Activities Projects Events



DKKV Activities Report Activities Report

































Source: DKKV

Dear readers,

Crises are an integral part of our everyday lives today. Regardless of whether they are caused by extreme weather events or human actions, our societies are not built resiliently enough in all dimensions to be able to deal with them skillfully. But how can we learn from past events and at the same time reduce our vulnerability in order to better cope with future events? Good practices, the networking of practical and scientific perspectives and a focus on prevention are the keywords that guide us at the German Committee for



Disaster Reduction (DKKV). The past year was also characterized by crises, floods and inundations, earthquakes, wildfires and the ongoing military

conflicts. Our work at DKKV dares to question why an event has a certain impact on a society and what implementation is needed in the future to reduce risks and build resilience.

"For effective disaster management, preparedness and response must be thought of together. This starts with a dedicated effort to combat the climate crisis and continues with the determined implementation of climate impact adaptation."

This year's activity report provides you with an overview of DKKV's work over the past year. The DKKV organizes its activities to achieve the statutory objectives of participation, support and promotion of sustainable disaster prevention and crisis management at national level as well as internationally. The activities and events in which the DKKV was actively involved last year therefore

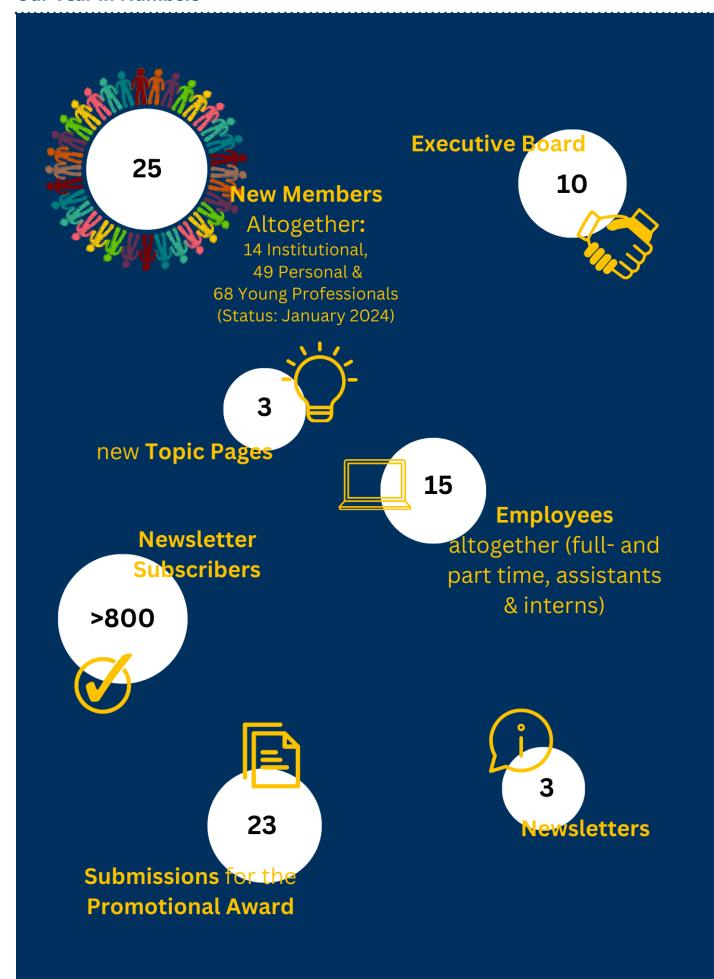
focused on linking and cooperating between science, politics and practice. All activities focus on interdisciplinary exchange, advising decision-makers and raising public awareness of disaster risk reduction and self-help capabilities.

In addition to the DKKV's work activities in 2023, you will find an overview of planned activities for the coming year in this activities report.

I look forward to interesting events in 2024 and continued good cooperation within the DKKV.

Leon Eckert

DKKV Chair



Status: December 2023













Status: December 2023

2023 was a very eventful year with around 40 events organized and co-designed by the DKKV. We are delighted with the successful events and would like to thank all participants for their active involvement in the events. In the following, we would like to give you an insight into the various events and activities organized by DKKV in 2023.

National Expert Forum on Water Extremes

The National Expert

Forum: Water Extremes as a Consequence of Climate Change, took place in March 2023 at the Klimahaus in Bremerhaven and was co-organized by DKKV. The interdisciplinary, interactive and practical event was aimed at experts and the interested public. With around 100 participants, the event took a look at the past, present and future, analyzed case studies and looked at the weather extremes of drought and heat in particular. The DKKV Young Professionals supplemented the program with a workshop in which they presented their research work on heat and drought and played a serious game with the participants.

