

# Activities Report 2024



Source: DKKV

## Our Vision

Creating a resilient society through sustainable crisis and disaster risk preparedness.



Dear readers,

We are living in turbulent and challenging times. Decades of security policy certainties for Germany and Europe are being called into question by the new and old US president. A brutal war of aggression continues to rage in Ukraine, driven by an imperialist Russian dictator. At the same time, the climate crisis is not waiting for international conflicts to be resolved, but is steadily escalating. Year after year, we notice an increase in extreme weather events. My constituency in Bavaria was also affected by the severe flooding last year. The images of raging rivers, flooded streets and evacuated people will stay with me for a long time.



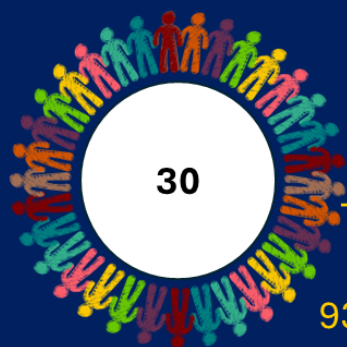
"For effective disaster management, preparedness and response must be thought of together. This starts with a dedicated effort to combat the climate crisis and continues with the determined implementation of climate impact adaptation."

The development of resilient structures at all levels of society remains an urgent task. With our work in the German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV), we want to take on this task and continue to contribute to strengthening resilient structures. To this end, we look for good practices, network practice and science, and discuss findings from past crises and disasters. The idea of strengthening our society for crises through ambitious preparedness remains our guiding principle.

The activity report informs you about the work of the DKKV in the past year and provides detailed insights into the diverse activities and events. As always, the DKKV is committed to achieving its statutory objectives, including the participation, support and promotion of sustainable disaster prevention and effective crisis management - both at national level and in an international context. Last year, DKKV's activities and events focused on the exchange of knowledge and experience between politics, science and practice.

I look forward to many inspiring discussions, exciting events and joint work in the DKKV in the coming year.

Leon Eckert  
DKKV Chair



### New members

Total: 15 institutional  
59 personal  
93 young professionals  
(as of December 2024)

### Board members



### New topic pages



### Employees

Total (full and part-time, temporary staff & interns)



### Newsletter subscribers



### Newsletter



### Submissions for the sponsorship award

As of December 2024



As of December 2024



## Promotion of Interdisciplinary Exchange

2024 was a very eventful year with over 30 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 2024.

### German Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2024

On April 22 and 23, 2024, the Disaster Risk Reduction symposium took place both online and on site in Berlin. Under the motto "On the Edge? Disaster risk reduction in uncertain times", the event brought together experts from various fields to discuss current challenges and solutions in the field of disaster risk reduction.



Image 1: Lecture at symposium on disaster risk reduction  
| Source: DKKV

The conference was organized by the German Red Cross (DRK) in cooperation with KatNet, the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK) and the German Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction (DKKV). Participants were treated to a varied program with specialist presentations, interactive workshops and numerous networking opportunities. A particular highlight was the panel discussion "State of the Nation - Challenges and Perspectives of DRR and Prevention in Selected European Countries", in which international experts highlighted the current challenges and future prospects of disaster risk reduction. The AFPCNT, DCNA, DKKV and PLANAT, among others, were represented and provided valuable insights into their work and strategies.

The symposium offered a unique opportunity to exchange ideas with experts, learn about new approaches and jointly develop solutions for a more resilient society.



On our [website](#) you can find further information

Image 2: DKKV at the Symposium on disaster risk reduction in Berlin | Source DKKV

### DKKV-Werkstatt

"Acting with foresight in the event of flooding and extreme weather: Understanding, warning and deciding together", was the topic of the second DKKV workshop organized together with our institutional member Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD) on 27 September 2024. In an open workshop atmosphere, an intensive exchange was encouraged, with the focus on weather warnings and their effects. During the event, the 37 participants discussed needs and the current state of development in this area. In addition to keynote speeches on the topic of "Learning from practice", the World Café format actively encouraged cooperation and communication between the guests. At various tables, the participants were able to discuss weather warnings and hazard prevention in the first round and new DWD products in the second. The event concluded with a discussion round using the fishbowl method.

