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Enhancing the Integration of Disaster Risk and Climate Change Adaptation into Irish Emergency Planning

What's the issue?

The Government's National Risk Assessment 2019 highlighted climate change as one of the nation's **highest strategic priorities**. Significant research and policy development work has occurred in Ireland to identify the linkages between Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). The links and dependencies are reflected in a range of Irish policies such as the Strategic Emergency Management (SEM) Framework, National Adaptation Framework and Local Authorities' adaptation strategies.

However, the integration of DRR and CCA policies and practices into emergency and risk management systems can be challenging, in areas such as:

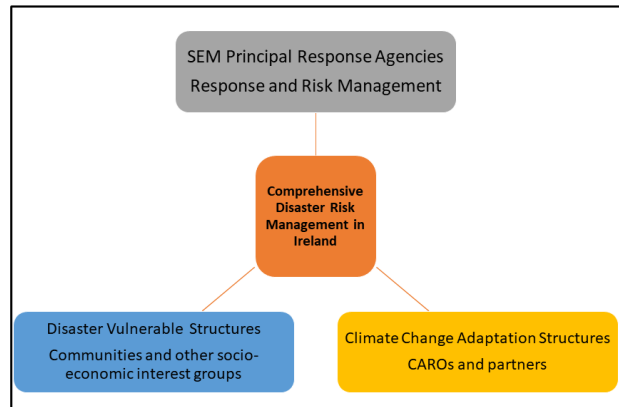
- Integration and coordination of DRR and CCA across sectors;
- Integration and coordination of DRR and CCA within and between multiple levels of government;
- Achieving a universal understanding of terminology, such as resilience, risk and vulnerability, across systems and policy areas;
- Facilitating the participation of vulnerable groups;
- Establishing coherent systems for measurement and financing of risk reduction and adaptation.
- Creating systems to risk-proof investment in sectors vulnerable to climate-induced extreme events.

The EPA has funded the MaREI Centre and the UCC School of Law to undertake research over the coming 12 months to assist key stakeholders in further integrating DRR and CCA in planning for risk management in the most vulnerable sectors and communities

What will the project do?

Our objective is to help relevant institutions to further climate-proof the emergency planning and risk management systems in Ireland to the increasing risks of extreme events. The research will address the national policy and decision-making processes, as well as the local and regional planning and response mechanisms. The research will provide guidance and recommendations to address critical gaps, identified by the key stakeholders, in the medium- to longer-term, looking beyond the five-yearly National Risk Assessment process.

Who are the stakeholder groups needed for comprehensive disaster risk management in Ireland?



Key Messages

1. Climate change will impact the patterns, frequency and intensity of extreme weather events in Ireland. So, there is a need to further develop understanding of the **linkages and interactions** between climate change adaptation and DRR/emergency planning to address and reconcile potential vulnerabilities of local communities and sectors to extreme events and determine pathways to resilience over time.
2. Finding solutions to how climate change will impact short-term extreme events must be done through **engagement with a wide range of stakeholders**. Providing a voice for local knowledge and expertise of vulnerable and at-risk groups to feed into national decisions is just as important as good national governance and guidance on impacts and opportunities being delivered in a timely and accessible way.
3. Further **integration of the SEM and CCA communities** will help to more effectively reduce future risks by identifying gaps in coordination and avoiding duplication of effort across sectors and institutions.

For more information or to participate:

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#EnhancingIntegration, #IrelandEmergencyPlanning



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