



BUILDERS APPROACH ON HOW TO INCREASE
RESILIENCE IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

STRONGER SOCIAL CAPITAL

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.

The BuildERS project sees social capital – the presence of trust and belief in one’s community – as a way to lower vulnerability and build resilience in society. How can we boost the trust and coherence of a community? Social capital is difficult to build quickly. But social capital can be improved, according to BuildERS, by understanding the full range of social support networks – family and community, unofficial and official – and helping to build those networks through official investment. Facilitating actions can include risk awareness raising, support for networking amongst diverse actors, and mobilising volunteers effectively during disasters.

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Local Recommendation

Research how existing support networks operate during disasters

Map existing social support networks, both official and unofficial, operating in local communities. **Sponsor research into how those networks function during disasters** and how they might be integrated into disaster planning.



National Recommendation

Address homelessness

Address homeless and temporary housing problems. In the short-term, implement measures to strengthen social support to individuals living on the street or under temporary conditions during a crisis. In the long-term, fund research to understand the causes of homelessness and poverty, and **increase investments to keep people from becoming homeless.**



EU Recommendation

Fund local community cohesion

Place a higher emphasis on the use of **cohesion funding programmes (e.g., DG Regio)** to help build local community cohesion, not just regional cohesion. Such funding will **build social capital** also relevant in a crisis.

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

