



BUILDERS APPROACH ON HOW TO INCREASE
RESILIENCE IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

BETTER DISASTER MANAGEMENT

BuildERS is an EU funded research and innovation project that aims to increase the resilience of European communities against both natural- and human-made disasters. We hope to reduce vulnerabilities through improved social capital and risk awareness of citizens in the face of the increased use of new technologies and media platforms. This document is a sneak peek at some of the policy recommendations that have emerged from our work. As our work is ongoing, these recommendations are subject to change.

How can we make people less affected by hardship and injury during disasters? BuildERS research shows that most countries' vulnerability assessments rely on static categories, thereby missing parts of the population. We call for a paradigm shift in understanding vulnerability as a changing condition, depending on the individual, their social environment, their physical environment, and the nature of the disaster. All BuildERS recommendations involve the meaningful use of 'intermediaries' (care givers, volunteers, NGO staff) in developing new policies.

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Local Recommendation

Take a broader view of vulnerability in disaster planning

Disaster planning should take a **broader view of what constitutes vulnerability**, including individual (e.g. mental health), group (e.g. community exclusion), and disaster-specific issues (e.g. electrical outages in low-income areas). They should also recognize that **vulnerability is a changing - not permanent - condition**. The **Vulnerability Assessment Tool** developed by the BuildERS project can be a helpful starting point. Information on the tool can be found at our website below.



National Recommendation

Include social vulnerabilities in national risk assessments

Include the analysis of social vulnerability factors (e.g., age, income, nationality, language, disabilities, housing) **in national risk assessments** and take these vulnerabilities into consideration in crisis management plans. The **BuildERS Vulnerability Assessment Tool** can be a helpful starting point.



EU Recommendation

Improve the use of volunteers in disaster management

Add **volunteer coordination planning** to the work of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations' training schemes. Share best practice amongst states in how to integrate volunteers in disaster management, through the network of civil protection actors.

For more information, please see our website, where all of our publications are available for download: <https://buildersproject.eu/results>

