



Risk assessment for natural hazards in Croatia

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Several public and research authorities in Croatia are currently involved in risk assessment for natural but also industrial hazards. The hazards that are investigated are: (a) floods and droughts, (b) animal and plant diseases and epidemics, (c) snow and icing, (d) extreme temperature, (e) industrial hazards, (f) earthquakes and (g) open fires whereas the Meteorological and hydrological service of Croatia is leading the risk assessment group for snow and icing related hazards. Especially devastating was the last year icing episode in February in the Gorski kotar mountain region. The damage on power systems, forests and vegetation was more than 300 mil. Euros. There was a power supply failure and road and railway transport failure. Railroad Zagreb-Rijeka was closed for five days due to ice load and falling trees breaking the electrical lines. The most devastated was one of the counties where the damage reached 10-years county budget. The EU Solidarity fond approved 135 mil. Euros for the reparation. For this risk assessment the scenarios of the most probable and the most devastating damages are prepared. The next step is risk mapping. The research projects and academic literature on the subject of risk mapping confirm its complexity and the fact that gaps remain in the methodologies. We are following the EC recommendations to prepare: (a) maps showing the expected spatial distribution of major hazards, (b) maps showing the spatial distribution of all relevant elements that need to be protected, (c) maps of the spatial distribution of vulnerability in terms of susceptibility to damage for all relevant subjects of protection. For this year WMO is also preparing important actions and agreements regarding the risk assessment and mitigation.