

Preliminary report on the activity jointly organized by RAC (*Real Academia de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales*/Spanish Royal Academy of Sciences) and CSIC (*Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas*) within the framework of the EU-FP7 project KNOW-4-DRR and the IAP initiative on mitigation of natural disasters as a contribution to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), 2005-2015.

A workshop and a series of open public lectures were held at the RAC on April 29, 2014 (see attached programme). The aim of the former, limited to invited participants, was to identify barriers and bridges for the incorporation of scientific knowledge to natural disaster mitigation policies and actions in Spain, and propose measures to improve the existing situation. The workshop included a brief introductory lecture and a series of panel discussions. Three interdisciplinary panels were formed with the participation of experts from a variety of fields, institutions and geographical areas. Distinguished members of the science and decision-making communities participated in the workshop (see attached list). Prior to the workshop, participants were requested to fill in a questionnaire on their views about the problems of natural disaster mitigation in Spain. Their replies helped to organize the discussions. The presentations by panel members and subsequent exchanges among all participants were video and audio recorded. Participation was lively and intense. Notes were taken on the most significant contributions, especially on consensus issues. On the basis of the recordings and written notes, a detailed report is being prepared, summarising the contributions to the workshop and highlighting the main conclusions concerning barriers, bridges and proposed measures.

Four lectures (see attached poster) open to the general public were also presented. A debate followed. Public participation was particularly lively concerning the two case studies described (earthquake and floods in Lorca, SE Spain, and landslide in Sebrango, N Spain). The lectures were also recorded.

The following documents are presently being prepared and will be posted at the RAC website:

1. Full written report on the activity. It will include the contributions to the workshop and its main conclusions, summary of experts' replies to the questionnaire, and abstracts of lectures. A preliminary version will be circulated among panel members to receive their feedback and then prepare the final report.
2. Video recordings of panel sessions and lectures (edited if required).
3. Executive summary. It will summarize the results of the workshop, identifying barriers, bridges and recommendations for improving the existing situation. This summary will be sent to relevant institutions and authorities.
4. Press summary. It will describe briefly the main problems identified for the incorporation of scientific knowledge into natural disaster's mitigation in Spain, and explain how science can contribute to improve policies and actions.
5. A description of the two case studies dealt with during the lectures.

Based in part on the results of this activity, a second one is planned for next Autumn. It will also be jointly organized by project KNOW-4 DRR and the RAC and will have an international character. Information will be sent to IAP in due course.