

Awareness toward Disaster Risks of the Youth and the Government's Efforts - Zagreb, Croatia

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This is a qualitative research on the awareness of the youth in Zagreb toward disaster risks through questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. City of Zagreb, the capital of Republic of Croatia, experienced a huge flood in 1964 due to a heavy rainfall and a breakage of the river bank. Since the Government developed infrastructures after the flood, there have not been outstanding disasters in Zagreb. However, the city now concerns a probability of a hit by an earthquake in future as well as other disasters that might be occurred concurrently, for example, flood and landslide. The Governments have made efforts for awareness-raising among citizens using websites and produced various materials. They also put some weight on education for disaster risk reduction and awareness-raising. To what extent has their efforts been disseminated to citizens in Zagreb? How do the youth perceive their environment and historical disasters in their city? This research answers to these questions by showing the results of two questionnaires to the youth in Zagreb: 1) the youth has rather optimistic view on their reactions facing a disaster case, 2) nearly 70% agree with possibility of a flood in Zagreb in 10 years, but not many have preparation nor know what to do in a case of disaster emergency, and 3) their knowledge about the resources disseminated by the Government is hardly observed. We end with a discussion on use of computational tools for awareness-raising, and then conclude that a holistic approach is necessary to found a link between citizens and the Government's efforts toward disaster risk reductions in future.

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