



Social sciences contribution on informed decision-making for mitigation of climate change impacts

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Informed decision-making regarding mitigation of climate change impacts necessarily calls for a multidisciplinary approach. Climatology, hydro-geology, structural impact assessment analysis are the basic tools in the risk manager toolbox.

Social sciences can also contribute to supporting decision makers in developing successful strategies, based both on scientific information provided by climate experts, and on a careful evaluation of elements of social vulnerability and adaptive capacity of the community at stake.

The Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG) has developed two specific tools to this end: one aimed more specifically at the elaboration of a social index of social sensitivity and adaptive capacity of a community in front of specific extreme weather events; the other, aimed at providing local decision makers with an instrument for self evaluation of exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity of their communities. Both tools re-direct to specific improvement strategies, aimed at suggesting improvements to the resilience of the community at stake, based on the results of the analysis. The tools have been tested and have been deemed by local authorities involved as very useful for the systematization of gathered data and the possibility to elaborate appropriate response strategies.

ISIG has developed these tool within ECOSTRESS DG ECHO project (2013-2015) and is further improving them within the RAIN FP7 project. The experience of both multi-disciplinary experiences is detailed and potentials for the integration of this tool as further support for informed decision making are explored.