Coastal governance, institutional arrangements

The Social Dimension Of Coastal Risk Landscape

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Within the context of the PaiRisc project (http://lim-ciirc.upc.es/pairiscm), the coastal risk landscape can be defined as all risks to which the coastal zone is subjected. To define it, it is necessary to adopt a systemic approach in defining the hazards, their impacts, the acting mechanisms including feedbacks and the perception of the society. This approach is especially necessary in the coastal zone because of its multicomponent nature with different values to be potentially affected (physical, environmental and socio-economic) and being subjected to natural and anthropogenic threats acting simultaneously. The objective of this communication is to integrate the social dimension into the landscape risk map in a particular case: The Maresme coastline, in the north of Barcelona province. The research implies an institutional analysis and the study of social perception of stakeholders involved in the risk management in order to determine the relevant aspects affected, impacts and management systems. Methodologically, the design of a survey based on semi-structured interviews to a set of experts (i.e. public administration, representative of socio-economic sectors, ecologists and affected population) has allowed to represent the social network involved in the risk management. Insights into socio-economic impacts, transport infrastructures at risk, urban and recreational activities affected and environmental damages are offered. Eventually, future scenarios to deal with risks identied are proposed.