Risk information and policy implications

The importance of the quality-assured, systematically collected and thorough datasets on impacts of natural hazards, the loss data systems (LDS) have been highlighted by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the OECD.

Currently, empirical data on losses from natural hazards in Europe are fragmented and inconsistent. Because open and accessible records on disaster impacts and losses are prejudiced by data gaps, European policy-makers have little choice but to resort to proprietary data collection.

The Sendai Framework calls on the national and regional government **to better appreciate the (knowledge of)** risk. Empirical and evidence-based risk analysis and assessment are a vital part of the disaster risk reduction efforts (e.g. JRC, 2015). The open-ended intergovernmental expert working group (IEWG) was instituted to develop a set of indicators for measuring global progress.

The Sendai Framework is not alone in this quest. The OECD invited the member countries to better prepare for catastrophic and critical risks (OECD, 2010, 2014). The draft Sendai Framework indicators focus currently on direct damage and structural/physical losses. However, the OECD recommended **considering the whole distributional and implied ripple or spillover effects of natural hazards**, which is now also discussed between countries and UNISDR.

The European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EC, 2013) compels the EU member states **to conduct risk as-** **sessments**, where possible also in economic terms, at national or appropriate sub-national level. They also have to make a summary of the relevant elements thereof available to the Commission by December 2015 and every three years thereafter. For both purposes, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) is developing loss indicators that should be part of operational disaster loss databases (De Groeve et al., 2013; 2014; 2015).

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