

PROJECT NEWSLETTER

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Photo credit: Mitja Legat

In a world grappling with unpredictable climate patterns, the X-RISK-CC project, in partnership with ten allies across the Alpine Space, is charting the course for risk managers and policymakers. Together, we're tackling the intricate challenges brought about by extreme weather events in our changing climate.

X-RISK-CC WHAT'S GOING ON?

Our journey kicked off with a deep dive into the realm of extreme weather. Harnessing data from our pilot areas, we embarked on a comprehensive assessment of the likelihood of meteorological extremes. This included analyzing the significant Vaia storm in Trentino South Tyrol. Simultaneously, we scrutinized historical and current trends in climate drivers impacting the region, with a particular focus on intense precipitation in the Gorenjska Region. We expanded these assessments across the entire Alpine Space, leveraging innovative downscaling methods to enhance the precision of climate projections and better equip us for preparedness and planning.

Understanding Risks and Impacts

In Work Package 2, our focus shifted to the collection of vital data concerning hazards, vulnerability, and exposure in our pilot areas. This forms the cornerstone of our efforts to assess risks associated with extreme events. Our approach combines quantitative tools, such as a modular scheme for assessing compound and cascading hazards, with qualitative methods that delve into sequential impact chains. To extend the reach of our impact analysis across the Alpine Space, we've introduced a data-driven scheme. This innovative approach assists in modeling and predicting impact probabilities linked to weather conditions, climate drivers, and other environmental factors.

Rapid Risk Management and Collaboration

Within Work Package 3, we've successfully developed a rapid risk management appraisal approach. This method will guide upcoming workshops in each pilot area, where local experts and decision-makers will assess the strengths and limitations of risk practices during targeted extreme events. Our recent partner meeting in Munich further cemented the crucial link between the scientific analyses in Work Packages 1 and 2 and the practical needs outlined in Work Package 3. Together, we've laid the groundwork for the risk assessment manual and pilot action plans.

Highlights

from the pilot areas



SLOVENIAN PILOT AREA – POLJANSKA AND SELŠKA SORA BASIN

In the municipalities of Škofja Loka, Železniki, Gorenja vas – Poljane, and Žiri, we are addressing floods and various types of drought (surface soil drought, hydrological drought in surface and groundwater).

August Floods

Between August 3rd and 6th, Slovenia experienced heavy rainfall with storms, strong downpours, and showers. Widespread and destructive floods, including in our pilot area – the basins of both Sora rivers, where Poljanska Sora and Sora overflowed. Numerous roads, water supply, and electrical installations were damaged. Several buildings were flooded or damaged, and a significant number of landslides were triggered. More about the event can be read [here](#).

Interviews with Municipal Civil Protection Commanders

In October, we conducted interviews with municipal Civil Protection commanders, providing valuable insights into various aspects of managing this year's August floods. Commanders shared their experiences and challenges faced during the floods. The findings from these interviews were an excellent basis for a workshop conducted in November.

Meeting of Various Stakeholders on Better Collaboration and Risk Management in Floods and Landslides

In November, the Development Agency Sora, together with the Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia in Škofja Loka, organized a meeting on better collaboration and risk management in floods and landslides. The event brought together key representatives from local and state organizations, including municipal Civil Protection commanders, the Fire Brigade Command, and representatives from the municipalities of Škofja Loka, Železniki, Gorenja vas – Poljane, Žiri, the Directorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Water, the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (OE Kranj), the Forest Service of Slovenia (OE Kranj), and the Fishing Society Škofja Loka.

During the workshop, participants shared experiences with managing the August floods and landslides. Challenges identified included ensuring financial resources for watercourse management, inter-sectoral collaboration at a higher level, informing professional services, and the public, etc. More about the event can be found [here](#).



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