On our Website you will find further information about the Experts Forum.



Image 1 & 2: DKKV at the Klimahaus Bremerhaven | Source: Antje Schimanke | Klimahaus Bremerhaven

DKKV-"Werkstatt"

Bringing together scientific and operational stakeholders in disaster risk reduction? This was the aim of the first DKKV workshop, which was organized together with our institutional member Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD). An intensive exchange was encouraged in an internal workshop atmosphere, with the development of the DWD's new warning system taking center stage.



Image 3: Lecture from the DKKV-Werkstatt | Source: DKKV

The aim was to present new scientific developments and compare them with the needs of operational practice. As part of the event, these needs and the current state of development were discussed with around 30 participants. In addition to keynote speeches, the World Café format actively encouraged cooperation and communication between the guests. At various tables, the participants were also able to exchange data sets or collect ideas for creating the product design.



On our Website
you can read
more about the
DKKV-"Werkstatt".





Summer School DRR

In July 2023, the DKKV hosted its first

Summer School in collaboration with the Trier University of Applied Sciences on the topic of "Disaster Risk Reduction" at the Environmental Campus Brinkenfeld. International students from various academic disciplines gathered there for six days to learn more about the fundamentals of disaster preparedness and disaster management. The program followed the disaster management cycle. Thus, the DKKV kicked off the substantive part of the Summer School with an input session on prevention and disaster preparedness. Participants were able to immediately apply theory to practice and take on the role of decision-makers in disaster preparedness through a serious gaming activity.



Image 5: Visiting the THW | Source: Marcel Kroker



Image 6: Group photo Summer School | Source: DKKV

The students had the opportunity to gain practical insights through an excursion to the Ahr Valley and a trip to Bonn. The DKKV Young Professionals guided the participants through the city on the topic of flooding and flood protection, allowing the students to independently explore flood protection measures.



Image 7: practical insights | Source: DKKV

Further information can be found on our <u>Homepage</u>.

Parliamentary Evening on successful Risk Communication

Under the motto "Not Alone with Crises and Disasters," the Parliamentary Evening on Successful Risk Communication took place on October 12, concluding the exhibition "#Krisenalltag - Communication in the Pandemic" at the Museum for Communication in Berlin. The DKKV, together with the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) and with the support of the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK), organized the evening. After welcoming remarks, including those from DKKV Chair Leon Eckert (MP), the invited guests from politics, administration, science, and practice gained insight into the work of a resilience center through a keynote speech.









Image 8 & 9: Source: Laurin Schmidt / bundesfotos

During the Parliamentary Evening, the winners of the DKKV Promotional Award from 2022 and 2023 were also honored. A compiled video presented the individual focuses of the final projects, providing guests with a closer look at the winners' engagement with their topics in the field of disaster preparedness and management. Following the event, the approximately 150 guests had the opportunities for networking and exchange through the accompanying program.



Image 10: Young Professionals | Source: DKKV

Here you can read the official press release of BfR.

Further information about the Parliamentary Evening can be found on our <u>Website</u>.

The video of the DKKV-Promotional Award is uploaded on our <u>YouTube-Chanel</u>.



Image 11: Source: Laurin Schmidt
/ bundesfotos

Event Series "Climat Crisis meets Civil Protection"

Increasingly frequent extreme weather events not only pose an immediate threat to the safety and health of the population but also to critical infrastructure, presenting special challenges for emergency organizations. For a resilient future, it is therefore fundamentally important to bring together the two complex issues of climate change and civil protection. For this reason, the DKKV, together with the Department of Civil Protection, Disaster Relief, and Object Security (BuK) at the University of Wuppertal, organized a series of events between October 2023 and February 2024.

Each event focused on a relevant topic presented by various experts from practice or academia, and concluded with a discussion.









Image 12: Lecture Prof. Dr. Matthias Garschagen | Source : DKKV

Thus, after an introduction to both complex topics, focuses such as climate projections and risk culture were already addressed. The last two events, based on the previous presentations, focused on, in the form of two panel discussions, the political challenges as well as the operational disaster response under conditions altered by the climate crisis.



