



LINKS

Strengthening links between technologies and society
for European disaster resilience



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Project Overview and Objectives





LINKS

The Project

LINKS 'Strengthening links between technologies and society for European disaster resilience' is a project funded by the **European Commission** under the **Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme** - call "SU DRS01 - Security-Disaster Resilient Society 01 - Human factors, and social, societal, and organisational aspects for disaster-resilient societies" (Grant Agreement No. 883490). The aim of LINKS is to develop **sustainable advanced learning** on the **uses and impacts of social media and crowdsourcing (SMCS)** on **disaster resilience**, and to better understand the ways in which the different stakeholders can collaborate in these processes.

In the context of LINKS, **Social Media and Crowdsourcing** are platforms which allow for the creation and sharing of critical information related to disaster-affected zones. However, the effective uses of these platforms in different disaster scenarios and contexts remains unknown. In LINKS we work to fill this knowledge gap.

Disaster Resilience refers to the ability of individuals, institutions and systems to recover from disturbance, for example caused by a disaster, and to develop alternative strategies in response to changing conditions.

LINKS contributes to **strengthening resilience** by enabling **sustainable advanced learning** on uses of **social media and crowdsourcing (SMCS)** in disasters. This entails developing a maintainable and evolving collection of knowledge and best practices for and by relevant stakeholders. It refers not only to the acquisition of an in-depth knowledge but also to the ability to implement that knowledge into new practices.

Links Stakeholders

The main stakeholders to whom the project is addressed are:

PRACTITIONERS

(local, national, and European civil protection agencies, first responders, NGOs, security networks)

POLICY AND DECISION MAKERS

(local, national, and European agencies and organizations, public authorities, standardization bodies)

RESEARCH NETWORKS

(research institutions and scientific communities)

INDUSTRIAL BODIES

(individual companies and local business networks and suppliers of goods and services)

CITIZENS

(civil society organizations, educational institutions, vulnerable groups, social movement organizations)



A Step-by-Step Process: LINKS Approach and Outputs

LINKS partners are working on three main areas:

AREA A | GAINING A CONSOLIDATED UNDERSTANDING OF SMCS ACROSS THREE KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS

In area A, three core knowledge domains are assessed:



Disaster Risk Perception and Vulnerability (DRPV), refers to the ways individuals and groups perceive and understand disaster risks, and the role which social vulnerabilities may play in those processes and in disaster risk creation.



Disaster Management Processes (DMP), refers to a systematic series of actions or steps such as policies and strategies taken to reduce and manage disaster risk.



Disaster Community Technologies (DCT), refer to technologies and software used for gathering, analyzing and sharing information among different stakeholders in disasters.

AREA B | GOVERNING THE DIVERSITY OF KNOWLEDGE ON SMCS IN DISASTERS

The outputs of area A feed into the development and evaluation of the LINKS Framework in area B:



The **LINKS Framework** consists of learning materials such as methods, tools, and guidelines on different aspects of SMCS in disasters for the relevant stakeholders.



The Framework is evaluated in five case scenarios:

- earthquakes in Italy
- industrial hazards in The Netherlands
- drought in Germany
- flooding in Denmark
- terrorism in Germany

AREA C | ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LINKS COMMUNITY

The area C is represented by the development of and engagement with the LINKS Community:



LINKS Community is a multi-disciplinary and sustainable community of stakeholders engaging with in the project research and outputs.



LINKS Community Center (LCC), is the online interface for stakeholders within the LINKS Community to access and contribute knowledge to the LINKS Framework.





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