



MAKING HAZARD MAPS AVAILABLE AND UP TO DATE

Policy Brief

Name of Indicator: Percentage of municipalities with local flood risk management plans

Field of Application: Governance

This policy brief is part of the ClimEmpower policy recommendations, available from climempower.eu. It translates evidence and project findings into practical guidance for regional and local policymakers seeking to strengthen resilience to climate and other systemic disruptions. It focuses on the availability, quality and accessibility of hazard maps, and their use as the shared evidence base for risk-informed planning and decision-making.

The main recommendation is to ensure the availability and regular updating of hazard maps, providing accurate and accessible information on risk exposure at different territorial levels. This requires a national or regional mapping framework with common standards, an obligation on local authorities to prepare and maintain maps, and open public access to the resulting data.

Hazard Mapping & Risk Governance



Key Challenges

- Hazard information is fragmented across agencies and sources
- Many municipalities lack up-to-date or standardised hazard maps
- Public access to mapping data is inconsistent



Good Practices

- Common standards and methodologies for hazard mapping
- Open public access to mapping data
- Capacity building for local authorities on map development and use



Priority policy actions



Consolidate hazard data

Bring together fragmented hazard information from different sources into a single, consistent evidence base.



Identify high-risk areas and municipalities

Use the consolidated data to determine which territories face the greatest exposure and require priority mapping.



Develop and update hazard maps to common standards

Produce and regularly update hazard maps using shared methodologies, so results are comparable across municipalities.



Ensure public access to mapping data

Make hazard maps openly accessible to citizens, institutions and planners, supporting transparency and informed decision-making.



Build local authority capacity

Equip local authorities with the skills and tools needed to maintain and apply hazard maps in planning and decision-making.

Implementation Roadmap

1

Phase 1 — Data consolidation and risk identification

Collect and consolidate hazard information from available sources, and identify the high-risk areas and municipalities requiring priority mapping.

2

Phase 2 — Map development and standardisation

Develop and update hazard maps using shared standards and methodologies to ensure consistency across territories.

3

Phase 3 — Access and planning integration

Make hazard maps publicly accessible and embed them into planning and decision-making at local and regional level.

4

Phase 4 — Capacity building and monitoring

Build local authority capacity to maintain and apply hazard maps, and monitor data quality and update cycles over time.

Funding



European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Can finance risk mapping and digital infrastructure investment.



Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Can support risk assessment and mapping capacity.



Horizon Europe

Can fund research on hazard modelling and mapping methodologies.



Copernicus / EU Space Programme

Can provide satellite-based data for hazard monitoring.



National governance modernisation funds

Can further support digital hazard mapping systems.



Conclusion

Making hazard maps available and up to date increases transparency and risk awareness for citizens and institutions alike.

It also supports better protection of sensitive areas and reduces the likelihood of new development in areas at risk, strengthening the evidence base for climate-resilient planning.