Image 13: Lecture Prof. Dr. Martin Voss | Source: DKKV





Pre-Events German Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

The German Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction is an integral part of the national resilience strategy and is organized by our institutional member, the German Red Cross. In addition to the BBK and KatNET, the DKKV also supports the event in the planning committee. Last year, a total of three pre-events were held in preparation for the conference in April 2024, during which the DKKV actively participated in the organization of two events. "Resilience in Germany - Today and Tomorrow" was organized in collaboration with the National Focal Point for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework (NKS) and focused on theoretical development through a Futures Lab workshop, exploring probable, desirable, and alternative futures for our lives and the development of resilience.





Image 14, 15 & 16:

1. Pre-event | Source: DKKV











Image 17: 2. Pre-event| Source: ADH

The last pre-event focused on "Practical Exchange: Disaster Assistance and Management Abroad and Domestically" and was conducted in collaboration with Aktion Deutschland Hilft e.V. (ADH). In the afternoon, there was an active exchange between stakeholders on various topics to share the current status and practical experiences, and to formulate perspectives for the future.

Further information can be found on our Website and the recordings are available on YouTube.



Image 18: 2. Pre-event | Source: DKKV

Delegation Visits

International exchange and mutual learning are essential, which is why we were delighted to host several delegation visits at the DKKV office last year. During such visits, we introduce the work of our association, civil protection in Germany, and the concept of resilience. Lessons learned from the 2021 floods, based on the DKKV's analysis of

the July 2021 flood disaster in Germany and the 12 identified lessons to learn, are also part of the presentations. Additionally, topics such as early warning systems, landslides, and chemical hazards were sometimes addressed. To facilitate an easier entry into the topic and foster exchange, delegates engaged in the Serious Game on prevention, early warning, and climate change, demonstrating the effectiveness of preventive measures compared to potential damages caused by adverse weather conditions.



Image 19: Delegation from Central Asia | Source: DKKV

Last year, we had the privilege of welcoming delegates from Rwanda, Peru, Turkey, China, Korea, Central Asia, the province of Anhui, as well as representatives from AWO International and An-Nusrat to the DKKV office.



Image 20: Delegation from Korea | Source: DKKV





The DKKV was actively involved in the selected following events in 2023.

January

- BBK Specialized congress "Research for Civil Protection"
- pecialized discussion on warning

Information event on the professional field of disaster

preparedness by GIUB







April

March

- BBK Lecture Series: Basics and General Questions in Civil Protection
- Dialogue event on implementing the German Resilience Strategy
- Workshop Risk Communication

May

Futures Literacy Lab Workshop



June

- Lecture for Reflection Workshop AWO
- Bonn Climate Conference SB58
- STUDI Magdeburg
- Daring Cities 2023 Dialogues
 - MCR Roundtable Session Bonn







July

Information event GIUB Professional Field Disaster Preparedness

August

- AFPCNT visit
- Crisis communication by BOS Public relations during the situation

September

- German Congress of Geography
- Sure Synergy Workshop
- · Economist Natural Disaster Management
- DRK Symposium
- Media Partner for the FLORIAN Trade Fair



Economist Natural Disaster Management |Source: DKKV



- Guest Lecture at UNU-EHS
- CP Verlag: Forum for Municipal Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Communication
- Digital Disaster Management Congress

November

- Workshop moderation for the Flood Emergency Community (HWNG) in Neuwied
- Panel discussion: Bonn as a Pioneer in Disaster Management



Panel discussion | Source: KaVoMa



HWNG | Source: DKKV



DRK Symposium | Source: DRK

Herzlich Willko

FLORIAN fair Source: DKKV

December

- KaVoMa Lecture
- OeRisk Lecture
- UNDRR Panel Discussion
- COP28 in Dubai

COP 28 in Dubai | Source: Private



Internationale Work

Learning from the past is essential in disaster management. Equally important is to learn from and exchange with other actors at national and international levels to benefit from good practices and lessons learned. Therefore, we are part of a range of national and international networks and actively engage with a variety of institutions and platforms. Additionally, the DKKV actively participates in international events that bring together different perspectives from various situations. For example, the World Climate Conference COP28 in November and December 2023 in Dubai, where four delegates from the DKKV were present as observers. There are also regular meetings with French partners AFPCNT (Association française pour la prévention des catastrophes naturelles et technologiques). Furthermore, in 2023, employees or members of the DKKV participated in international events with substantive inputs, such as the Economist Natural Disaster Management in Thessaloniki or the UN-DRR Roadmap Action-Oriented Dialogue in Helsinki.

on our Website you can find further insights into our networks and cooperations.

