

**„Atlas VR“ – knowledge management for Disaster Risk Management.  
Developing an atlas of vulnerability and resilience.**



Knowledge is a key resource. However, in the context of civil protection / disaster risk management (DRM), there is an increasing need to manage and sustain knowledge. Given that a highly diverse field where practitioners, scientists and politicians from different professional and scientific backgrounds interact, sharing and sustaining knowledge is a challenge. This sharing and sustaining of knowledge is even more important, since risk related problems within the field of DRM are multifaceted, hence only multifaceted solutions will be successful.

The project conducts a feasibility study on how existing knowledge in the context of civil protection / DRM can be made more accessible and available for the different user groups (governmental, non-governmental, private industry, public). This theoretical part of the study is accompanied by a pilot product, the „Atlas of Vulnerability and Resilience“.

The “Atlas VR” focuses on vulnerability and resilience since they are relevant topics in science, policy and practice of DRM. Both vulnerability and resilience have been established in research, practice and politics but are simultaneously interpreted and operationalised in very different ways.

Case studies of vulnerability and resilience from different fields of DRM, conducted in Germany, Switzerland and Austria, will be presented in a comprehensive, easy- to- access way in the style of an atlas. The case studies will be accompanied by short thematic displays covering the breadth of vulnerability and resilience topics.

The „Atlas VR“ is a test case to

- identify the needs of different actors in the field of DRM,
- combine different sources and kinds of knowledge,
- increase the visibility and accessibility of this knowledge for the different user groups.

The project will include the experiences gained while developing the “Atlas VR” into the overall achievement of developing a knowledge management structure for civil protection / DRM.

The project is running May 2015 – April 2016 and is funded by the German Ministry of the Interior (Bundesministerium des Inneren), mandated by the German Federal Parliament. Project partners are the University of Bonn and the Cologne University of Applied Sciences.

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