

## **THE OECD FUTURES PROJECT ON RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

### **STATE OF PLAY AS OF 1 MARCH 2005**

The OECD Futures Project on Risk Management Policies is a pilot project gathering OECD Member Countries willing to share their experiences in addressing major risks. It has been launched in October-November 2003 as a follow-up to the OECD Futures Project on Emerging Systemic Risks, which identified the most pressing challenges in risk management that OECD countries are expected to face in the twenty-first century.

The Project is monitored by a Steering Group consisting of the representatives of participating Ministries and Agencies. The Group meets every semester at the OECD headquarters to review progress to date in the Project and provide advice on future developments.

Eight countries participate in the Project as of 1 March 2005: Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. For each participating country, the Project is organised in two phases.

#### ***First phase: preliminary case studies***

The OECD Secretariat and the country's representatives work together to choose one or two case studies in risk management, and prepare the ground for a possible review of existing issues and policies. The work carried out for each case study consists of:

- . *Involving stakeholders in the definition of the study's scope.* The participating country organises a workshop in its capital, where the Secretariat meets the principal actors involved in the risk management issue in question, from both the public and the private sectors; presents its methodology; and discusses the possibilities offered by the Project.
- . *Elaborating the self-assessment and review tools.* The Secretariat prepares a preliminary study including an overview of the latest developments in the field at the international

OECD INTERNATIONAL FUTURES PROGRAM

level as well as in the country; a discussion of the policy, structures and regulations to be reviewed; and questionnaires for self-assessment by the government.

- . *Decision regarding phase two.* The study is presented to the country, and once discussed and approved, to the Steering Group. On the basis of the study's proposals, the country decides if and when to engage in the second phase of the project.

The following table summarizes the state of development of each of the ten case studies which are being elaborated in the first phase of the Project.

Country	Case-study topic	Stakeholder workshop	Status of the phase 1 report	Decision regarding phase 2
<b>Denmark</b>	Vulnerability assessment for critical infrastructures	Held in Copenhagen, 10-11 March 2004	First proposal	No
<b>France</b>	Flood management and compensation and land-use	-	First proposal	Not yet considered
<b>Italy</b>	Industrial accidents triggered by floods	Held in Rome, 18-19 March 2004	Final draft	Pending
<b>Japan</b>	Urban floods	-	First proposal	Not yet considered
	Earthquakes and megacities	-	First proposal	Not yet considered
<b>Norway</b>	ICT security policy	Held in Oslo, 08-09 March 2004	Final draft	Yes
	Large-scale accidents in road and railway tunnels	Held in Oslo, 08-09 March 2004	Final draft	No
<b>Sweden</b>	Emerging risks among the elderly	Held in Stockholm, 04 October 2004	Preliminary draft	Pending
<b>Switzerland</b>	A national framework for risk management policies	Held in Berne, 01 October 2003	-	No
<b>United States</b>	Disaster information needs of ethnic minorities	Held in New Mexico, 05-12 December 2004	Preliminary draft	Not yet considered

*Second phase: reviews of risk management policies*

In the second phase of the Project, a review of risk management policies is carried out along the lines established in phase one. The Secretariat and the host country agree on the terms of reference for the review (objective, organisation, schedule) in accordance with the adopted phase 1 report. This includes in particular the selection of three international experts who, together with members of the Secretariat, constitute the review team. Using the questionnaires elaborated in phase one, the host country performs a self-assessment and communicates its results to the OECD Secretariat. From that date, the duration of a typical review is eight months:

- . Month 1: The review team analyses the self-assessment. With the assistance of the host country's representatives, the team identifies the persons to interview (central and local government officials, industry and civil society representatives, academics), collects additional information and data, and plans the review mission.
- . Month 2: During the mission, the team holds interviews, consults, collects data and information as appropriate. Its task is to observe existing issues, methods and practices; make comparisons with other countries; identify sound practices and opportunities for improvement in the risk management system under review.
- . Months 3 to 5: The team prepares its evaluation report and policy recommendations.
- . Months 5 to 7: The report is discussed with the risk management authorities of the review country and modified appropriately, and then discussed within the Steering Group to maximise learning effects, examine best practices and verify the review methodology. If necessary, a second mission can be organised in the host country for verification purposes and further collection of information.
- . Month 8: The final review report is discussed within the Steering Group, and adopted. The reports are later published by the Secretariat.

In its last meeting on 11 February 2005, the Steering Group launched the second phase of the Project, and planned the first reviews of risk management policies. These should start with the review of information security policies in Norway in April 2005 (tentative completion date: December 2005). The second review would take place from June 2005 to March 2006, and the third from September 2005 to May 2006 (countries still to be determined).