

# CATALYST

**CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR NATURAL  
HAZARDS RISK REDUCTION AND ADAPTATION**

## AT A GLANCE

**Title: CATALYST - CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT  
FOR NATURAL HAZARDS RISK REDUCTION AND  
ADAPTATION**

Instrument: FP7, coordinating action

Total Cost: 992,800.25 €

EC Contribution: 843,931.57 €

Duration: 24 months

Start Date: 01/10/2011

Consortium: 7 partners from 4 countries

Project Coordinator: seeconsult GmbH,  
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Project Web Site: [www.catalyst-project.eu](http://www.catalyst-project.eu)

Key Words: natural hazards, disaster risk  
reduction, adaptation, capacity  
development, knowledge exchange

## THE CHALLENGE

Each year, natural disasters wreak havoc across the globe, upending the lives of people in rich and poor countries. In 2010, floods, droughts, tornados, tsunamis and earthquakes caused an estimated 295,000 deaths and over USD100 billion in damages.

Natural disasters are on the rise, in part, due to growing global populations and increasing urbanization, and, in part, as a result of such fundamental environmental challenges as climate change.

Thanks to dedicated research and enlightened policies, a growing number of countries and localities have strengthened their capacities for natural hazard and disaster risk reduction (NH/DRR). Yet, only limited steps have been taken to integrate such knowledge into overall development, planning and environmental policies.

A critical challenge is to narrow the gap between the research community's increased understanding of how, when and where natural disasters take place and the long-standing forces that have driven economic development, which have generally made NH/DRR a low priority.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The CATALYST project is designed to create a wide range of opportunities for researchers, stakeholders (and the networks to which they belong) to identify and share knowledge about best practices related to natural hazard and disaster risk reduction. The ultimate goal is to bring risk management knowledge to bear on economic development issues and to make NH/DRR a critical component of the sustainability agenda.



**METHODOLOGY**

Strengthening of capacity will be achieved by:

- facilitating knowledge exchange and improving the science-application interface;
- adding value to the body of integrated knowledge on NH/DRR;
- identifying key gaps in current NH/DRR knowledge and research;
- reinforcing existing European and international networking capacity;
- strengthening the capacity of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to mainstream NH/DRR into their activities;
- disseminating project findings in an effective way, including developing a NH/DRR reference website and online discussion forum.

A core activity of CATALYST is to convene stakeholders, including researchers, practitioners and policy makers, in a web-based "think-tank" to facilitate 'virtual' face-to-face exchanges on best practices and, more generally, discussions on such issues as information and data gaps, methodological limitations and the disconnect that often exists between the research and policy communities.

**EXPECTED RESULTS**

The thinktank will be designed as an interactive interface between the scientific, practitioner and policy communities. Specifically, it offers a means to share information and experiences. A web archive ensures that data and information assembled and pro-

duced during the project is available to as large an audience as possible. The archive will include a broad range of material related to NH/DRR resources and research. Upon the conclusion of the project, the website and archive will be transferred to either a public-sector organization or a small/medium-sized enterprise involved in natural hazard and disaster risk reduction to ensure that it is maintained and enhanced beyond the project's two-year duration.

<b>PROJECT PARTNERS</b>	
Seeconsult GmbH	DE
Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei	IT
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research	DE
Academy of Sciences for the Developing World	IT
Alterra - Wageningen University	NL
National Geologic Survey of Denmark and Greenland	DK
United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security	DE

