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Integrating climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the Baltic Sea Region

Insights from the CASCADE project

Heidi Tuhkanen, SEI Tallinn, 5 May 2022



RATIONALE

- Low awareness about hazard or weather extreme induced cascading effect
- Climate change and disaster risks are an emerging security threat
- Need to work across sectors/depts/boundaries and across levels – esp DRR & Adaptation

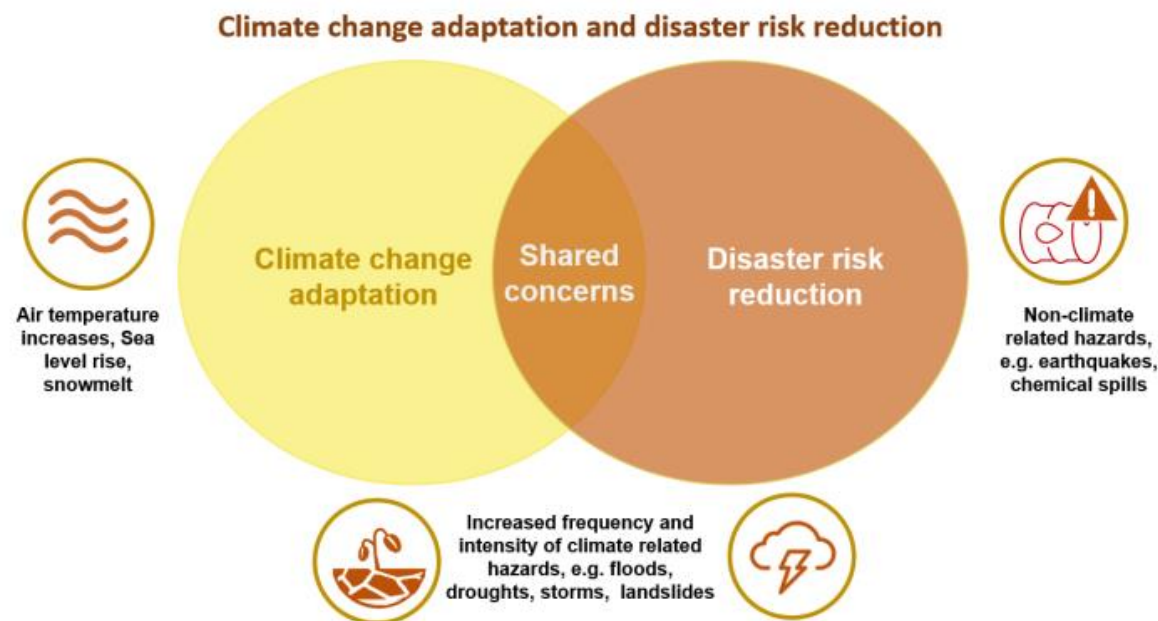


Figure 1 Common concerns of CCA and DRR

Source: CASCADE policy recommendations report 2021

PROJECT PARTNERS

Cooperation across different sectors and national and local levels

– civil protection experts, climate change experts, researchers, education and training experts and policy makers working together.



PROJECT AIMS

- **To develop an macro-regional approach for climate change related risks** tailorable to the needs and challenges of cities.
- **To increase** the cross-sectoral **practical knowledge of climate change effects and how to manage them.**
- **To create a framework for better coordination** between local, national, macro-regional, EU and international levels in climate change urban risk management.



FROM MAPPING TO RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Mapping the **state of play** of work with DRR and CCA
2. **Setting the agenda** for the 1st Transnational Policy Dialogue meeting – based on the mapping results. Discussion with local level representatives, UBC General Conference, 16 October 2019
3. **National consultations** collecting input from various levels and sectors: DK, EE, FI, DE, LV, LT, NO, PO, SE, + Brussels
4. Analysis & compilation of conclusions
5. 2nd Transnational Policy Dialogue meeting 2020 – policy recommendations & **feedback**
6.continued Policy Dialogue in the CBSS Civil Protection Network and the BSR Climate Dialogue Platform



Sendai Framework
for Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 - 2030

“The change to prevention-style thinking is slow – many people working in civil protection continue to focus on response rather than prevention”

“Data is not collected on disaster loss on the local level, mainly because the local level does not see any reason to collect the data.”

“Many aspects of the Sendai Framework are relevant for our national system, but the framework was primarily intended for developing countries”

