



Levels of risk perception amongst citizens in Rome

Only very few of the participating Italian citizens perceive a high or very high risk of a disaster in their area (4%), whereas almost half (42%) believe this risk to be low or very low. However, levels of worry/concern were higher, with more participants agreeing than disagreeing that they are worried or concerned about potential disasters in their area (see Table 5 below - as shown in source document). Again, slight differences between male and female results were found to be not statistically significant ($p > .05$), and there are also no statistically significant differences between age groups. However, this perception of a rather low level of disaster risk appeared not to be connected with any previous experience of disasters – which may, potentially, be explained by the participating citizens' experience being based on experiences of close friends or family members – and was only weakly related to any increased interest in receiving information about disaster preparedness measures ($RS = .274$). On the other hand, feelings of worry and concerns show stronger correlations with several attitudes and (intended) behaviours related to disaster preparedness, in particular interest in information about preparedness measures ($RS = .397$) which, in turn, is strongly related to preparedness intentions ($RS = .590$) and moderately to the participants' desired frequency of participation in disaster training activities ($RS = .362$). Accordingly, motivating for participation in disaster preparedness activities, through citizens' interest in preparedness-related information, may require appealing to Italian citizens' emotions rather than merely informing about disaster risks.

Note: See source document for full reference.

Applicable to:

Stakeholders: [Norms/values](#), [Communication](#)

Disaster Phases: [Preparedness](#)

Types of Actors Concerned: [National civil protection body](#), [Local authorities](#)

Hazards: [Natural hazards](#), [Man-made non-intentional hazards or emergency situations](#), [Man-made intentional hazards](#)

Recommendations:

- [Develop guidelines for disaster practitioners that take into consideration the different needs of and approaches to different ethnical groups](#)
- [Develop risk assessments methodologies, which consider cultural factors, the manner in which people cognitively process information and which employ a gender perspective](#)

Source

[Deliverable D5.5 "Report on citizens' reactions and opinions: Citizen Summit 3 \(Italy\)" \(page 12\)](#)

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