



# Newsletter 3

June 2011

## **MiSRaR reaches halfway stage**

The MiSRaR project, which is aimed at the dissemination of knowledge and experience in the field risk management and spatial layout, was launched in the spring of 2010. MiSRaR is funded by the Interreg IVC programme. It is being executed by seven partners. The Zuid-Holland Zuid safety region is the lead partner in the project. The remaining partners are the Municipality of Tallinn (Estonia), the Epirus Region (Greece), the Province of Forli-Cesena (Italy), the Municipalities of Aveiro and Mirandela (both in Portugal) and the Euro Perspectives Foundation (Bulgaria). The project is to run for a term of three years, half of which has already elapsed.



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΗΠΕΙΡΟΥ

## **Change of partnership**

The Prefecture of Thesprotia was disbanded on 1 January 2011. The Epirus Region, in which the Prefecture of Thesprotia was situated, has since become a new partner. This change entails no significant consequences for the project.

## **Focus on the 3<sup>rd</sup> six-month period of MiSRaR**

Throughout 2010, MiSRaR concentrated on risk analysis and the political administrative assessment. In 2011, however, the discussion of the capacity analysis and actual mitigation opportunities has begun. Examples submitted by the partners were discussed on the basis of the concept of 'multi-layered security'.

## **Dordrecht**

This year's first seminar was held in Dordrecht, the Netherlands, in early February. It comprised several working visits. In Strijen, for instance, representatives of the project, members of the Dutch N2000 management body ([www.natura2000.nl](http://www.natura2000.nl)) and the site manager exchanged thoughts on the subject of drawing up management plans and the response to disasters, such as exposure to a passing toxic cloud caused by fire in the neighbouring town of Moerdijk.

The hydrological research laboratory was also visited, during which representatives of the the Dutch Institute for Delta Technology (Deltares) and the Hollandse Delta water board held presentations on the Netherlands' approach to risks of flooding.

During a trip to the Noord & Oost Gelderland safety region ([www.vnog.nl](http://www.vnog.nl)) furthermore, the group exchanged experiences and insight into the matter of combating wildfire.

The group also visited the multidisciplinary safety exercise centre in Dordrecht ([www.safetycenter.com](http://www.safetycenter.com)) where they attended a presentation on the manner in which the Municipality of Dordrecht deals with external safety issues related to Dordrecht Seaport. This was immediately followed by a visit to Standic bulk liquids storage and distribution ([www.standic.com](http://www.standic.com)) whose management and workforce offered ample insight into its business and the safety measures implemented there to deal with disasters involving hazardous substances.



During the seminar, use of the capacity analysis instrument was practiced using three cases submitted by the partners: Forest fire in the Veluwe, the construction of a new goods terminal in Thesprotia and risks of flooding in Aveiro. The objective of the exercise was to become acquainted with the instrument on the one hand, while on the other offering the remaining partners the opportunity to assist those who had submitted cases by offering advice based on their own experiences in the particular field in question.



In addition, the partners presented their own procedure and experience in the area of capability assessment, on the basis of a questionnaire completed in advance.

ZHZ held a presentation about two major incidents which it faced in January 2011, namely a large-scale chemicals fire in Moerdijk, which led to a plume of thick smoke engulfing part of the region and causing considerable unrest among the residents; and a fire in several railway wagons containing hazardous substances at the Kijfhoek marshalling yard.

### **Mirandela**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> seminar was combined with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee meeting held in Mirandela, Portugal, in April. The participants paid a visit to the Topiteu sausage factory. The proprietor took them on a guided tour of the premises, explaining the safety measures in place there. This was followed by a trip to the Açude- Ponte dam, which generates hydro electricity while also offering the opportunity to regulate water levels. There are also plans to build more dams, which should reduce the risk of flooding by 15%.



The trip concluded with a visit to the local fire brigade and ambulance service, which comprised an explanation of the organisation and the equipment deployed to combat forest fires.



During the morning session, the partners submitted various cases, which were discussed in subgroups, which provided feedback during the subsequent plenary session.

Mirandela and Epirus briefly explained their approach to the risks of forest fires. Mirandela is currently engaged in this field on the basis of the principles of multi-layered safety, as discussed at previous seminars. Its approach is based on risk map, which was drawn up in accordance with the Portuguese national guideline. The prioritisation of measures is carried out according to these risk maps, which take economic value into consideration in determining the level of vulnerability. Among the other matters discussed were advice in the field of spatial planning, mandatory cleaning, the deployment of special police teams, setting up lookout towers and the provision of additional water supplies.





Close attention was devoted to the area of tension between the requirements applicable as part of wildlife conservation programmes and the need to take mitigation measures. The partners drew the conclusion that it would be favourable if the management plans for N2000 areas, for instance, were obliged to include a section on safety.

It was also concluded that considerable risk reductions might be achieved if, for instance, more carefully considered regulations were introduced which would remove economic interests from the equation in the event of wildfire.

ZHZ presented the manner in which the transportation of hazardous substances is regulated in the region, by means of measures from all three levels of the multi-layered safety scheme. This involves closer cooperation between the various levels of administration, each of which has its own authority. ZHZ wondered whether the government shouldn't actually adopt a much more stringent approach to permitting all sorts of transport movements which are not absolutely necessary, but simply due to the fact that companies are keen to optimise their profits. ZHZ is firmly in favour of measures by both European and national authorities to promote the use of pipelines and waterborne transport.