Image 21: Action Oriented Dialogue | Source: DKKV



Image 22: Civil Defence Shelter | Source : DKKV





Promotional Award

Since 2018, the DKKV has been awarding the

DKKV Promotional Award to recognize current research and best practice examples related to disaster preparedness and disaster risk management. As supporting young researchers is particularly important to us, the sponsorship prize is aimed specifically at young professionals. The DKKV Promotional Award 2023 was thematically situated in the area of (inter)national disaster preparedness and was financially supported by the German Red Cross. The official award ceremony took place during the Parliamentary Evening.



Image 23: Award ceremony 2023 | Source: Laurin Schmidt / bundesfotos

Read more about the Promotional Award on our <u>Homepa-</u> ge.

Click here to see the Video of the Winners.

Humbold Scholarship-Recipient Risk Communication

This year, the DKKV had the privilege of accompanying a scholarship recipient of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation with the Chancellor's Fellowship in her project

"Disaster Risk Communication & Preparedness of Communities." The project involved conducting a comparative analysis between the 2021 flooding in the Ahr Valley and the 2018 floods in Kerala, India. The project aims to gather vast knowledge and information and analyze measures taken by local communities, experts, and other stakeholders in Germany, India, and other countries to combat and prevent disasters and their impacts through risk communication and preparedness.

Image 24: Farewell picture Durga | Source: DKKV

To provide action-oriented advice and initiate dialogues, we regularly publish DKKV statements on our website, which are developed in collaboration between the office, members, young professionals, and the board, addressing current issues. Last year, the following two statements were published:

You can read more about the

Scholarship and the Porject on our Website

Mandatory Elemental Damage Insurance

The publication represents the association's position on a mandatory elemental damage insurance as an element of precaution against climate risks. It refers to a key points paper issued by the federal government on December 6, 2022, which discussed the details regarding the introduction of such an insurance.



The DKKV Statement about the Mandatory **Elemental Damage** Insurance can be found here.

Strengthening the resilience of critical infrastructure (KRITIS Dachgesetz)

In the publication, the DKKV describes the reasons why it welcomes the preparation of the draft law aimed at strengthening the resilience of critical infrastructure. The document provides a statement on the draft bill for the "KRITIS DachG".





Members of the DKKV also provided input at political hearings on topics such as forest fire protection, civil protection, and climate diplomacy, aiming to strengthen our influence on policymaking through scientifically grounded advice.



We also participate in various research projects to promote exchange between stakeholders and representatives of research and development. The aim is to present decision-makers with the state of science and options for action from a scientific perspective. The DKKV is currently active in the following three research projects:

Funding Measure "Water Extreme Events" Aqua-X-Net

The project "Networking and Transfer Initiative: Synthesis and Transfer (Aqua-X-Net)" under the BMBF funding measure "Water Extreme Events" (WaX) is conducted by the DKKV in collaboration with the University of Potsdam, Department of Geography and Natural Risk Research. It runs from November 2021 to April 2025. Through WaX, the BMBF supports twelve research projects that develop new approaches to the management of water-related natural hazards such as heavy rain, floods, and droughts across disciplines and sectors. The Aqua-X-Net project, conducted by the DKKV, accompanies the twelve research projects and fosters intensive networking and exchange through the creation of event and communication formats. Additionally, Aqua-X-Net ensures a public representation and communication of the results.

Image 25: Group photo | Source: Sandra Scholz | University Potsdam

Highlights of the project in the past year included the organization and implementation of the status seminar in Potsdam with nearly 200 participants, as well as a dedicated session on contrasting water extremes at the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly in April 2023 in Vienna. Under the coordination of Aqua-X-Net, so-called cross-cutting topics were also developed. Last year, a total of nine workshops were conducted in person and online by four working groups on the topics of practical transfer, communication and participation, water storage in the landscape, and modeling and methods from informatics, yielding initial results. Additionally, regular WaX newsletters were published, the project website and social media were updated, and several publications were released. In the ongoing year, the focus will be increasingly on disseminating the results, both in the scientific community, among experts, and to the general public.



