The logo graphic for CapHaz-Net features a cluster of small grey dots on the left, with several thin, overlapping grey lines extending from the dots towards the right. The text 'CapHaz-Net' is positioned to the right of the dots, with 'Cap' in grey and 'Haz-Net' in red.

CapHaz-Net

Social Capacity Building
for Natural Hazards
Toward More Resilient
Societies

Building social capacities in a changing risk governance context in Europe

Contributions and lessons learned from the CapHaz-Net project

Christian Kuhlicke, Chloe Begg and Jochen Luther
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, UFZ, Leipzig
Annett Steinführer
von Thünen Institute, vTI, Braunschweig

1. Project background

- **CapHaz-Net:** “Social **CAP**acity building for natural **HAZ**ards: toward more resilient societies” (6/2009 – 5/2012) 8 partners from 6 European countries
- **‘Coordination action’** = State-of-the-art documentation of social scientific research on natural hazards (literature reviews and workshops)
- **Topics:** risk governance, social vulnerability, risk perception, risk communication and risk education



2. Shifts in Risk Governance in Europe

⇒ Features of shifts in risk governance

- New tasks and demands for organisations responsible for and involved hazard (risk) management;
- New responsibilities for communities and residents and risks.
- Transition from reactive, protection oriented approach towards a more preventive, management oriented approach.
- Often co-existence of both approaches resulting in conflicts and paradoxes
- Transition is not taking place with the same intensity and at the same level across Europe.

2. Shifts in Risk Governance in Europe

⇒ **Shift of responsibility to the local level (privatisation of risk)**

- Tendency to place greater responsibility on municipalities

Example England - Localism Act (2011)

- Creating rights for local actors to bid for and deliver services that were previously run by the state,
- Encouraging involvement in decisions relating to local issues, such as planning and flood defence schemes.

⇒ Creates **new possibilities** (ownership), but **also new risks** (e.g. lack of resources, capacities and motivation)

2. Shifts in Risk Governance in Europe

⇒ **Privatisation of risk (residents increasingly become risk manager)**

- Tendency to place greater responsibility on residents at risk

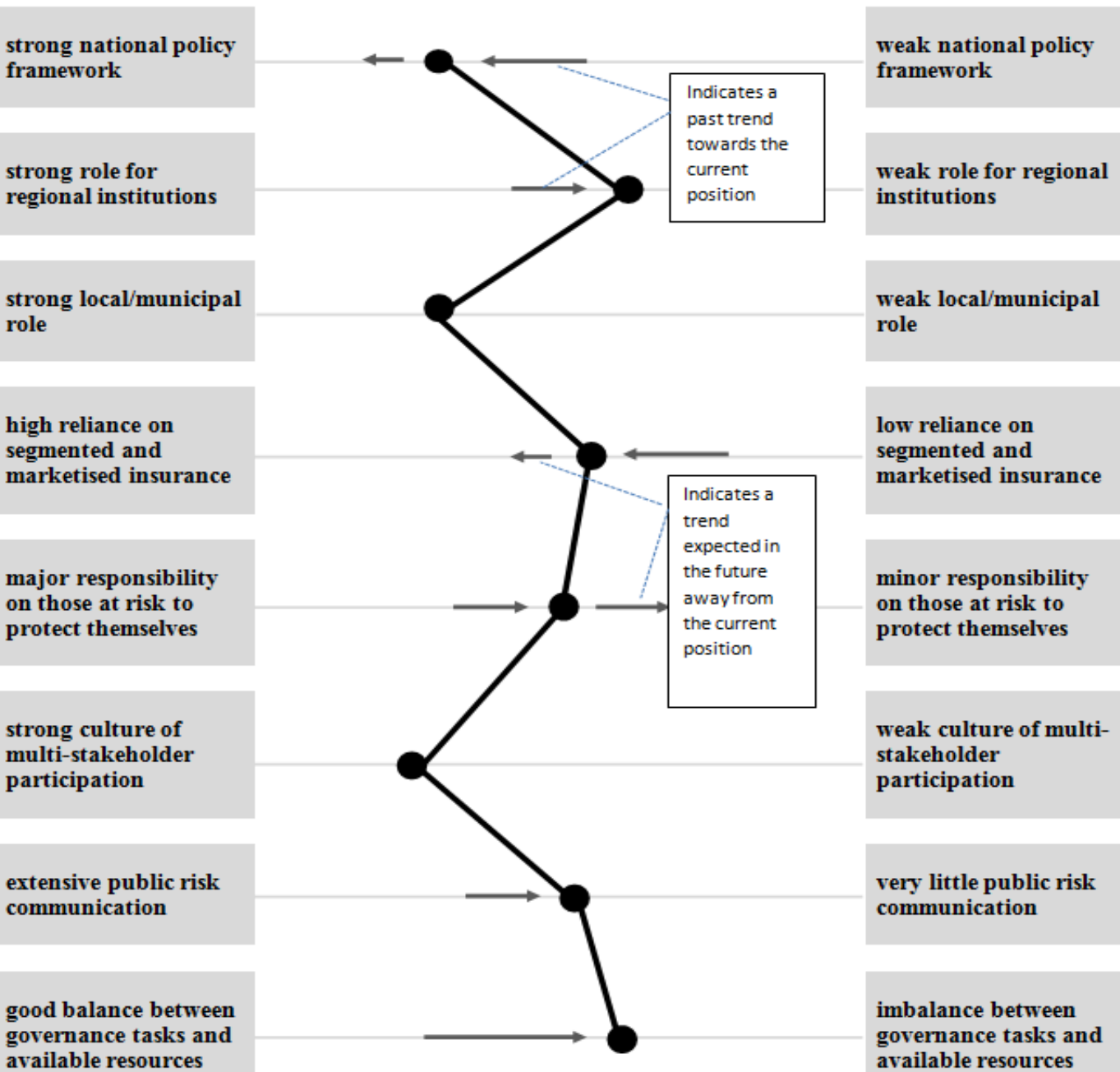
Germany	England	Italy	France
Demanding	Encouraging	Encouraging	Not expected
Citizens are obliged to implement measures in accordance with their possibilities and abilities	Flood policy actively encourages people to be prepared and to increase their resilience	Ordinary citizens share responsibility for civil protection activities with a number of public actors	Citizens are not explicitly encouraged to reduce their vulnerability

