be given to Africa & climate change adaptation issues.