Image 26 & 27: Source: Thomas Roese | University Potsdam





GEFÖRDERT VOM

MYrisk

The project "multiple risks management of extreme events in fast growing (mega)cities in Myanmar (MYrisk)" focuses on disaster preparedness, managing multiple risks during extreme events, and reducing the consequences of natural risks in rapidly growing (mega)cities in Myanmar, such as Yangon. The project aims to prevent multiple disaster risks, raise comprehensive awareness, and implement integrated disaster event management. Supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the project runs from September 2021 to February 2025 and is currently in its third of four phases. The project is implemented by the project management organization DLR and is integrated into the overarching Sustainable Urban Regions Project (SURE). Project highlights in 2023 include several SURE online workshops, participation in the SURE status seminar in Bangkok followed by a project meeting, and a workshop on risk communication at the DKKV office. After an eventful year, we look forward to the further project plans for 2024.

Read more about MYrisk on our Website.





Click here to access the Projectwebsite.

Image 28 & 29: MYrisk meeting in Bangkok |

Source: DKKV





INCREASE

The project "Inclusive and Integrated Multi-Hazard Risk Management and Engagement of Volunteers to INCREASE Societal Resilience in Times of Climate Change (INCREASE)" focuses on inclusive and integrated multi-hazard risk management and volunteer engagement to increase social resilience in the face of climate change. Supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the project runs from February 2021 to January 2025. The DKKV is tasked with knowledge transfer for integrated disaster risk management and resilience strengthening. Project highlights in 2023 include the milestone meeting in February and a project meeting in June in Cologne, participation in the EUGEO conference in September in Barcelona, and involvement in a pre-event of the Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Other project advancements include mapping relevant stakeholders in disaster risk management in Germany, a report on gaps and capacities of civil protection in Germany in the context of climate-related hazards, and the organization and implementation of several workshops on relevant project topics. We look forward to further collaboration with our partners and planned activities within the project in 2024.





Image 30: INCREASE EUGEO Conference | Source: DKKV

Communicating knowledge actively to the general public is one of our key areas of work. This involves consolidating knowledge, conveying it, and raising awareness, which we achieve through systematic processing and evaluation of scientific findings in the following formats.

Newsletter

The DKKV newsletter, published every three months,

is now subscribed to by nearly 900 individuals and reaches additional readers through forwarding, social media, or the DKKV website. With the support of experts and institutional members, each issue features a current and relevant topic with a corresponding lead article and interviews. Additionally, each issue includes news, events, literature recommendations, and updates from our association. Through our newsletters, we aim to communicate scientific findings to the general public while also informing about our work, projects, and events. Furthermore, we strive to provide a wide range of information, including literature recommendations and interviews, to effectively convey topics related to disaster preparedness. In 2023, we covered the following topics:

DKKV Newsletter







Click on each image to access the individual Newsletter and here to find all previous DKKV-Newsletters.

Homepage

In February 2023, we launched the new website, which is more user-oriented and features a modern design. The DKKV homepage presents curated knowledge and bundles disaster preparedness-related information. Among other things, we collect and publish job postings, study opportunities, and internship announcements, as well as events and calls for submissions, all in the field of disaster protection and preparedness.



In the past few months, we have published four new topic pages on constructural civil protection, the war in Ukraine, insurance in, risk management, and Germany in international disaster management. Additionally, old topic pages have been revised and updated. On the website, we keep all interested parties informed about news in the field of crisis and disaster preparedness and update the content accordingly.

DKKV-Webtalks

The first web talk of the year provided insights from DKKV members about their experiences as participants at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh. Subsequent web talks on the topics of "Structural Civil Protection" and "Germany in International Disaster Management" complemented corresponding newsletter issues or new topic pages on the website. Additionally, a web talk was organized to discuss the DKKV's statement on mandatory elemental elemental damage insurance, shedding light on the topic from various perspectives.

The recordings are uploaded on our YouTube-Chanel.

Social Media

To expand our reach and reach different target groups, we increasingly use the DKKV social media accounts X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube, and additionally since the end of 2023, Bluesky. On all four social media channels, we have noticed an increase in followers and increased interaction over the past year. Especially on LinkedIn, the number of followers increased by more than 700 people particularly strongly. On our channels, we share activities, events that DKKV has participated in, and also disseminate important information from our members, including publications or events. Since

knowledge transfer and networking play an important role in our work, it is important for us to raise awareness for disaster preparedness and management and to reach different stakeholder through our presence on various social media platforms.

We look forward to your visit to oursocial media channels:



DKKV employees as well as individual members also contributed written content to scientific publications on various topics last year, including resilience in tourism destinations, the flood disaster in July 2021 in Germany, crisis communication of natural disasters, and new media and disaster risk reduction.

