

WHO IS PART OF MICRODIS?

European Union, Associated Countries and Accession State Partners

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| Belgium | Université catholique de Louvain |
| Finland | Finnish Institute of Occupational Health |
| France | University of Paris – Sorbonne (FERURBAT) |
| Germany | EVAPLAN – University of Heidelberg |
| Netherlands | HealthNet International |
| Norway | Sweco Groner |
| U.K. | University of Greenwich |
| U.K. | University of Northumbria |
| U.S.A | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |

South and Southeast Asian Partners

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|-------------|------------------------------------|
| India | Jadavpur University |
| India | Voluntary Health Association India |
| India | University of Delhi |
| Indonesia | University of Indonesia |
| Philippines | Citizens' Disaster Response Center |
| Philippines | Xavier University |
| Vietnam | Hanoi School of Public Health |

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MICRODIS

Integrated Health Social
and Economic Impacts
of Extreme Events:
Evidence, Methods
and Tools



and

Université
catholique de
Louvain

WHY CREATE MICRODIS?

Disaster losses are increasing with great consequence to the survival, dignity and livelihoods of individuals and communities, particularly of the poor in developed and less developed countries. Disaster risk arises when hazards interact with physical, social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. In the past two decades, more than 200 million people have been affected, on average, every year by these extreme events.

Environmentally unsound practices, global environmental changes, population growth, urbanisation, social injustice, poverty, conflicts, and short-term economic visions are producing these vulnerable societies. This takes on particular urgency in the face of long-term risks brought about by climate change, and goes beyond environmental degradation or the mismanagement of natural resources.

There is now international acknowledgement that efforts to reduce disaster risks must be systematically integrated into policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development and poverty reduction. The **MICRODIS** project locates itself within this above framework.

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WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS OF MICRODIS?

MICRODIS is a project with the **overall goal** to strengthen preparedness, mitigation and prevention strategies in order to reduce the health, social and economic impacts of extreme events on communities.

BROAD OBJECTIVES

- to strengthen the scientific and empirical foundation on the relationship between extreme events and their health, social and economic impacts
- to develop and integrate concepts, methods, tools and databases towards a common global approach
- to improve human resources and coping capacity in Asia and Europe through training and knowledge sharing.

For example, the **MICRODIS** project will, among others, specifically aim at:

- developing an integrated impact methodology
- establishing an evidence-base of primary field research through surveys
- increasing the coverage accuracy and resolution of global disaster data

WHERE WILL MICRODIS OPERATE?

The two regions which form the focus of the **MICRODIS** project are:

1. European Union, associated countries and new accession states: Belgium, France, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.
2. South and Southeast Asia regions: India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

These regions have been selected based on their high frequency of extreme events and the impact on affected communities.

WHAT EXTREME EVENTS WILL MICRODIS FOCUS ON?

There are twelve broad and twenty-three sub-groups of distinct extreme events, ranging from chronic slow onset phenomena to acute rapid onset ones. The health and socio-economic impact implications differ vastly between these twenty-three types and addressing all of these would compromise the quality and applicability of the project results, risking over-generalisation.

In both Asia and the European Union, three types of extreme events, namely **floods**, **earthquakes** and **windstorms**, account for nearly *seventy-five percent* of the occurrence of all extreme events. The **MICRODIS** project will concentrate on these three phenomena.

WHAT WILL MICRODIS PRODUCE?

The outputs will include:

- an evidence-base on impacts, field methodologies and tools for data compilation
- impact models
- integrated vulnerability assessments

The **MICRODIS** project will also strengthen standardised data collection of extreme events and their impacts at local, regional and global levels.