



PREEMPT

Policy-relevant assessment of socio-economic
effects of droughts and floods

THE VALUE OF KNOWING BETTER **Assessment of losses from natural hazards** **Policy Expert Workshop**

Venice, 29 and 30 November 2012

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Island of San Giorgio Maggiore

PREEMPT is a project funded by the European Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) in the context of the Financial Instruments for Civil Protection which aims to assist the relevant authorities to better appreciate the risks posed by droughts and floods. The knowledge collected and improved by this project will be instrumental in strengthening several EU policies and national efforts to mitigate natural hazard risk. This is especially timely as the designated river basin authorities are now in process of implementing the provisions of the Water Framework and Flood Directives.

In fact, over the past decades, the European Union witnessed a striking increase in the losses caused by natural, and particularly hydro-meteorological disasters. Every year large areas of Europe are hit by droughts and/or floods, directly or indirectly affecting many communities and economic sectors. Floods and droughts cannot be prevented but their adverse impacts can be reduced. Effective prevention requires accurate knowledge of what is at stake. Yet the knowledge about the past disasters is erratic and incomplete. At best, only direct losses are known and then only for some of the key sectors. Little attention is paid to indirect, induced and intangible effects, albeit these together may exceed the direct losses in the case of droughts, and account for significant damage in the case of flood. As a consequence, the actual losses are underestimated and policy responses which are based on such data are insufficient or inadequate to determine if measures are needed to mitigate future disaster risks. The project sets to support the relevant authorities in better appreciating the risks posed by droughts and floods. It does so by collecting the data about past disasters, filling the knowledge and data gaps - in particular those concerning indirect and intangible losses, both economic and social, and by improving risk assessment methods and approaches in place.

This Policy Expert Workshop is intended to convey key results of the project to a wider scientific and risk practitioners' community. It includes a capacity development component for representatives of the relevant governmental agencies and academic institutions from all participating countries and river basins.

The PREEMPT Project - Policy-relevant assessment of economic and social effects of hydro-meteorological disaster - has been carried out with the contribution of the Civil Protection Financial Instrument of the European Union under the Grant Agreement no.: 070401/2010/579119/SUB/C4

Agenda

Friday 30 November 2012

09:30 - 10:30 Welcome address

09:30 - 09:50 *Carlo Carraro*, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei and Ca' Foscari University of Venice

09:50 - 10:10 *Bernardo De Bernardinis*, Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale, ISPRA

10:10 - 10:30 *Alexander Kopke*, European Commission – Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

10:30 – 13:30 Session 1: Capacity Enhancement for Flood and Drought Management & Policy

Chair: *Caroline van Bers*, Society Economy Ecology Consulting GmbH, SEECONSULT

10:30 - 10:50 The value of knowing better - the role of disaster impact assessment for the risk management
Jaroslav Mysiak, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, FEEM

10:50 - 11:10 Categories of disaster losses
Eduard Interwies, INTERSUS Sustainability Services

11:10 - 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30 - 11:50 Assessment of direct and indirect losses
Sebastien Foudi, Basque Centre for Climate Change, BC3

11:50 - 12:10 Vulnerability assessment
Stef Michielsen, ANTEA Group

12:10 - 12:50 Disaster risk reduction – policies and measures addressing flood and drought events
Caroline van Bers, Society Economy Ecology Consulting GmbH, SEECONSULT
Eduard Interwies, INTERSUS Sustainability Services
Nuria Hernández-Mora, Centro de Estudios e Investigación para la Gestión de Riesgos Agrarios y Medioambientales, CEIGRAM-UPM

12:50 - 13:30 Discussion with Expert and Stakeholders

13:30 - 14:30 *Lunch*

14:30 - 16:30 Final Session 2: Presentation of the Draft Guidelines and Policy Brief

Chair: *Ibon Galarraga*, Basque Centre for Climate Change, BC3

14:30 - 14:50 EU Flood Directive 2007/60/EC
Barbara Lastoria, Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale, ISPRA

14:50 - 15:10 PREEMPT and the EU Flood Directive 2007/60/EC
Eduard Interwies, INTERSUS Sustainability Services

15:10 - 15:30 PREEMPT and the EU Action on Water Scarcity and Drought
Alberto Garrido, Centro de Estudios e Investigación para la Gestión de Riesgos Agrarios y Medioambientales, CEIGRAM-UPM

15:30 - 15:50 PREEMPT and the EU Disaster Risk Reduction
Jaroslav Mysiak, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, FEEM

15:50 - 16:30 Discussion

16:30 - 17:00 Concluding remarks
Jaroslav Mysiak, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, FEEM