Reduce

**Mortality/
global population**

2020-2030 Average << 2005-2015 Average

**Affected people/
global population**

2020-2030 Average << 2005-2015 Average

**Economic loss/
global GDP**

2030 Ratio << 2015 Ratio

**Damage to critical infrastructure
& disruption of basic services**

2030 Values << 2015 Values

Increase

**Countries with national
& local DRR strategies**

2020 Value >> 2015 Value

**International
cooperation**

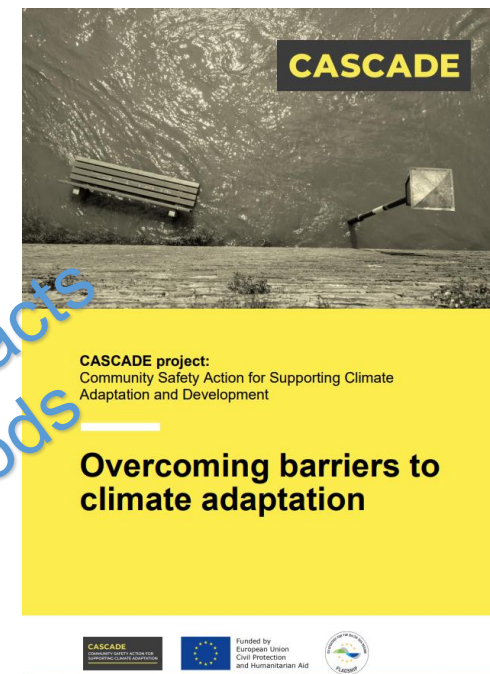
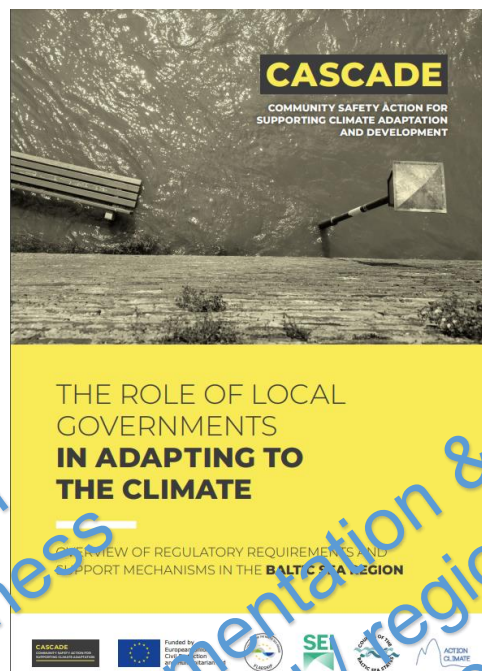
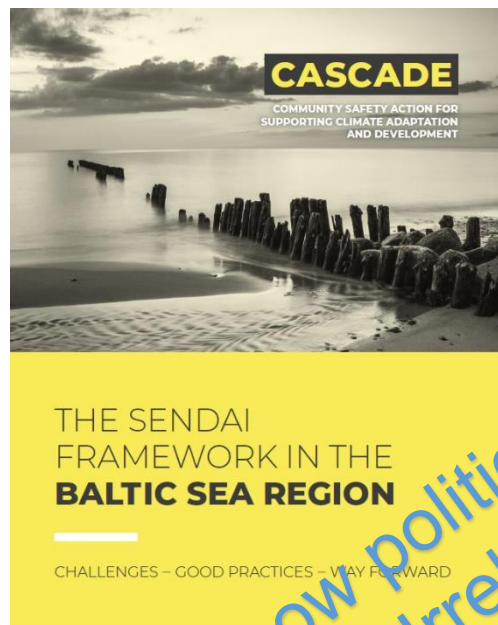
to developing countries
2030 Value >> 2015 Value

**Availability and access
to multi-hazard early warning
systems & disaster risk
information and assessments**

2030 Values >> 2015 Values

7 GLOBAL TARGETS

STATE OF PLAY – DRR & CCA



Low political priority
Irrelevance
Lack of knowledge
Lack of cooperation
Focus on preparedness

Implementation & mandates vary
National/regional support vary
Focus on historical climate impacts
Focus on specific risks: floods

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sourced throughout the project
- Target audience – local and national level policy makers and practitioners
- Integration of Sendai Framework and EU Climate Change adaptation policies
- Overcoming the identified barriers in the Baltic Sea Region
- Examples from across the BSR

Sendai
Framework

Risk
assessments

Knowledge &
data

Cooperation

FINDINGS: SENDAI

- **Awareness** about SFDRR should be raised amongst the public as well as politicians. Low awareness and concern may stem from the lack of experience with severe disasters.
- **Improved structured cooperation** and centralised, strong coordination around the Sendai Framework for DRR (SFDRR) could help with improved cooperation with stakeholders, comprehensive risk management and systemic risk approach.

Often something has to happen first, to bring about political will.

“Only four out of eight countries have a National Platform for the work with the Sendai Framework.”

FINDINGS: RISK ASSESSMENTS

- Need to **integrate** climate related risks into National Risk Assessments.
- Need to **expand** risk assessments to cover emergent and future risks, including cascading and transboundary effects (systemic risks).
- Civil protection is challenged to **shift** from preparedness and response to prevention and risk reduction.

Germany – close cooperation between the German Environment Agency and National Civil Protection Agency.

In Latvia, the national risk assessment included the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, the Association of large Latvian cities, Ministry of Interior, and the State Firefighting Rescue Service.

