



## **Assessing coping capacities, risk perception and level of preparedness in the context of natural hazards among people with migration background in Austria – methodological challenges and preliminary results**

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Coping capacities and risk perception in the context of natural hazards and climate change adaptation has gained considerable attention in Europe in recent years. However, research on specific target groups is still scarce and detailed knowledge about different target groups like people with migration background is insufficient. The project “CCCapMig” – Climate change and capacity building for people with migration background in Austria – acknowledges this gap. Consequently, it assesses coping capacities, risk perception and the level of preparedness of people with migration background in the context of natural hazards and aims at developing recommendations and guidelines for stakeholders in disaster risk management and the target-group itself. The focus lies on the effects of water-related hazards like flood and heavy precipitation events and analyses two case study regions in rural areas in Austria, where high exposure to natural hazards, historical flood events and a long tradition of labour-in migration coincide.

Framed as an interdisciplinary research project, it combines methods of social and spatial science. Short street surveys and interviews with inhabitants living in hazard zones, focus group discussions and detailed family surveys combined with an analysis of the housing conditions complement the analysis of the built environment in the case study areas. This analysis refers to the landscape planning approach and entails a mapping of the current land use and the built environment, including structural flood protection measures on the household level. In addition, expert interviews with local and regional stakeholders involved in disaster risk management, complemented by an analysis of structural factors, demographic data, current risk communication strategies, legal instruments and related processes are carried out.

This contribution provides insights into the methodological approach starting with the pre-selection of case study areas and on-site field work, by pointing out strengths and limitations of the methods applied. Preliminary results on coping capacities, risk perception and the level of preparedness of people with migration background in Austria are analysed according to the Protection-Motivation Theory after Grothmann and Reusswig (2006). It shows factors of influence on protective responses, for example, threat experience, perceived probability, reliance on public protection measures and information. To conclude, the contribution provides a critical reflection of an interdisciplinary research process and entangled challenges in reaching out to the selected target group of people with migration background. Herein, key persons facilitate to get familiar with the target group, as the issue of self-protection against natural hazards is not one of the utmost important issues in people's daily lives. This applies to Austrians as well as people with migration background.