### Gabrovo

The 3<sup>rd</sup> seminar was held in the city of Gabrovo, Bulgaria, in June. The subproject mitigation measures were rounded off at Gabrovo.

The trip to Gabrovo included a visit to the Central Balkan National Park, where mountain slopes that have been affected by landslides are being restored. Various techniques are being applied on these slopes with a view to enabling the flora to recover, while also preventing further erosion. Water management measures have also been introduced to prevent future landslides. This wildlife area was designated a national park in 2002. It occupies an area of some 22,000 hectares, which is a NATURA 2000 site. The group made a physical contribution towards the restoration of the area by planting trees.

It also paid a visit to 'Duga' children's crèche, where it attended a concluding lesson on safety. The local fire brigade and civil protection cooperate with parents and teaching staff in this project, which is designed to teach children in a rather playful manner what action they should take in the event of an earthquake, a flood or fire. A general handbook on such matters can be consulted on the website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The lessons are part of broader programme designed to cover all school levels.

During the seminar, the risk of flooding due to high water levels on the River Yantra was discussed. The group participated in a lively debate concerning possible mitigation measures. An area of tension between





safety and nature conservancy was revealed here, too. This is also the case in Epirus, where flooding of the River Kalamas caused considerable collateral damage. Various measures were discussed. Epirus admitted that its efforts to implement a suitable mitigation strategy were being hampered by a lack of funds and inability to properly assess the actual effects of measures.

Together with the colleagues from Aveiro, possible measures were discussed which might be implemented to either prevent flooding in and around the city or to minimise the repercussions. Prompted by discussions held during previous seminars, Aveiro has begun mapping its vulnerable infrastructure. As one of the challenges that Aveiro currently faces is that of setting up means of communication to warn its inhabitants, its representatives were particularly curious about the use of cell broadcasting and emergency transmitters discussed at a previous seminar.

Province Forlì-Cesena presented its measures for the prevention of forest fires in the public forest areas that have been financed by European and regional funds.

The measures include both prevention activities in order to reduce forest fire risk (improvement of forest-efficiency) and actions aimed to improving the efficiency of the fire-fighting measures (road maintenance, watering points, etc.)

Every 10 years the Province realises a **Settlement Plan** of its forest areas which identifies the extent of the resources required and includes a list of priorities and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the Natura 2000 sites.

At present positive results have been reached in the management of public owned forests, but problems with private owned forests are emerging. Therefore it is important to draw the European attention to acknowledge a social value to private owned forests: in fact, a good management could lead to positive results for the whole territory also with regard to multi-layered security.



ZHZ discussed the MARE project, which sets Dordrecht the objective of creating a climate-proof and self-sustaining island by implementing multi-layered safety. Dykes and dams on the rivers are to be combined with urban planning measures and the preparation of emergency services measures in order to cope with the rise in both sea and river levels that are expected to occur by 2050.

Tallinn set itself the target of improving fire safety in North Tallinn, a Natura 2000 site which contains many, often derelict, timber-built houses and is also. The houses in question are generally not inhabited by the owners, while there are no resources available to renovate them in compliance with the applicable historic buildings regulations, and many are not insured. There is therefore little interest in the implementation measures of among private parties. Improved legislation is being drafted with a view to obliging owners to take safety measures.

### Experiences so far

The focus during the preceding period was placed on interpreting the risk analyses into proposals for mitigation policies. The capability assessment approach was also discussed and



tried out to this end. This approach is designed to enable one to devise intelligent measures by means of further scenario analyses at all levels of the multi-layered safety concept. This involves not only the reduction of the probability, effects and vulnerabilities, but also the improvement of both the response and recovery capabilities by means of spatial planning. The partners researched concrete spatial planning measures for various sorts of risks on the basis of cases submitted. One of the main lessons that the partners learned from this exercise was the significance of building a suitable network. No single government authority solely holds the key to successful mitigation policies. Tangible progress in the field of safety can therefore only be achieved through cooperation with all relevant partners, based on a joint definition of the problem. Future seminars will therefore focus largely on the matter of building a network and lobbying for policy.

### **Preview**

During the next few months, the partnership is to concentrate primarily on actually drafting a mitigation plan. Apart from the plan itself, however, attention will also have to be devoted to the finance, legal frameworks and the lobbying required to actually secure the implementation and funding of a mitigation plan. The forthcoming seminars on these topics are to be held in Epirus (September), Aveiro (October) and Tallinn (November).

### **Communication**

In the meantime, work has also commenced on the compilation of the three brochures and the manual. The steering committee has chosen the option which involves the manual being published largely digitally, to be 'accompanied' by three printed brochures. The tender process for the contract to write the brochures and the manual has already been completed.

MiSRaR was discussed during national consultations in the Netherlands, by the project leaders responsible for the regional risk profiles of the 25 safety regions. They discussed matters including the lessons that might be learned from the approaches adopted by other partner nations, when it comes to selecting a method for the Netherlands. For instance, the decision to devote attention to vulnerabilities was considered a useful addition to the Dutch approach. MiSRaR was also a topic discussed during various meetings of the Netherlands Ministry of security and Justice's National Risk assessment workgroup. The possibility of incorporating MiSRaR's ideas relating to the approach to capability assessment in the Netherlands' National Safety policy is currently being considered.

In Portugal, Aveiro's project leader gave a lecture at the city's university. During the past six months, various press releases have been issued to attract attention to MiSRaR's activities.

