



Social Capacity Assessment for communities and organisations in the CapHaz-Net context

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Instead of focusing on physical conditions of a hazard, CapHaz-Net regards the occurrence of a disaster as a result of people, communities and organisations lacking capacities to anticipate, cope with and recover from the impact of a natural hazard. Therefore, the CapHaz-Net project has pooled together knowledge surrounding six topics relating to the social side of natural hazards. These theoretical topics, which include social capacity building, risk governance, social vulnerability, risk perception, risk communication and risk education have been reviewed in terms of how they relate to and how we can improve actions relating to natural hazards.

One of the results of this work has been the development of capacities typology that relates to the abilities and resources available to organisations and communities in regards to a future hazard event. It is from this typology we have developed two social capacity audits; one for communities and one for organisations. These assessments aim to identify appropriate measures and strategies regarding how to enhance, develop and build different kinds of capacities. The final outcome of the project is to develop recommendations. By using these assessments participants will be able to identify strong capacities and can refer to the recommendations for tips on how to improve capacities identified as weak. Most importantly, the assessment process is designed to be a self-assessment, completed by members of the community/organisation with the help of a facilitator. That way deficits and outcomes are defined by those who are most likely to be affected by a future hazard event and most likely to be implementing improvements towards resilience.