



Newsletter 2

December 2010

Mitigating Spatial Relevant Risks in European Regions and Towns (MiSRaR)

MiSRaR is in full swing. Following the start of MiSRaR in the spring of 2010, this is the second newsletter of the European project, in which knowledge and experiences in the area spatial risk mitigation are exchanged. Are you working in the field of mitigating spatial relevant risks and are you interested to share knowledge and experience in this field, than MiSRaR might be of great interest to you.

The MiSRaR project

MiSRaR aims to improve risk management policies throughout the European Union. The project works on this objective by improving every step of the risk mitigation process. In this first year MiSRaR partners defined the first steps of the mitigation process and exchanged experiences on this topic: Risk Assessment.

The European project MiSRaR is funded by the Interreg IVC programme. It is implemented by seven partners. The safety region South Holland South is lead partner in the project. Other partners are the municipality of Tallinn (Estonia), the prefecture of Thesprotia (Greece), the province of Forli (Italy), de municipalities of Aveiro and Mirandela (Portugal) and the Euro Perspective Foundation (Bulgaria)

The first six months of MiSRaR

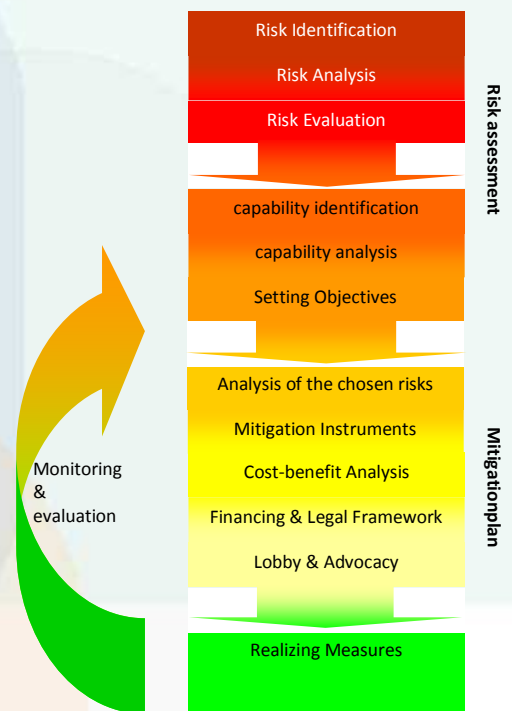
On the 8th of March 2010, a kick off was organized in Dordrecht for all the project managers. All partners have organized a local seminar by which they introduced the project to their own local network. These seminars specifically focus on the involvement of local networks.

On the 26th of May 2010, all partners signed the partnership agreement during the steering committee meeting, closing the inception phase of the MiSRaR project formally. Also the [website](#) of the project was launched.

On the 27th and 28th of May the first thematic seminar on hazard identification was organized in South Holland South. All partners presented practices in the field of hazard identification.

The second seminar was organized in Aveiro, Portugal on the 21st and 22nd of June. The seminar focused on the risk analysis phase.

You can read more about this in our [first newsletter](#).





The second 6 months of MiSRaR

During the second half of the year, from 1 July to 31 December 2010, the emphasis of the project was placed fully on the exchange of knowledge. The project partners agreed that risk mitigation could best be tackled in a plan-based approach, which requires a good analysis of the safety situation and the identification of political-administrative priorities. By giving presentations, conducting discussions and on-site visits, further insight was acquired in the themes of risk assessment and the formulation of mitigation goals.

Three seminars were successively organised in Tallinn, Forli and Thesprotia.

Risk assessment and the formulation of goals as the basis of the mitigation plan

Tallinn

In Tallinn, the participants discussed Risk Evaluation as the third step in the process of Risk Assessment. Determining administrative priorities remains a difficult issue in all countries. Participants discussed this with the aid of examples in the area of flood risks threats to the Natura2000 projects.

A visit to the Natura2000 area and the port of Tallinn provided good insight into the challenges faced by the district of Tallinn North.



Forli-Cesena

In Forli, the seminar focused on the joint discussion on the various process steps within risk assessment. As a result, less emphasis was placed on the presentation of own examples. The resulting discussion served as a prelude to drawing up the brochure and manual. As regards Risk Assessment, the participants decided to seek a link with current developments within the European Union, which intends to issue a guideline in this area in the near future.

It is a very important to the project partners that the MiSRaR coordinates its activities accordingly.



Much attention was also given in Forli to the organisation and processes of Civil Protection. A visit to the Ridracoli Dyke and a landslide site gave a clear impression of the risks that exist in the province of Forli-Cesena and the manner in which the authorities respond.



Thesprotia

The final seminar of this year was held in Igoumenitsa, Greece, with the theme 'setting concrete goals'. The central question was how administrative priorities can be translated into concrete goals in the migration plan.

Using a questionnaire sent in advance, which made for easier comparison, the various partners gave information on the situation in their own country. Like all other documents used in the seminars, the completed questionnaires can be found on the website of the MiSRaR project, www.misrar.eu.



A field study was organised, involving a visit to the Natura2000 area and the port of Igoumenitsa. While the port of Igoumenitsa now primarily has an important function in terms of ferry services, there are plans to significantly expand the port activities to include container transport, for example. The visit to the port authorities and the fire brigade clearly showed how important it is to already give serious thought to safety goals in the spatial planning phase.

Experiences to date

Various lessons can be learned from this first year of MiSRaR. The most important are named below.

- As the seminars are held in all partner countries, participants receive firsthand exposure to regional, national and international knowledge.
- The use of standardised questionnaires per topic makes it easier to compare situations in the partner countries. That has a positive effect on both discussion and exchange.
- Cooperation within the MiSRaR project strengthens and advances cooperation between the MiSRaR participants and their own partners at national level.
- Due to the international approach, it is clear that the absence of (local) background information in English makes it more difficult to access and understand the best practices presented.
- It is generally recognized that risk analysis and administrative prioritisation are important factors when working on mitigation.
- Objectives in the area of mitigation should be SMART formulated to enable translation into practical measures.





Looking to the future

Risk assessment and setting goals. This serves as the basis of a targeted mitigation approach. During the coming months, exchange will centre on the actual drawing up of a mitigation plan. The seminars on this subject will be held in Zuid-Holland Zuid (February), Mirandela (April) and Gabrovo (June).

Communications

The MiSRaR project received press coverage on several occasions during the past year. Local media gave attention to MiSRaR in all the countries that organised a seminar. The English-language website has since been filled with international and local information, with over 2000 visits in the past nine months. Statistics show that the website has already attracted interest from persons in over 30 countries.

Articles have featured in publications for emergency services in both Italy and the Netherlands. To view these articles, go to www.misrar.eu/publications/

