# The use of serious games for information elicitation from Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaption stakeholders

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Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaption involve a variety of different stakeholders from various professional backgrounds, with often divergent concerns, and sometimes competing agendas. Their activities may also be carried out within different organizational frameworks, which in turn would vary from country to country. Such complexity calls for forums where these groups can meet in order to understand, reconcile different views, and potentially assist each other in meeting their respective goals.

One way such discussions may take place involves the use of "serious games", or table-top, role-playing, scenario-based exercises. A series of such exercises were developed within the context of the 2016-2018 Horizon 2020-funded ESPREssO project (Enhancing Synergies for disaster Prevention in the EurOpean Union). The exercises, termed RAMSETE (Risk Assessment Model Simulation for Emergency Training Exercise), were designed to be carried out during Think Tank meetings where three challenges identified as being at the centre of the ESPREssO project were to be dealt with, namely: (1) the integration of DRR and CCA policy, (2) reconciling issues arising between the science and policy/legal spheres, and (3) the management of transboundary crises.

In these exercises, participants are assigned roles within a game-like framework where they had to interact and negotiate with each other in order to deal with the presented scenario. These scenarios were primarily concerned with the selection of an optimal set of policies for dealing with the challenge (i.e. natural hazard or hazards) in question. Sometimes an operational element was included in the exercise, however, the primary focus was policy, and not to train for or test response protocols. Likewise, the actual choices made by the players were not the first concern, but rather the motivation behind their decisions.

The participating stakeholders generally found the exercises to be useful for framing discussions on the issues of concern, while their problem-solving character was appreciated and enjoyed. The exercises (and the Think Tanks as a whole) provided a forum for the stakeholders to openly discuss and objectively challenge ideas, policies and processes in a manner they would not normally do in their daily activities, while doing so with other professionals who they would not necessarily be in frequent contact with.