## Promotion of Interdisciplinary Exchange



On our [Website](#) you can read more about the DKKV „Werkstatt“

our association, civil protection in Germany and the concept of resilience. The lessons learned from the flood disaster in Germany in July 2021 are also part of the presentations, based on the DKKV review and the 12 identified lessons to be learned. In some cases, topics such as early warning systems, landslides and chemical hazards were also covered. To provide an easy introduction to the topic and facilitate dialogue, the delegates played a serious game that playfully illustrates the role of prevention, early warning and climate change.

Images 3 & 4: DKKV-“Werkstatt” | Source: DKKV

In 2024, the DKKV organized two online regular tables. The first took place on March 12 and the second on November 6, 2024. The regulars' tables offer new and existing members the opportunity to exchange expertise and promote networking within the DKKV. Last year, there were many new participants who discussed a wide range of topics together and developed joint solution sets. There was a lively exchange about DKKV projects, events and the future development of the association.

There will be online DKKV regulars' meetings again in 2025, and we are also considering organizing face-to-face meetings in the Bonn, Berlin and Munich areas.

### DKKV- Stammtisch

### Delegation visits

International exchange and mutual learning are essential, which is why we were pleased to welcome several delegations to the DKKV office last year. During such visits, we present the work of



Image 5: Delegation from Bolivien | Source: DKKV

Last year we welcomed delegates from Rwanda, Bolivia, China and a geography excursion group from the LMU Munich to the DKKV office.

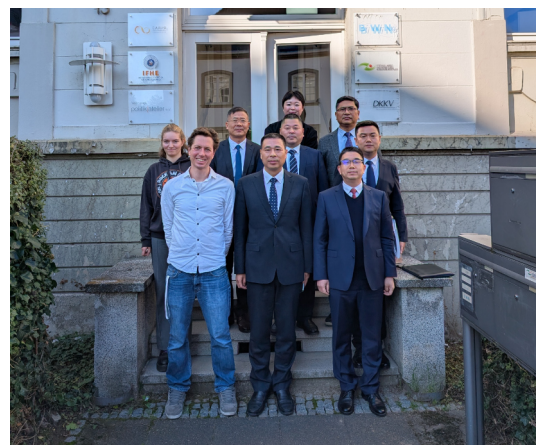


Image 6: Delegation from China | Source: DKKV

# Promotion of Interdisciplinary Exchange

The DKKV 2024 was actively involved in the selection of the following events.

## Feburary



Flood Prevention | Source: DKKV

- Flood Relief Conference #4
- GNDR Global Summit for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Information and Advice Center Flood Prevention Mainz



GNDR | Source: DKKV

## March

- Hearing in the NRW state parliament
- Green municipal congression
- Symposium on coping with police operations in connerction with disasters



Advisory Board | Source: Stefan Karp

## April

- Klimanavigator portal partner meeting
- German Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2024
- First meeting of the Implementation Advisory Board of the National Platform for strengthening Resilience to Disasters

## May

- World Fire Congress 2024
- Diakonie Neighborhood Management
- German GNDR Meeting



Diakonie | Source: DKKV

## June

- SB60 UN Interim conference

## July

- Annual workshop IBH and Competence Center Flood Mainz



IBH Mainz workshop | Source: DKKV



UN Interim conference | Source: DKKV



# Promotion of Interdisciplinary Exchange

## September

- ExtremeWeatherCongress | Second DKKV Werkstatt

ExtremeWeatherCongress | Source: DKKV



## October

- FLORIAN Fair
- Communities save the climate Potsdam
- UNU-EHS course „Disaster Management and Humanitarian Response“



FLORIAN Fair | Source: FLORIAN

## November

- COP29 in Baku
- Symposium on the Challenges of Disaster Risk Controll in Stuttgart
- HWNG Workshop on Social Media - How can crisis communication succeed in the event of extreme flooding?
- International Disaster Prevention at the „Behördenspiegel Neue Stadt“
- Society for Geography in Cologne
- City Rösrath - Which challenges do natural hazards pose?
- Third Global Network on Regional Resilience & Foresight Meeting



