The National Observatory for Natural Risks (ONRN)
On the 3rd of May 2012, the state, represented by the Ministry of Sustainable Development (MEDDE), the Central Reinsurance Company (Caisse Centrale de Réassurance - CCR) and the Association of French Insurance Undertakings for Natural Risk Knowledge and Reduction (Mission des sociétés d’assurances pour la connaissance et la prévention des Risques Naturels - MRN, an association created by the FFSA and GEMA), signed a partnership agreement founding the National Observatory for Natural Hazards (ONRN). This agreement was renewed on the 1st of July 2014 for a period of three years.

This observatory addresses the following needs:

- improving and capitalising on knowledge of hazards and the challenges they present,
- providing the basis for an evaluation and prospecting system,
- contributing to risk prevention management and governance,
- supporting the economic analysis of crisis management and prevention,
- contributing to improving a risk management culture.

It should therefore provide for:

- the pooling of information and studies derived from data produced by different stakeholders,
- the availability of national, reliable, homogeneous information both collected and monitored over time,
- the sharing of aggregate data or targeted processing operations, further to the public data already available,
- a common global approach to the different hazards present in the various regions, relayed on a local level,
- the national publication of studies and observations on hazards, the measures in place and results obtained.
Coming together for better anticipation and action

**The Management Committee**
The committee manages the ONRN and in particular makes all decisions regarding its governance, sets its management and communication policy and draws up the work programme. It is comprised of three founding members and one local authority representative. The General Directorate for Risk Prevention (DGPR) of the MEDDE acts as the secretariat thereof and presides over the latter. The Management Committee presents the results of its work to the COPRNM annually.

**Data producers**
Different partners in data production (public service operators, observatories and institutions, professionals, etc.) may be associated with the work conducted by the Observatory during the development of its creations. Data exchanges and services shall be governed by membership agreements.

**The Users’ Committee**
Led by the French Association for Disaster Risk Reduction (AFPCN), it encourages the collective formulation of user expectations and observations. It gives its opinion on the work conducted by the Observatory and their focus.

**Working Groups**
The management committee constitutes work groups which lead the work conducted on the selected areas of focus and study topics. It validates the results thereof.
The ONRN shall progressively provide access to and share key information useful to the activities and decision making processes of stakeholders involved in risk prevention in the following fields:

- hazards and associated zoning maps,
- assets at risk, vulnerability and resilience at a local level,
- loss records and lessons learnt,
- stakeholders and their projects,
- public risk prevention programmes and procedures.

The following services are now available online:

- a directory service listing the organisations involved in risk prevention,
- links to public risk map and tabular databases generated by data producers.
Producing national and local indicators

To use the data provided by its partners, the ONRN defines, produces and provides access via its website to specific series of national indicators related to the aforementioned fields and reproduced on a municipal level. From the very first series of indicators made available online, some of the data provided had been, until then, exclusively reserved to the insurance sector.

Information on each indicator is provided in a sheet which specifies not only the conditions and limits for use, but also the possible heterogeneity of the collection methods used and associated uncertainty, the variability of the level of cover, etc. This qualification of the resulting data also generates ONRN added value.
Broadening knowledge with partners

With other producers keen to contribute their data, expertise and studies, ONRN opens the way to broadening the knowledge needed by practitioners. In so doing, it will gradually become a platform for the mutual enrichment of data, with increasing levels of qualification and precision.

In 2013, partnerships were made official between ONRN and entities acting at local level in the areas of natural disaster management and prevention. In practice, different approaches are being conducted with the following partners:

- The Greater Paris Region Institute for Urban Planning and Development (Institut d’Aménagement et d’Urbanisme d’Île-de-France – IAU IdF): modelling the impact of run-off flooding using recent claims experience data and detailed data on land occupancy (land use)

- Regional Observatory of Major Risks in Provence-Alpes-Côte-d’Azur region (ORRM-PACA): experiments of comparative analysis of ONRN indicators to analyse the vulnerability of sites and enhancement of feedback using claims experience data.

- Seine River Public Local Authority (EPTB SGL): development of monitoring, performance and management indicators for the Seine et Mame Paris area flood prevention action programme (PAPI), in an approach of «decentralisation» and adaptation to local conditions of national ONRN indicators.
2015 Action Plan

Broadening knowledge with partners
- Continue experiments with current project partners and forge new partnerships.

Producing national and local indicators:
- Continuing analysis works on flood hazards.
- Documenting other main hazards such as earthquake, landslide, subsidence, storm, hail and snow effects.
- Testing territorial indicators with regional or local partners.

Structuring, providing access to and adding value to knowledge:
- Updating the data inventory, the stakeholder directory, etc.
- Updating loss data provided by the insurance industry.
- Consolidating and sharing knowledge on the impacts of natural disasters.

Promoting and developing the website:
- Adding value to the partners’ data and studies.
- Preparing for the publication of the second “Cahiers de l’ONRN”, dedicated to disaster loss data knowledge.
See more at

www.onrn.fr