

Build back better

Disaster risk management and prevention in European regions

Amilcar Gonçalves, Madeira - Equipment and Infrastructures:

That was a flash flood that hit Funchal and Ribeira Brava, the southern part of Madeira, and that made a lot of destruction and damage to the infrastructure of the island and 43 people were killed.

Portugal – Madeira – 2011

Beatrice Mengoni, Tuscany - Soil and Civil Protection:

We are also affected by flood risks and landslide risks and also earthquakes.

Italy – Tuscany - 2017

Climate change

Increased impact of natural disasters

Sebastian Hyzyk, Regional development - European Investment Bank:

With the climate-change effect being increased, we've seen floods and storms as the most frequent natural disaster happening in Europe. But we also should remember that increased temperatures pose a lot of problems in the urban areas, heat islands, also pose health problems for the citizens.

Informing the population

Amilcar Gonçalves, Madeira - Equipment and Infrastructures:

We had to inform the population because some of the population were completely out of the question; they were not worried about the flash floods and heavy rains. Now when it rains, everyone gets worried. But that's ok because when people get worried, they get safe.

Portugal – Madeira – 2011

Christof Kienel, NAT commission - European Committee of the Regions:

Communication in disaster-risk reduction policy is of course extremely important. There are several facets of communication in disaster risk management. One is of course communication with citizens in the course of a disaster, but it can also be communicating the risks beforehand so that citizens understand the needs for such policy.

Brussels, 11 October 2017

Financing a region's integrated territorial development, including disaster risk reduction and recovery

*EIB financing
for disaster risk reduction and recovery*

Sebastian Hyzyk, Regional development - European Investment Bank:

The EIB is financing a lot of projects in the sphere of disaster-risk management, which is helping the regions, cities and national authorities to structure plans and help them implement them through the investment programmes financed by the EIB.

Madeira – After the reconstruction

Marek Vlcej, Bratislava Self Governing Region:

When we had to face the flood in 2011, the post-disaster recovery was treated as a regular reconstruction. Now we have learned that if we had to face a disaster, we can immediately involve the EIB and their disaster management and recovery.

Slovakia – Bratislava - 2011

Beatrice Mengoni, Tuscany - Soil and Civil Protection:

We think it's important to guarantee a constant amount of financing, because in this way the local authority can properly programme the most suitable intervention and create very virtuous processes.

Christof Kienel, NAT commission - European Committee of the Regions:

The European Investment Bank is one of the drivers, the implementers of EU policies in this field by helping cities and regions to build up resilient infrastructure.

Sebastian Hyzyk, Regional development - European Investment Bank:

The EIB is working on a continuous basis to help the regions and cities, so there is no need to fill an application form, just when the region or city is preparing their investment programme, they can come to EIB, contact our local offices or headquarters and see how we can structure together a project for EIB to help finance that investment programme. This is where we are happy also to help in the design of some of the project.

Beatrice Mengoni, Tuscany - Soil and Civil Protection:

We experiment a very flexible way to programme, we are happy, compared to other ways we finance intervention.

Amilcar Gonçalves, Madeira - Equipment and Infrastructures:

Since the accident, they were very prompt to come with us and to ask what we would like to do and I think it gave us a robust relationship with the EIB because they looked at us and they are doing the right thing. They are not just doing the constructions, they are studying and they are opting to do the better thing.