



## Risk perception includes individual beliefs and thoughts

What is considered to be an objective risk or objective risk source may vary in different cultures, i.e. the probability for particular incidents (e.g. floods, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, etc.) to occur is higher in some parts of the world than in others (Holtgrave & Weber, 1993). But, even if the objective probability of an event is small, that does not prevent people from being fearful. In other words, since risk perception includes individual beliefs and thoughts (Sjöberg, 1979), the level of perceived risk often differs from the objective estimations (Boholm, 1996). The notion that risks are socially and culturally constructed does not make them less real. But it does mean “that they can be magnified and dramatized in the public imagination, as projections of a structure of personal anxieties put in place by the new uncertainties of social life” (Garland, 2003, p. 78). Furthermore, as Garland argues, our perceptions of risks and our responses to risks frequently intensify each other.

Note: See source document for full reference.

### Applicable to:

Stakeholders: [Worldviews](#)

Disaster Phases: [Prevention](#)

Types of Actors Concerned: [Non-active citizens](#)

Hazards: [Natural hazards](#)

### Recommendations:

- [Develop risk assessments methodologies, which consider cultural factors, the manner in which people cognitively process information and which employ a gender perspective](#)

## Source

[Deliverable D4.2 "Report on 'risk cultures' in the context of disasters" \(page 22\)](#)

This file was generated automatically on: 12.02.2019.

**Risk perception includes individual beliefs and thoughts**

<https://culturalmap.carismand.eu/a/4-2-15-risk-perception-includes-individual-beliefs-and-thoughts>