UNU-EHS course | Source: DKKV



Behördenspiegel | Source: private



City Rösrath | Source: DKKV



Symposium Stuttgart | Source: DKKV



COP 29 in Baku | Source: private

## December

- Lecture series of the Bonn Network International Civil Protection and Risk Management

## International work

Learning from the past is essential in disaster management. In particular, this includes learning from and exchanging information with other players at national and international level is also essential in order to benefit from good practices and lessons learned. We are therefore part of a number of national and international networks and are in active contact with a large number of institutions and platforms. The DKKV is also actively involved in international events that bring together different perspectives and experiences at one table. For example, the COP29 World Climate Change Conference in Baku in November 2024, at which two DKKV delegates were present as observers. There are also regular meetings with the French partners AFPCNT (Association française pour la prévention des catastrophes naturelles et technologiques). DKKV employees and members also contributed content to international events in 2024, such as the GNDR Global Summit in Nairobi and the Europe & Central Asia Regional Platform for DRR online and in Budva.

## Promotional Award

Since 2018, the DKKV has been awarding the DKKV Promotional Award to recognize current research and best practice examples related to disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management. Since the promotion of young scientists is particularly important to us, the award honours outstanding theses. The DKKV Promotional Award 2024 was thematically located in the field of (inter)national disaster prevention and financially supported by DRF Luftrettung. The official award ceremony took place in March at the German Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2025 in Berlin.

You can find more information about our networks and cooperations on our [website](#).



Image 7: GNDR | Source: DKKV



Image 9: The DKKV Promotional Award winners 2024 Leonie Eberhardt and Paula Gnielinski | Source: private

Read more about the Sponsorship award on our [Homepage](#).

You can watch the video of the Award winners [here](#).

**Webinar**

**Harnessing Synergy**  
Empowering End Users to make Risk-Based Decisions through Civil Society, Scientific Networks, and National Platform across Europe

6. Nov 2024  
15:00 CET

moderated by Philipp Gunkel, AFPCNT (FR)

Participants: Franziska Schmidt (DKK), Christian Becht (DKK), Bernd Thies (DKK), Roland Nussbaum (AFPCNT (FR))

Logos: DKKV, DCNA, AFPCNT, Nationale Plattform Naturgefahren (PLANAT)

Image 8: Webinar for the Regional Platform | Source: DKKV

## Consultation for Decision-Makers

To provide solution-orientated 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:

### Increased prevention saves the lives of citizens and rescuers

### Strengthening the resilience of critical facilities (KRITIS-Dachgesetz)

The publication provides a statement from the association on the flood disaster in southern Germany in 2024. It emphasizes the need for increased prevention in order to better protect human lives and critical infrastructure.

In the publication, a statement was issued on the second draft of the KRITIS-Dachgesetz. In it, DKKV evaluates some of the key aspects of the draft legislation based on the DKKV statement from August 2023.



Click [here](#) for the DKKV statement "Increased prevention saves the lives of citizens and rescuers."



You can find this statement in german on our [website](#).

In addition to the Statements, members of the DKKV participated in the online dialog on the design of the National Platform for Strengthening Resilience to Disasters and took part in political hearings on the topics of disaster prevention, civil protection and warning and informing the population in order to support political decision-making with scientifically sound advice.



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

### Networking and transfer project Aqua-X-Net of the funding measure "Water Extreme Events (WaX)"

The project "Networking and Transfer Project: Synthesis and Transfer (Aqua-X-Net)" of the BMBF funding measure "Water Extreme Events" (WaX) is being carried out by DKKV together with the University of Potsdam, working group Geography and Natural Risks Research, and runs from November 2021 to October 2025. With WaX, the BMBF is funding twelve research projects that develop new approaches to the management of water-related natural hazards such as heavy rainfall, floods and drought across disciplines and sectors. The Aqua-X-Net project carried out by DKKV accompanies the twelve research projects and creates intensive networking and exchange through the creation of event and communication formats. Aqua-X-Net is also responsible for presenting and communicating the results to the public.

