

Policy implications

Multi-sector partnerships have proven to be a very effective mechanism for managing risk events. They have often evolved around a long-standing culture of risk management, tailored to particular locations suffering from recurring natural hazards. With the results of our analysis we can confirm the main characteristics of a risk culture that are beneficial to risk management. Those characteristics are partly shaped by the perception of risk of the people involved in the partnership.

There is a need to support these MSPs and governments should assist the creation of multi-sector partnerships to manage risks and take advantage of the synergies between stakeholders. This support should also be reflected in the legislative field, for example, through including guidelines and criteria for the creation of MSPs that will in turn help to further analyse the effectiveness of MSPs.

Nevertheless, we have to recognise that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution and that MSPs are shaped by the hazard they face and also by the social, political and historical background. For example, the creation of an MSP in areas facing the same hazard for many consecutive years will be easier than in areas where no tradition of a particular hazard's management exists. MSPs are very likely to occur even in an informal way in regions where a certain hazard has a recurrent nature (e.g. droughts in the Júcar River Basin District). Thus, it is important or even necessary that these informal MSPs are further legalised, stimulating a good governance structure to optimise the risk management process.

Another possibility is that risk management is done in a very local/individual basis. Our work shows that MSPs are the epitome for proper risk management, so there is an evolution from the individual to the partnership approach.