

Activities undertaken by Austria

In Austria, a national platform for DRR was established, which has developed a comprehensive action plan to achieve the Sendai goals. The platform is composed of local, regional and national stakeholders from the private and public sector and holds regular meetings and conferences. Continuous investment in disaster risk reduction has led to a significant decrease of losses caused by disasters.

Essential information about disaster risks and self-protection is available to the population on internet platforms and printed material is distributed in local safety information centers at municipal level. There is free online access to many hazard and risk maps. In addition, there are also regular information events where the population is informed about disaster risks and opportunities for self-protection. The Austrian Civil Protection Association, a private NGO, regularly organizes the nationwide "Children Safety Olympics" with the support of the Ministry of the Interior, so children in school can learn about the correct behavior in emergencies in a playful way.

Austria carried out a national disaster risk assessment for the second time in 2018 and assessed its disaster risk management capabilities within the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism. The national risk assessment takes into account the impact of climate change and a section of the national adaptation strategy to climate change is also devoted to disaster risk management.

Responsibilities for risk prevention and mitigation are shared between the different government levels. Austria has a well-established nationwide disaster preparedness and response system, which mainly relies on voluntary response organizations. At all levels there are legal provisions for disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness as well as response plans, which are constantly revised and tested in exercises. Disaster response exercises take place on a regular basis at tactical, operational and strategic levels in the national, European and international context.