Highlights of the project included five practical online lunchtalks on the topic of "Water extremes in focus: new impulses from research".



Image 10: Group photo | Source: Sandra Scholz | University Potsdam

as the publication of two impulse papers on the topics of "Heavy rainfall and flash floods" and "Drought and low water". The cross-network work in the WaX cross-cutting topic was successfully completed during the course of the year. As a result, a best-practice collection of water storage measures was created in the cross-cutting topics of water storage and integrated into the WaX website with a filter function. Continuous communication also supported the visibility of the WaX funding measure and the topic of water extremes. The specialist public was reached via regular WaX newsletters and an active project website. For the general public, a virtual tour of Germany to the research locations of the joint projects took place on social media. In addition, a Pixi knowledge book and a short film, both on the subject of water extremes, are currently being produced.

Click [here](#) for the project website.

You can read more about the Aqua-X-Net networking and transfer project of the WaX funding measure on our [website](#).



Image 11: Source: DKKV



Image 12: Pixi book  
Source: Pixi Carlsen Verlag

## MYrisk

The project "multiple risks management of extreme events in fast growing (mega)cities in Myanmar (MYrisk)" deals with disaster risk reduction, the management of multiple risks in extreme events and the reduction of the consequences of natural risks in fast growing (mega)cities in Myanmar such as Yangon. The aim of the project is the prevention against the background of multiple disaster risks, comprehensive awareness-raising and integrative management of disaster events. Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the project runs from September 2021 until February 2025, but has now been extended by two years and is currently still in the third of four phases. The project is being supervised by the DLR project management organization and is integrated into the overarching Sustainable Urban Regions Project (SURE). Project highlights in 2024 included several SURE online workshops and two DKKV workshops on risk communication. After an eventful year, we are looking forward to the further project plans for 2025.

Read more about Myrisk on our [Website](#)

Click [here](#) for the project website.

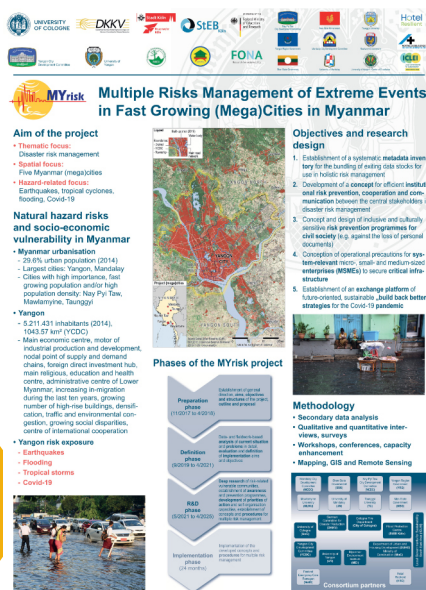


Image 13: MYrisk Poster | Source: Frauke Kraas University of Cologne

## INCREASE

The project "Inclusive and Integrated Multi-Hazard Risk Management and Engagement of Volunteers to INCREASE Societal Resilience in Times of Climate Change" is dedicated to inclusive and integrated multi-hazard risk management and volunteer engagement to increase social resilience in times of climate change. Funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the project runs from February 2021 to January 2025, with DKKV entrusted with the task of knowledge transfer for integrated disaster risk management and strengthening resilience. Project highlights in 2024 included the project meetings in Berlin in Würzburg and the research trip to Central Asia. Further project progress includes a report on mapping relevant actors in disaster risk management in Germany, as well as the organization and implementation of several workshops on relevant project topics.



Read more on our [website](#)

Image 14: INCREASE Research trip to Central Asia | Source: DKKV

Actively communicating knowledge to the general public is one of our key areas of work. The aim is to pool knowledge, communicate it and create awareness, among other things by systematically processing and evaluating scientific findings. This is realised through the following formats.

