



Workshop

Building resilient communities through urban planning and the integration of the Natural Sciences:

Integrating hazard and risk data into policymaking for inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements

13 January 2015

University of Geneva, Uni Mail, Geneva, Switzerland

Workshop organizers

CERG-C, Section of Earth and environmental sciences, University of Geneva
UNEP Committee on Housing and Land Management

Workshop language: English

Duration of the workshop: One day (from 08:45 to 18:00)

Location

Room MR040. University of Geneva / Uni Mail
Bd du Pont-d'Arve 40
1205 Geneva
Switzerland

Introduction

Natural and human-induced hazards strongly affect vulnerable populations, especially the urban poor. These hazards, along with the effects of climate change, are posing unprecedented challenges to cities and human settlements while they are a serious threat to social and economic development. The vulnerability of these hazard-prone regions is exacerbated by dense population in hazardous areas, environmental degradation, unsustainable use of water and natural resources, and poverty. Additional impacts include the increasing value of buildings, and infrastructure that deprives many social groups of adequate and affordable housing, lack of access to information, and deficiencies in urban planning and governance in emerging countries and cities. Many of these impacts are the consequence of natural and human-induced hazards, and they can be prevented if governments develop and implement urban planning tools and policies built from the Natural Sciences and related studies on hazards and risks.

This workshop will discuss the integration of hazard and risk analysis into policy making for cities and human settlements.

Workshop objective

To discuss the integration of Natural Science data and research into the development of comprehensive natural disaster-risk mitigation strategies for cities and human settlements.

Specific objectives

1. To identify main impacts of natural and human-induced hazards on cities and human settlements
2. To determine the type of hazard and vulnerability data and evaluation required by policy makers for a comprehensive and risk-sensitive urban planning
3. To identify the main challenges associated with the integration of hazard and vulnerability data within risk-sensitive urban planning

Expected workshop outcomes

It is expected that at the end of the workshop, participants from different organizations and institutions, including policymakers, scientists, academics and experts will have:

- Contributed to strengthen the links between the Natural Sciences and policymaking;
- Identified the areas where expertise, available information and knowledge of Natural Science and research can be integrated into policymaking for inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements;
- Contributed to the elaboration of a consensual document that summarizes the break-out sessions and includes recommendations and contributions to the UNECE Policy Study on Urban Planning.

Acknowledgements

The workshop is jointly organized by the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Programme on Assessment and Management of Geological and Climate Related Risk – (CERG-C) of the University of Geneva.

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Agenda

08:45 - 09:15	Registration
09:15 - 09:30	<p>Welcome notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prof. Jérôme Lacour, Dean of Faculty of Sciences, University of Geneva</i> • <i>Ms. Gulnara Roll, Head, Housing and Land Management Unit, UNECE</i>
09:30 - 09:40	<p>Introduction and workshop objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prof. Costanza Bonadonna, Director, CERG-C, University of Geneva</i>
Session 1.	
09:40 - 11:10	<p>Seismic hazards in urban areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Earthquake hazard and risk in urban areas - Prof. Donat Fäh, ETH Zürich, Switzerland</i> • <i>Disaster as a window of opportunity? Planning and planners in the reconstruction of Kalamata city, Greece, after the 1986 earthquakes - Dr. Miranda Dandoulaki, National Centre of Public Administration and Local Government, Greece</i> <p>Climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Climate change and cities - Prof. Martin Beniston, University of Geneva, Switzerland</i> • <i>Information and mapping for making good decisions in the planning process: Sweden/City of Karlstad - Ms. Anna Sjödin. UNISDR UPAG, Sweden</i> <p>Multi-hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Risk Changes: Spatial Decision Support System for the analysis of changing multi-hazard risk - Prof. Cees Van Westen, ITC, Netherlands</i> • <i>Complex urban disasters challenging cities' development - Prof. Adriana Galderisi, University Federico II of Naples, Italy</i>
11:10 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:00	<p>Impact assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Systemic analysis of territories for global impact assessment - Mr. Eric Leroi, URBATER, France</i> • <i>Impact assessment to support more resilient, recovery and enhanced risk mitigation strategies - Prof. Scira Menoni, Politecnico de Milano, CERG-C, Italy</i>
12:00-12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Human Induced Hazards: Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents - Mr. Nikolay Savov, UNECE, Switzerland</i> • <i>Spatial planning: An integrated and coordinated approach - Mr. Louis Gatt, Personal Secretary Parliamentary Secretariat for Planning and Simplification of Administrative Processes, Government of Malta</i>
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break

Session 2.	
13:30 – 13:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Human Settlement information to support Disaster Risk Reduction- <i>Dr. Daniele Ehrlich, JRC - European Commission</i> • UNECE Policy Study on Urban Planning – <i>Mr. Michele Melchiorri and Mr. Noel Sampson, UNECE secretariat</i>
Session 3. Break-out sessions	
13:50 –14:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructions and organization for break-out sessions <i>Prof. Costanza Bonadonna, Director, CERG-C, University of Geneva</i>
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Participants are divided into 3 groups to discuss the specific objectives of the workshop:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. To identify main impacts of natural and human-induced hazards on cities and human settlements 5. To determine the type of hazard and vulnerability data and evaluation required by policy makers for a comprehensive and risk-sensitive urban planning 6. To identify the main challenges associated with the integration of hazard and vulnerability data within risk-sensitive urban planning
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 17:30	Plenary: Presentations of each group results
17:30 – 18:00	Concluding remarks