



Handbook for Volcanic Risk Management: an outcome from MIAVITA project

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Volcanic eruptions are one of the most impressive, violent and dramatic agents of change on Earth, threatening hundreds of millions of people. The crises management implies a strong cooperation among the main stakeholders (e.g., civil protection authorities, scientific institutions, operational forces). Considering the great amount of different actions required during the whole volcanic cycle (e.g., preparedness, unrest phase, crisis management, resilience), the role and responsibilities of stakeholders should be clarified in advance. In particular, the role of scientists, fundamental in all the phases, should be well discussed with the other stakeholders and well defined, for every country. This will allow a better management and response, and contribute to avoid misunderstanding. The new “Handbook for Volcanic Risk Management” issued by the MIAVITA European project, funded by the European Commission (Mitigate and Assess risk from Volcanic Impact on Terrain and human Activities) gives a contribution to that. Indeed, this handbook aims at synthesizing the acquired knowledge on volcanic risk management, such as prevention, preparedness, mitigation, intervention, crisis management and resilience, in a practical and useful way. It promotes the creation of an ideal bridge between different actors involved in risk management, improving and facilitating interactions among authorities and scientists. This work is based on current scientific research and the shared experience of the different MIAVITA project partners as well as on international good practices previously recommended.

The handbook is composed of six sections. The first one briefly explains the global volcanic context and the principles of corresponding risk management. Section 2 contains a description of volcanic phenomena, damage and understanding size and effects that can be expected. Sections 3, 4 and 5 meet preparation and prevention issues and describe actions to be undertaken during the response phase of the volcano in order to improve the preparedness of stakeholders and population and to minimize the effects of future eruptions. The last one, section 6, deals with crisis management and shows some recovery examples.

In sections 4, 5 and 6, the readers can find the proposed definition of roles and responsibilities for the main actors, and some insights and good practices to improve the capability of the civil protection system to better include the scientific communities. Suggestions are also given in order to develop a common training in order to have efficient communication with the media, setting up a collaborative approach with the media itself, with the civil protection authorities, and with the public.

The handbook It is presently available for free on the following websites: <http://miavita.brgm.fr>, <http://www.ingv.it/en>, www.protezionecivile.it.