



Feasibility of a Common Approach to Coastal Flood Risk Assessment and Management in the Mediterranean Europe

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Coastal zones can be impacted by risky sea waves and can be subject to inundation due to storm surges, storm waves and tsunamis. Although it is widely recognized that management of the coastal zone needs the integration of various disciplinary knowledges and experiences as well as the coordination of various institutional entities, nonetheless such an integration often remains at the level of documentary declarations and does not concretize in real actions and policies. The European Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks that entered into force on 26 November 2007 requires the member states to identify risky areas, to draw maps and to establish management plans for zones subject to flooding (river and marine) according to a roadmap with significant milestones in the 2013 and 2015. This can be a great opportunity also for the Mediterranean countries of Europe to identify suitable resources and to start implementing policies for an integrated intervention to protect the coastal environments and populations.

Scientists can give a strong contribution to this process especially in assessing risk and by providing the scientific tools for early warning. In this paper we perform a preliminary analysis for the Mediterranean countries of Europe and outline similarities and differences of risk assessment methods and of early warning systems for floods in the coastal areas due to weather storms and to tsunamis. Up to now these subjects have been examined separately by different groups of experts as if they were elements of different disciplines and were deserving different treatment. Here it is analyzed if a common approach can be more fruitful and efficient, in view of a common institutional management and of common targets and objectives.