In order to achieve our goals, our association consists of various actors without whom our work would not be possible. Below, we provide an insight into the different memberships, the board, and the DKKV office.



Our association consists of a total of 10 board members, staff members in the office, institutional as well as individual members, and young professionals. Below, we briefly introduce the different memberships and report on the developments over the past year.

Institutional Members

Fourteen institutions, many of them located in the Bonn region, are members of the DKKV and operate in the fields of science, practice, or international work, thereby contributing valuable expertise to our work. The diverse fields of expertise offer us a broad spectrum of knowledge and networking opportunities. We are pleased that DRF Luftrettung has become part of our institutional members since last year.

Personal Members

The majority of our individual members are professionals engaged in the field of disaster management. With over 50 individual members, including ten new members in 2023, spread across Germany, the Netherlands, and Austria, they actively participate in the association's activities. We always welcome contributions for the newsletter or the website to communicate the work of our members.

Young Professionals

Currently, more than 60 young professionals are part of the DKKV Young Professionals in the field of disaster preparedness and risk management. Our association provides young aspiring researchers with the opportunity to exchange ideas,

network with other experts, and actively participate in projects and events. The Young Professionals also regularly engage in discussions among themselves, such as at an annual meeting. Last year, the YPs spent a weekend in the Harz region, where they explored various aspects related to drought and its consequences, including vegetation fire development. With a diverse program of excursions and presentations, the meeting focused on the theme of dryness and drought. The YPs contribute valuable work to the association, including writing newsletter articles and organizing webinars or workshops. With 33 new members in 2023, the DKKV Young Professionals are growing at the fastest rate.



Image 31: Annual meeting YPs 2023 | Source: DKKV

Here you can find further information about our members.

You work in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction?
Here you can find further information of how to become a member



The Board

Since 2023, Leon Eckert, Member of the German Bundestag for the Alliance 90/The Greens, has been the chair of our association. In addition, a total of nine other representatives from our institutional and individual members, as well as the Young Professionals, serve on the board, shaping the work of the association together with DKKV Managing Director Dr. Benni Thiebes.



Here you will find further information about the board.

Image 32: Leon Eckert | Source: Private.

The DKKV-Office

In our office in Bonn, around nine employees are responsible for the work of the association. Managing Director Dr. Benni Thiebes and two other scientific employees form the core of the team. Several scientific assistants as well as student assistants and interns also support our work in various areas.

On our Website you will also find information about our team.



Image 33: Dr. Benni Thiebes | Source: Privat

Bonn Network International Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction

In the past year, the Bonn Network, based at the DKKV office, has strengthened the profile of core topics such as international disaster management and risk management through various initiatives. These include various delegation visits, participation in the Bonn Making Cities Resilient 2030 campaign, several working group meetings, continuous networking with partner organizations, and the publication of the quarterly newsletter. The funding for the Bonn network by the city of Bonn has been approved again for the coming year. For 2024, new initiatives such as the introduction of a public lecture series and further working group meetings are already planned.

Click here to access the website of the Bonn Network.

A glance into the upcoming year

For the upcoming year, several events and activities are already planned, including the Disaster Preparedness Symposium, the FLORIAN Trade Fair, and the SB60 UNFCCC Conference in Bonn. Additionally, we will continue to host webinars, workshops, and publish newsletters as we have done in previous years. We are looking forward to the new year, collaborating with our members, and valuable exchanges and networking with new stakeholders.

Please be aware that some material may only be available in German.



Imprint

The institutional members of the DKKV are:







TDRF Luftrettung







Technisches
Hilfswerk



Umwelt **†** Bundesamt







Bundesanstalt für

Landwirtschaft und Ernährung



and Human Security





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The DKKV

is...

a civil society platform for disaster risk reduction in Germany.

an intermediary to international organisations and initiatives active in the field of disaster risk reduction.

a competence center for all questions of national and international disaster risk reduction.

supports...

interdisciplinary research approaches for disaster risk reduction in other sectors as well as in politics and economics.

the dissemination of disaster risk reduction knowledge across all levels of the education sector.

recommends...

the implementation of existing knowledge on disaster preparedness in politics, economy, and administration.

the further development of crossdisciplinary and cross-country cooperation in operational disaster risk reduction.

> the development of media strategies to promote and strengthen awareness of disaster risk reduction in society.