2. Shifts in Risk Governance in Europe

⇒ Insurance: A diverse picture

Germany	England	Italy	France
Pure private insurance	Pure private insurance	Pure private insurance	Mandatory insurance
Risk-based individual premium calculation.	Risk-based individual premium calculation	Risk-based individual premium calculation	Insurance contracts pay 12% on top of home, contents and car insurance;
Insurance density is under 10%	Insurance density around 75%	Insurance density around 5%	Insurance density close to 100%

Risk Governance Characterisation Template



- ⇒ Hazard specific profile
- ⇒ Country specific profile
- ⇒ Provides stimulus for discussion
- ⇒ Could be used as a discussion tool in workshops

3. Risk Perception and Preparedness

Common assumption: **High risk awareness => high preparedness
=> reduced damages**

Review study:

- ⇒ Focus on Europe, published 2000 – 2012
- ⇒ Which **factors** influence perception of natural hazards and preparedness of residents?
- ⇒ Floods, droughts, earthquakes, volcano, wild fires and landslides



3. Risk Perception and Preparedness

Risk factors (*factors associated with the scientific characteristics of the risk*)

- Perceived likelihood of an event, perceived or experienced frequency of hazardous events

Informational factors

- Source and level of information, media coverage, involvement of experts in risk management

Personal factors

- Age, gender, educational level, profession, personal knowledge, personal disaster experience, indirect experience, trust in authorities, trust in experts, confidence in different risk reduction measures, involvement in cleaning up after a disaster, feelings associated with previously experienced disasters, world views, degree of control, and religiousness

Contextual factors

- Economic factors, vulnerability indices, home ownership, family status, country, area of living, closeness to the waterfront, size of community, age of the youngest child

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3. Risk Perception and Preparedness

Risk perception paradox

⇒ Direct experience

- + positive effect on risk perception, seems to reinforce precautionary behaviour;
- negative affect, low severity or seldom experienced events can produce a false sense of security/misjudgement of ability to cope

Importance of experiencing personal damages



3. Risk Perception and Preparedness

Risk perception paradox

⇒ **Trust in authorities, measures, experts**

+ positive effect on risk perception, seems to reinforce precautionary behaviour;

- negative affect, trust in effectiveness of measures, performance of disaster management authorities

The importance of belief in self-efficacy vs. state provided protection measures/responsibility



3. Risk Perception and Preparedness

Some implications for the management of natural hazards ...