## Newsletter

The DKKV newsletter, which is published every three months, is now subscribed to by over 1,000 people and reaches additional readers via forwarding, social media or the DKKV website.

With the support of experts and association members, each issue features a currently relevant topic with a corresponding editorial and interviews. Each issue also contains reports, events, literature references and news from our association. The aim of our newsletters is to communicate scientific findings to the general public and at the same time provide information about our work, projects and events. It is also important to us to provide a wide range of information - including recommended reading and interviews - in order to communicate topics relating to disaster risk prevention in an appealing way. In 2024, we addressed the topics of space hazards, the winter flood of 2023/2024, heat, and storms.

Click on the individual images to go to the respective issue and [here](#) for all previous DKKV newsletters.

## Homepage

On the DKKV homepage, knowledge is processed and information relevant to disaster prevention is presented in a bundled form. We collect and publish, among other things, job postings, study and internship opportunities, events and conferences, as well as calls for the submission of papers on specific topics.



Source: Pixabay



Weltraumgefahren



Winterhochwasser 2023/24



Hitze



Stürme

In recent months, we have published four new topic pages on space hazards, climate change and attribution research, tsunamis and floods.

In addition, old topic pages have been revised and updated. On the website, we keep all interested parties up to date with news from the field of crisis and disaster prevention and update the content accordingly.

Click on the individual pictures to go to the different pages



### DKKV-Webtalks

DKKV hosted several WebTalks in 2024, which were recorded and are available on DKKV's YouTube channel.

In the first WebTalk of the year, DKKV members gave an insight into their time as participants at COP28 in Dubai. WebTalks followed on the topics of "Ideas have siblings: about art and disasters, crises and creativity" and "Floods in southern Germany in June 2024". The latter was a supplement to the corresponding newsletter issue and was held together with CEDIM. There were also five WaX lunchtalks on the topic of "Water extremes in focus - impulses from research", each with 100-170 participants.

You can find all recordings on our [YouTube channel](#)

### Social Media

To expand our reach and reach different target groups, we are increasingly using the DKKV social media accounts LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube and Bluesky. We saw an increase in followers and increased interaction on all four social media channels last year. On LinkedIn in particular, the number of followers increased by more than 700 people. On our channels, we share activities and events in which the DKKV has participated and also disseminate important information from our members, including publications and events. As an association for which knowledge transfer and networking play an important role, it is therefore important for us to raise awareness of disaster prevention and management and to reach different interest groups through our presence on various social media platforms.

We look forward to your visit on our social media channels:



Click on the corresponding logo

### Publications

DKKV employees and personal members also contributed written content to scientific publications last year, many of which are related to ongoing projects, for example:

- DKKV (2024): Capacities and Gaps in German civil protection in the context of climate-related hazards.
- Henzler, L., Bach, S., Winkhardt-Enz, R., Thiebes, B., Fiedrich, F. (2024): Klimakrise trifft Bevölkerungsschutz. Cpm-Verlag.
- DKKV (Hrsg., 2024): Governance und Kommunikation im Krisenfall des Hochwasserereignisses im Juli 2021, DKKV-Schriftenreihe Nr. 63, Januar 2024, Bonn.
- Mihaljevic, A., Heinkel, S., Kyi, T., Thiebes, b., Than, z., Miller, C., Martini, S., Aung, T., Willkomm, M., Maung, W., Myint, z., Soe, K. & F. Kraas (2024): Disaster Risk Reduction in Yangon - where are we now? First Research Results of the Project 'Multiple Risk Management of Extreme Events in fast-growing (Mega)Cities in Myanmar'. Sure Solutions.
- Posch, E., Eckert, E., Dr. Thiebes, B. (2024). Towards a future conceptualization of destination resilience: exploring the role of actors, agency and resilience narratives. Journal of Tourism Futures.

**The realisation of our goals is only possible thanks to the diverse contributions of our members, on whose commitment the association is largely based. Below we provide an insight into the various memberships, the board and the DKKV office.**

Our association consists of board members, office staff, institutional and personal members and young professionals. In the following, we briefly present the various memberships and report on developments over the past year.