FINDINGS: KNOWLEDGE & DATA

- The **knowledge** and expertise related to climate risks cities around the Baltic Sea region but is generally low.
 - Better data needed, but also
 - Stronger capacity to analyse and use data
 - Especially in smaller municipalities
 - Lacking awareness about future risks
- Insufficient localised **data** on future climate impact projections & post-event monitoring of losses and damage
- **Data** is often fragmented and difficult to compare across jurisdictions

The Danish Coastal Directorate has prepared a nationwide mapping of the risks in the coastal areas up to the year 2120 (Kystplanlægger). This tool also provides indicative strategies and proposals for concrete measures to deal with the flood and erosion risk across municipal borders.

FINDINGS: COOPERATION

- **Cross-sectoral cooperation** needs improving: Integration of disaster risk reduction and adaptation in all levels of society and across many other sectors (health sector, socio-economic, etc.) - overcoming silos
- Municipal **networks** regarding adaptation and disaster risk reduction work is important and could be strengthened – different levels of governance

“Sweden ... has a national network that gathers national and regional authorities to facilitate collaboration and data use. Lots of municipalities also cooperate bilaterally, as well as through the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKR)...”

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Regionalisation and tailoring of the Sendai Framework.
2. Broader integration of climate risk into national risk assessments
3. Improved understanding of current, emergent, and future risks at the local level.
4. Strengthened opportunities for collaboration, networking and discussion related to climate resilience among local authorities.



OUTCOMES

- **Regional approach:** expert network across policy levels; action based on identified gaps & needs
- **Practical knowledge:** Toolbox e.g. Overview of climate risks & consequences; guidelines for risk assessment, training package, curriculum



- **Framework for regional coordination:** continued policy dialogues on topic & policy recommendations
- CASCADE II? (training and implementation in a climate adaptation planning process)





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Thank you for your interest!



CASCADE EFFECTS

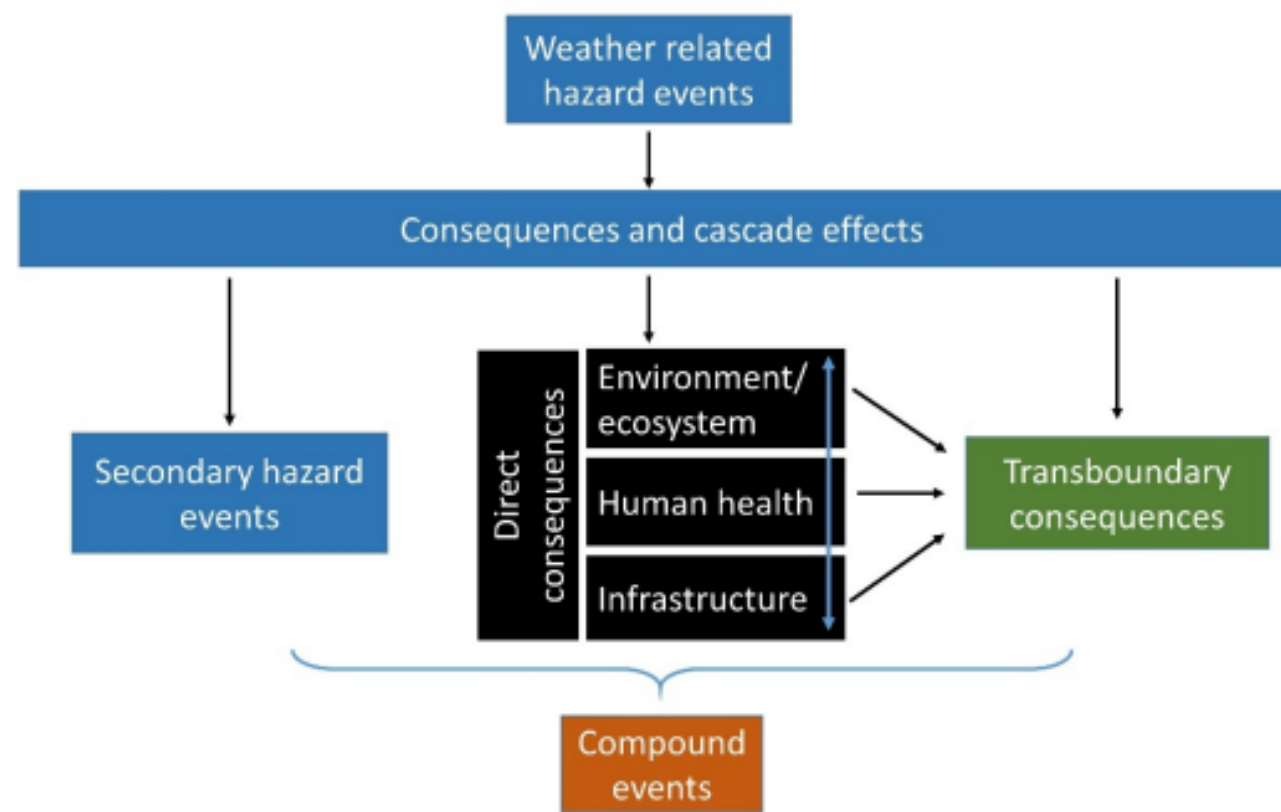


Figure 2 Depiction of the main feedback loops related to climate hazards and their consequences (cascade effects). This is also the basis for the components of Chapter 2.