An International Initiative for a worldwide self-assessment of a SENDAI objective
First case study interactive webinar

April 24th 2024 (Noon – 2 pm, CET)

This concept note introduces first the N²RBDM international initiative launched by AFPCNT and IDRIM Society, then its first webinar on April 24th as well as ultimately the « rules of the game » for each webinar to come. It aims not only at creating interest to attend the fist webinar but as well to suggest to any interested organisation/person to consider participating and even bringing their own achievements and testimonies to the webinars to come.

1.The international N²RBDM initiative[1]

AFPCNT, IDRIM Society and their international partner organisations from the scientific and civil society world share the objective to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Action, through the skills and daily commitment of their members, be it practitioners or academic. In their studies, research and work, they all believe in and act in particular for better and more widespread Risk Based Decision Making (RBDM) practical[2] environments, methods and tools, one of the important SFA objectives.

Since the UN Sendai Framework for Action (SFA, 2015-2030) and its Mid Term Review of implementation (May 2023), growing concerns raise at international level about its actual current achievements. One of the SFA targets concerns the clever and adapted development of tools and services to support Risk-Based Decision Making (RBDM), the purpose is to make available RBDM simple tools to all categories of end users, everywhere needed and for all purposes, i.e. awareness raising, education, tools, etc. Worldwide and national civil society organisations as well as international scientific associations are initiating and expecting to grow a voluntary contribution in order to achieve an international voluntary joint effort for the benefit of policy making and beneficiaries in relevant areas of DRR. The effort is still modest compared to the ambition and needs, as it is designed according to currently available capacities and resources, however the goal is to significantly grow through attracting more organisations and stakeholders involved in DRR and DRM.

Among them most advanced implementation and even mostly operational areas of RBDM, there are of course all the « Early warning » worldwide implementation efforts (EW4ALL). The objectives of this initiative

[1] Networks of Networks acting for better, more fast and extensive implementation of Risk Based Decision Making, one of the core SFA objectives.
[2] Be it a legislative, regulatory and/or normative environment, on top and above the physical and social one.

are complementary with those of EW4ALL, aiming at putting the lights on the many other societal needs for RBDM, other than those for EW itself.

This voluntary and open initiative is driven by civil society organisations (CSOs), including of course scientific associations, be it national or international ones. It will require one or more webinar cycles. Each of them will follow a rather similar pattern of presentations and discussions about one of the societal needs in a specific geographic and governance context, in which RBDM helps to solve. The idea is to invite and get the case commented by two professionals, one practitioner, and one scientist. Both bringing their respective expertise on « how we have solve or are going to solve the case », they are expected to challenge each other on how to meet with the users' needs on a specific societal need and given their respective achievements. See § 3 for a more detailed presentation of the « rules of the game ».

This webinar series is placed under the umbrella of a new initiative which is called the International Initiative on Network of Networks for Risk Based Decision (N²RBDM). Initially, the work will be carried out through an iterative process of a series of webinars, to be held within a few years, to design and implement a series of exercises at country/international level. Thus we will involve various voluntary small teams to design, organise, promote and run them. The target is to reach a more consistent evaluation iterative process of the state-of-the-art in the development and employment of such tools, as well as of the satisfaction of end users' needs. Due to the involvement of both scientists and practitioners, the exercise may even achieve an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of presented tools and devices in place and the needs still to be fulfilled, and identify useful research results, depending to the country context and local conditions. Each of the sessions is expected to be scheduled and organised by a team appropriate for the context and conditions.

2. The first webinar of N²RBDM international initiative

This first webinar is held with the support of PARATUS EU project and a French State administration in charge of national DRM policy and its risk info service (GEORISQUES). A piloting committee of the Initiative and its further webinars will soon be put in place (during the SRA-E Athens Conference next June).

All interested are welcome to participate and possibly contribute to the Initiative.

The webinar will last 2 hours in total, from Noon to 2:00 pm and will consist of short informative introductions, two presentations largely interactive by the invited speakers and a panel discussion.

To summarize the webinar programme:
- a) The introduction round will be short about the initiative and in order to contextualize the case addressed in this frist webinar
- b) The core part is run by the two challengers::
    -As the practitioner, the Head of Unit of French Ecology Ministry, acting as pilot of a French web app / tool (GEORISQUES), implementing a legal requirement (risk Information obligations in case of a real estate transaction) which is now operational at large scale (8 millions users last year)

-As the scientist, the director of a European applied research project (PARATUS). He is located at Twente University (ML). This project has been retained as it covers issues relevant to the public information and end user involvement.

      c) Q/As and debate with the audience
      d) A short wrap up as well as information about the next steps

To start a tentative list of questions to be addressed during the debate with the audience

- Relevance of RBDM as a key policy driver within the SFA ?
- Degree of satisfaction of the end users' needs from the presented tools, compared to other ones ? Criteria for an evaluation methodology
- Are there functionnalities which were not implemented so far ?
- What about the needs/functionalities that are not considered to be satisfied in a toolbox, requiring for instance more education, capacity, advice ?
- What about additional functionalities or a further integration into a larger bundle of webservices, in order to provide to the end user a more extensive decision making capacity, though a toolbox in order to cover its natural or revealed needs ore safely in a « risk informed decision making » attitude ?
- Are there other largely implemented tools in place on the DBDM area around the world ? Functionnal improvements to be expected from the latest R&D results and how to reach this ?
- Are there suggestions of other case studies to be invited to participate within the series of webinars of the N2RBDM International Initiative

3. The « rules of the game » for the webinars of the N²RBDM international initiative

For those who might be interested as potential organisers of panellists for new webinars in the cycle, the « rules of the game » for all the webinars cycle are the following (they might be upgraded in subsequent steering committees of the initiative) :

1) To cover one aspect of RBDM that has already somewhere in the world a large scale concrete implementation but that is perhaps not yet meeting with all the needs (the issue being mostly different than EWS, as this one is addressed elsewhere).

2) To allow two panellists to connect and introduce, tp each other, to present their respective case and experience and debate on practical achievements of a RBDM users needs situations that has been partly or totally solved at large scale. These two panelists did not know each other before. One is practitioner, the other one is a scientist, from different coutries and culture.

3) The presented RBDM issue has to be operational in meeting totally or partially society needs at territorial, national or international level. This covers the relevant tools, initiatives and innovations . This issue remains an innovation one as well, because all aspects/functionalities have not been solved/operationalized yet.

4. Stimulate the production of ideas and proposals on the implementation of the addressed area of RBDM as well as on potential subjects for the subsequent webinars of the cycle.

5. Contribute to a progressive state of the art of the RBDM good practices that are implemented or in progress around the world, in order to implement a collaborative and voluntary work between all interested national and international associations, scientific and CSOs, as well as the international institutions acting on this issue.

To discover more about the international framework for disaster risk management, consult our presentation of the Sendai Framework (video with English subtitles) : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5REQVgimTM