### Who we are

#### Institutional members

15 institutions (16 since 1.01.25), many of which are based in the Bonn region, are active in the fields of science, practice or international work, making a valuable contribution to our work. The different specialist areas offer us a wide range of expertise and networking opportunities. We are delighted to welcome ADAC Luftrettung and Akademie Hochwasserschutz as part of our institutional membership this year.

#### Personal members

Most of our personal members are people who are professionally involved in the field of civil protection. Almost 60 personal members, including four new additions in 2024, are spread throughout Germany, the Netherlands and Austria and are actively involved in the association's activities. We are always happy to receive content for the newsletter or website to communicate the work of our members.

#### Young Professionals

More than 100 young professionals (YP) are now part of the DKKV Young Professionals in the field of disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management. Our association offers young scientists the opportunity to exchange ideas with other experts, to network and to actively participate in projects and events. The YPs regularly exchange ideas with each other, for example at regular 'Stammtisch' get-togethers and an annual meeting.

The YPs do valuable work for the association, for example by writing newsletter articles and organizing webinars and workshops. The annual meeting of the YPs, which took place in Kiel and focused on the topic of storm surges, offered participants a scientific exchange as well as a tour of Arnis, which was affected by the 2023 storm surge, accompanied by the incident commander of the storm surge night.



Image 15: Annual meeting YPs 2024 | Source: DKKV

[Here](#) you can find more information about our members

Do you work in the field of disaster risk reduction? [Here](#) you will find information on how to become a member of DKKV.

### Executive Board

Leon Eckert, member of the German Bundestag for Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, has been Chairman of our association since 2023. In addition, a total of nine other representatives of our institutional and personal members and young professionals sit on the Board of Directors and thus shape the work of the association together with DKKV Managing Director Dr. Benni Thiebes.



Image 16: Leon Eckert | Source: private

You can read more about the Executive Board [here](#)

### Bonn Network International Civil Protection and Risk Management

The Bonn network, which is based at the DKKV office, was able to further strengthen the profile of the core topics of international disaster prevention and risk management last year through various projects. Highlights of 2024 included the workshops of the risk communication working group and the regular exchange meetings and web talks of the forest fire working group. In the area of communication and public relations, the focus was on networking and exchange - with regular meetings of network partners, an active social media presence, an informative newsletter and delegation visits. Another highlight was the lecture series with four exciting presentations.

Click [here](#) for the website of the Bonn Network.

### DKKV Office

Around eight employees are responsible for the work of the association at our office in Bonn. Managing Director Dr. Benni Thiebes and two other research assistants form the core of the team. Several research assistants, student assistants and interns also support our work in various areas.

You can also find information about our team on our [website](#).



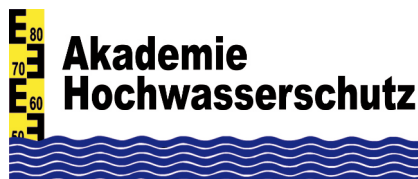
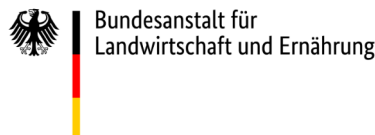
Image 17: Dr. Benni Thiebes | Source: private

### A look ahead to the coming year

A number of events and activities are already planned for the coming year, including the BBK Congress, the WaX Final Conference and German Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. As in previous years, we will also be organizing further lunch talks, workshops and newsletter publications. We are looking forward to the new year, working with our members and valuable exchanges and networking with new actors.



## The institutional members of the DKKV are:



German Committee for Disaster  
Reduction e.V.  
Kaiser-Friedrich-Str. 13  
53113 Bonn

+49 228/26 199 570 ☎  
info@dkkv.org ✉  
www.dkkv.org 🌐  
@DKKV\_GermanDRR 🐦  
@dkkv\_gemandrr 📷  
deutsches-komitee- 📺  
katastrophenvorsorge-e-v

Editing and Layout:  
Office DKKV

### 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 cross-  
disciplinary 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.