



Multidimensional Integrated Risk Governance

“Benefits & Summary”

April 2008

Benefits

Comprehensive and scalable approach to governance for: resilience, sustainability and performance monitoring of organisations and networks

Frequent extreme events, climate change, heightened security, pandemic and other risks are placing increasing pressure on the resources of organisations. Governance of risk, sustainability and performance make conflicting demands. MIDIR provides a collaborative, *knowledge-enabled* governance methodology and tools using the “Integral” approach, addressing organisation culture, processes and results.

The MIDIR methodology and supporting e-management tools:

- Are designed to deliver resilience – preparedness for the unexpected - and the infrastructure to rapidly restore stability in the event of disruption.
- Are a result of a systematic and comprehensive scientific review of Best Practice ensuring a rigorous foundation for governance of sustainability, resilience and performance across organisations and systems (The MIDIR partners analysed 14 risk resilience projects and initiatives to develop a comprehensive and inclusive framework and indicators for governance of risk resilience, sustainability and performance).
- Are suitable for collaboratively improving performance and addressing climate impact and sustainability within a resilience framework.
- Are suitable for managing multidimensional risks repeated and interdependent across networks of government agencies and commercial supply chains.
- Can be simultaneously applied at European/continent, national and local levels.
- Enhance stakeholder insight and involvement by enabling informed dialogue.
- Measure trust and the culture of collaboration which are critical to resilience.
- Are suitable for multi-stakeholder collaboration and large complex systems.
- Are supported by a library of general and context specific performance indicators and related knowledge.
- Build on the rigour of quality management with monitoring & evaluation and continuous improvement of organisations, indicators and measurement framework.
- Are supported by configurable performance management, monitoring, knowledge management, collaboration and e-management software from MIDIR partner Gaiasoft.
- Deliver on the goals of the White Paper on European Governance by improving involvement, openness, policy-making, regulation and delivery.

Governments and corporations are seeking system-wide solutions for security and for performance. MIDIR provides the ICT collaboration platform and governance framework with which to achieve these goals.

Framework

MIDIR (Multidimensional Integrated Risk Governance) is a European research project. It is supported by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme that covers Community activities in the field of research, technological development and demonstration (area "Science & Society").

Six partners are collaborating on MIDIR approach and e-management tools:

- Institute of Research on Population and Social Policies, Italy (www.irpps.cnr.it)
- University of Dortmund, Faculty of Spatial Planning, Germany (www.raumplanung.uni-dortmund.de)
- iku GmbH, Communication Consultants, Germany (www.iku-gmbh.de)
- Gaiasoft International Ltd., Great Britain (www.gaiasoft.com)
- Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Family and Women of Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany (www.masgff.rlp.de)
- Lazio Region, Italy (www.regione.lazio.it)

The MIDIR project runs from June 2006 until May 2008.

Background and Objectives

Experiences from different risk settings – from natural disasters to technological dangers – have shown: scientists, decision makers and potentially affected people perceive risks differently. In the public debate the issues are often not discussed on the basis of facts, statistical probability of occurrence or possible damage. State action is often rejected because of distrust among stakeholders.

Against this background the MIDIR approach provides appropriate strategies and tools for managing risks and improving risk governance:

- For greater participation within risk assessment and decision making, to make the process more democratic and to improve the quality of analysis.
- For greater legitimacy of and tolerance for political decisions and state action.

The main deliverable of MIDIR is an integrative and multidimensional risk governance concept supported by a measurement or indicator system consisting of two Parts:

- Part A Indicators: measure procedural and methodological aspects that are applicable to every risk setting and

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- Part B Indicators: measure contextual aspects that have to be defined for each risk setting individually.

Using the indicator system also illustrates to what extent an organisation is meeting the principles of risk governance. Risk governance defines a path to reach the objective of “resilience”, i.e. the capacity to maintain or regain function and development and to face existing uncertainty about future disturbance.

The MIDIR approach delivers a practical tool for management and political decision makers. The MIDIR approach is applicable to government agencies, enterprises and non-governmental organizations all of which can benefit from comprehensive dialogue oriented risk management.

Contribution to European requirements

Risk governance must be an integrated part of governance and overall strategy for policy-making in the 21st century, as pointed out in the White Paper on Governance, launched by the EC in 2001. Decisions about tolerating or altering risks cannot be taken in isolation: they are embedded in nearly all political spheres including health policy, environmental policy, spatial planning, water management, transport planning etc. Whereas, for example, the basic political decision (“policy-making”) about the further use of a new technology is made on EU or at least national level, the daily decisions about the allocation of resources belong to the regional/local level. An integrated approach should also pay attention to the policy level responsible for regulations used in administrative decision-making. The MIDIR approach delivers on key goals of the White Paper on European Governance by improving involvement, and openness while enabling better policy-making, regulation and delivery.

MIDIR – step by step

The specific goals of the project were set out as:

1. To develop an overall framework for risk governance and resilience measurement as well as monitoring based on a review of current standards and state of the art (2006/2007);
2. To make measurable and tangible the culture of collaboration required by public sector organisations to collaborate in preparing for and meeting cross-sectoral risks (2006/2007);
3. To develop and pilot an e-management resilience tool that can be used for resilience planning, monitoring and management across stakeholder organisations from European, national to local levels (2007);

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4. To provide a framework of questions whereby the completeness of risk awareness in a situation can be ensured or at least improved (2007);
 5. Based on results of 1. to 4. to provide worked examples based on real risk management settings (2007);
 6. To disseminate the overall framework among decision-makers and science all over Europe by networking, events and the implementation of a communication and dissemination strategy (2006-2008).

The case studies (mentioned in point 5) take place mainly in Germany and Italy and deal with:

- hospital order treatment (forensic psychiatry) and
- electronic trading (e-commerce) with health services

Both risk settings are relatively new within the public discussion. They were selected, because being characterised by a high degree of uncertainty and ambiguity (i.e. plurality of different interests, priorities, understandings, values, etc.).

Project results and contacts

The project report will be presented end of May 2008. Further information and the first results are available on the Website www.midir.eu.

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