

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN TERRITORY, RISK AND PUBLIC POLICIES

Risk Mitigation Strategies (8 ECTS)

Teaching Staff

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Objectives

The objective is to identify and analyse the alternative options to risk mitigation, as well as the implementation of intervention proposals and actions in concrete case studies, its results and its flexibility for adjustments or readjustments. Various techniques can be used in these exercises, such as the systemic and functional vulnerability, potential domino mechanisms and scenario analysis, among others.

Programmatic content

This curricular unit proposal is based on the concept that risks result from the interaction between environment and human activities, and that knowledge on the conditions causing or encouraging risks creates intervention opportunities to mitigate and avoid undesired consequences in the future. Therefore, risk mitigation strategies are here understood as proposals for action aiming at mobilising socio-technical systems that deal with the diagnosed problems.

The goal is to promote critical thinking and facilitate technical skills and tools to think spatial planning and risk(s) management, explaining the theoretical concepts, assumptions and underlying political dimensions. For this purpose, natural, exact, engineering and social sciences approaches will be adopted. Thus, from semi-qualitative and quantitative analyses, safeguarding, transfer and impact reducing methods and techniques are identified, according to the type of risk.

Main bibliography

Risk Assessment, Modeling and Decision Support. Strategic Directions. Ed. Bostrom, A.; French, S.Gottlieb. Risk, Governance and Society, nº 14, Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2008, p. 332.

Godschalk, D.R., Beatley, T., Berke, P., Brower, D.J., and Kaiser, E.J. - Natural Hazard Mitigation: Recasting Disaster Policy and Planning. Island Press, Washington, 1999, p. 575.

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GAO - Natural Hazard Mitigation. Report to the ranking Member Committee on Financial

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Mechler, R. - Natural Disaster Risk and Cost-Benefit Analysis. In A. Kreimer et al. (eds). The Future of Disaster Risk: Building Safer Cities. World Bank, Washington DC, 2003, pp. 45-56.