



The comparison between natural and man-made disasters according to three important factors influencing risk perception

According to another group of authors (see source document for full reference), the most important factors influencing risk perception are familiarity with the risk, controllability of the risk and the number of people affected by the risk (Beck, 1999, according to Rogers et al., 2007). The more familiar and controllable the risk is, and the fewer people are affected by it - it is perceived as lower (Beck, 1999, according to Rogers et al., 2007). The comparison of natural and man-made disasters regarding these dimensions resulted in the following conclusions (Rogers et al., 2007): Natural disasters are familiar and well established, hence the risk linked with them tends to be underrated. Opposite to that, man-made disasters are unknown, which increases the level of risk associated with them. Man-made disasters are perceived as out of the control of the general public, which increases the perception of risk associated with them. Man-made disasters (i.e. radiation after nuclear accidents) tend to be perceived as disasters that affect a large number of people including future generations, which is associated with a higher level of perceived risk.

Note: See source document for full reference.

Applicable to:

Stakeholders: [Worldviews](#)

Disaster Phases: [Prevention](#)

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

Hazards: [Natural hazards](#), [Man-made non-intentional hazards or emergency situations](#), [Man-made intentional 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 D4.1 "Mapping risk perception concepts in the context of disasters" \(page 59\)](#)

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