

EU-China Disaster Risk Management

Duration	48 months 2012-2015	
Beneficiary country	People's Republic of China	
EC Contribution	€ 6 million	
China Contribution	€ 3 million	
Executing Authority	Ministry of Commerce of China (MOFCOM)	
Implementing Counterpart	State Council (Chinese Academy of Governance & Emergency Management Office)	
Implementing Agency	Chinese National Institute of Emergency Management (NIEM)	
Location	Mainly China with study trips to Europe	
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Project Background

China is amongst the nations most prone to natural disasters. Examples from recent history include the Sichuan earthquake in 2008, the Qinghai earthquake and the floods in Southern China in 2010. Besides natural disasters, the risk of man-made disasters is also on the rise. Well known to the world are the SARS epidemic in 2003, the melamine crisis in 2008 and the numerous cases of environmental contamination.

Since 2008, the Chinese Government has undertaken a process of institutional strengthening aimed at enhancing the system of disaster risk management nation-wide. In this context, the Chinese Government is adapting to international best practices, particularly on aspects relating to prevention and preparedness and to the key issue of multi-actor coordination throughout the disaster risk management cycle.

As part of the institutional strengthening process, the State Council (SC) established the first National Institute for Emergency Management (NIEM) within the China Academy of Governance (CAG, former National School of Administration (CNSA)), a ministerial level institution headed by a State Councillor and SC Secretary General. NIEM has been established as a resource institute supporting the SC and its Emergency Management Office (EMO) with specific tasks related to policy advice, policy research and training services in all relevant aspects of disaster risk management.

In accordance with generally accepted criteria the term "Disaster Management" is to be understood as encompassing a global and multi-faced approach, as suggested by internationally agreed documents such as the Hyogo framework and plan of action 2005-2015 - HFA. The HFA outlines priorities for action and offers guiding principles and practical



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means for achieving disaster resilience. Authorities and civil society should be part of the system.

Disaster management includes a wide range of activities ranging from risk identification, mapping, vulnerability studies, prevention activities, early warning, population alert, preparedness and emergency action planning etc.

Project Description

The EU-China DRM project was agreed in a Financing Agreement between the EU and the Government of China and is implemented through a Grant Contract between the European Commission and the French Ministry of Interior – Directory General of Civil Protection and Crisis Management - as the Leader of a consortium composed by the following members and associates:

Crisis Management Centre Finland (FIN)

Civipol Conseil -as financial operator- under the French Ministry of Interior

The Institute of the High Studies and Internal Securities (FR)

General Secretariat for Civil Protection (GR)

Italian Department of Civil Protection (IT)

Dirección general de Protección Civil y Emergencias (ESP)

Civil contingencies Secretariat, Cabinet Office (UK)

Ecole Nationale d'Administration - ENA (FR)

Masaryk University (CZ)

The **global objective** of the project is to support the Government of China in strengthening the nation-wide disaster management system thereby reducing the vulnerability of the Chinese people to risks and effects from natural and man-made disasters, and its **specific objectives** are 1) To raise the capacity of the National Institute for Emergency Management (NIEM) to assist decision makers and government administrations at the central and local level; 2) To raise the capacity of the Emergency Management Office (EMO) to effectively and operationally deal with the challenges of disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction, disaster response and post-disaster management; and 3) To establish a long-term effective EU-China platform (China-Europe Institute of Emergency Management - CEIEM) facilitating cooperation and coordination of actors in the management of disaster risks at national and international level.

Main Results

1. The overall Chinese policy, legal and operational framework for disaster risk reduction and disaster management is enhanced, coordination mechanisms are established and multi-stakeholder multi-hazard approaches are integrated into the national system.
2. NIEM has developed state-of-the-art resources for education and training, innovation and policy advice, consultancy and innovation in relation to the full cycle of disaster management;
3. The competent Chinese administrations have upgraded their skills, from policy to field level implementation, in relation to all aspects of disaster management;
4. NIEM is hosting a permanent EU-China Department for Disaster Risk Management (DRRM) for long-term cooperation and exchange with relevant EC services, and European civil protection actors, including government agencies, experts, specialised institutes, etc.

Current Status

The project is implementing its **Annual Working Plan 3** covering the period from August 2014 to August 2015. Main challenges are related to the need of achieving



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a better involvement of the Chinese partners –especially EMO and the provincial level- in order to advance the different components in a more balanced way. Concerning the CEIEM, since it is clear that its establishment as a long-term platform is a key factor for the sustainability of the project, its role and objectives and its organizational and administrative framework needs to be worked out during this period. Policy dialogue is also expected to improve during this year. Additionally, getting the best value from EU expertise (with training and exchange activities) will be crucial in order to provide the best examples in the fields of policymaking, service delivery and oversight capacity in the most efficient way.

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