⇒ The relevance of participatory processes:

Review shows, participation

- Increases awareness and motivation to initiate protective action;
- Can increase trust in the authorities, the experts and realising personal agency to protect oneself
- But

3. Risk Perception and Preparedness

Review of more than 60 risk communication practices across Europe shows ...

- **Few** of these practices aim to build people's **sense of agency and efficacy**;
- **One-way risk communication practices are dominating** focusing on hazard knowledge or raising risk awareness;
- Generally, that remarkably few communication practices have actually been **evaluated**.

4. Six principles for building social capacities

- Principle 1: Identifying vulnerabilities and prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable
- Principle 2: Making information available
- Principle 3: Being participatory and inclusive
- Principle 4: Building networks
- Principle 5: Starting early
- Principle 6: Sharing responsibilities fairly

Self assessment tool for

- Communities at risk
- Organisations

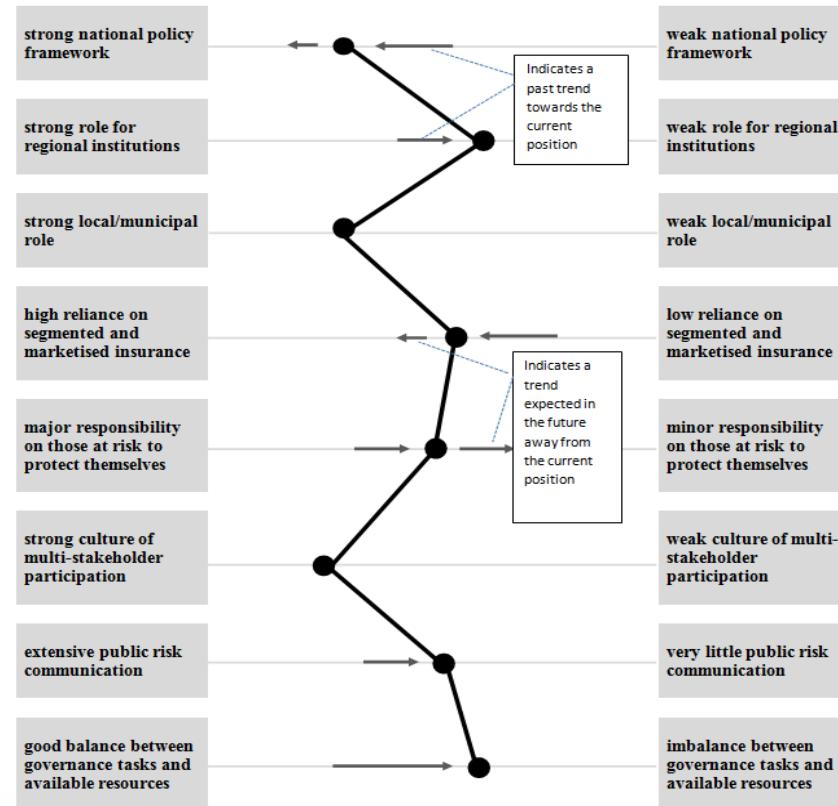
www.caphaz-net.org

Risk governance

Hardly any systematic research on

- Multi-level frameworks
- Influence and roles of insurance
- New burdens, obstacles and paradoxes created by recent policy changes

Risk Governance Characterisation Template



Risk perception ...

- Risk perception paradox: Direct and indirect experience as well as trust in authorities, experts and measures;
- Positive and negative influence

... and preparedness?

- Empirical evidence suggests that the link between risk perceptions and preparedness is quite weak or even not existence
- Why decide some to prepare and others not?

Risk communication

- Scientific knowledge is quite well developed, but ...
 - One-way, information providing practices dominate
 - Two way, participatory practices are not yet systematically integrated in hazard management => increasing trust and preparedness
 - Communicative practices are hardly evaluated
 - How can we turn risk communication theory into practice?

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5. Next Steps



TACTIC

TOOLS, METHODS AND TRAINING FOR COMMUNITIES
AND SOCIETY TO BETTER PREPARE FOR A CRISIS

- **TACTIC** (Tools, methods And training for CommuniTies and society to better prepare for a Crisis)
- FP7 Coordinating and Supporting Action Project
- May 2014 – April 2016
- Aims to develop upon the findings of CapHaz-Net



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Thank you



Gunnar Drechsler, UFZ

Contacts:

Chloe Begg: chloe.begg@ufz.de

Christian Kuhlicke: christian.kuhlicke@ufz.de

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