

Integrated Natural Risk Management in the French Alps: Story of a territorial policy experimentation

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The context (environmental, political, institutional and socio-economic) of natural risks in the French Alps is in mutation and involves changing patterns of risk management. For these reasons an innovative approach of natural risk management has been tested in different territories through an operation called « test sites of integral risk management » from 2009 to 2013.

This new approach, called Integrated Natural Risk Management, is understood as the capacity of a territory (multi-actor system on an intermunicipal scale) to build in common its own strategy of disaster risk management (reduce vulnerability, increase resilience, promote a good governance of risks, etc.) in a systematic approach from preparedness to recovery.

Thus the operation, established and coordinate by the PARN³, promotes an integrating management of risk with local mobilization and supports innovative actions of different territories named test site for:

- Improving coordination of various institutions within a local governance scheme ;
- Adopting a global approach that emphasizes vulnerability analysis and evaluation of needs concerning risk management tools ;
- Raising awareness of the population and the stakeholders.

Since September 2009, 5 tests sites (1 to 60 municipalities) have participated at the operation. For developing the innovative actions of the operation it has been necessary to interface various actors (local authorities, the public, scientists, etc.) to renew partnerships.

The operation is supported and financed by regions: Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Rhône-Alpes and the European ERDF (FEDER) funds managed by DATAR (institution of the French state).

KEYWORDS: local governance, integral risk management, organizational vulnerability, test sites, interregional cooperation

¹ PARN, Pôle Alpin d'études et de recherche pour la prévention des Risques naturels ; <http://www.riskenat.org/activites/sitespilotes.html>

² idem

³ idem