

# Annual Report 2010

Sweden's National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction



**SWEDISH  
NATIONAL  
PLATFORM**  
for Disaster Risk Reduction



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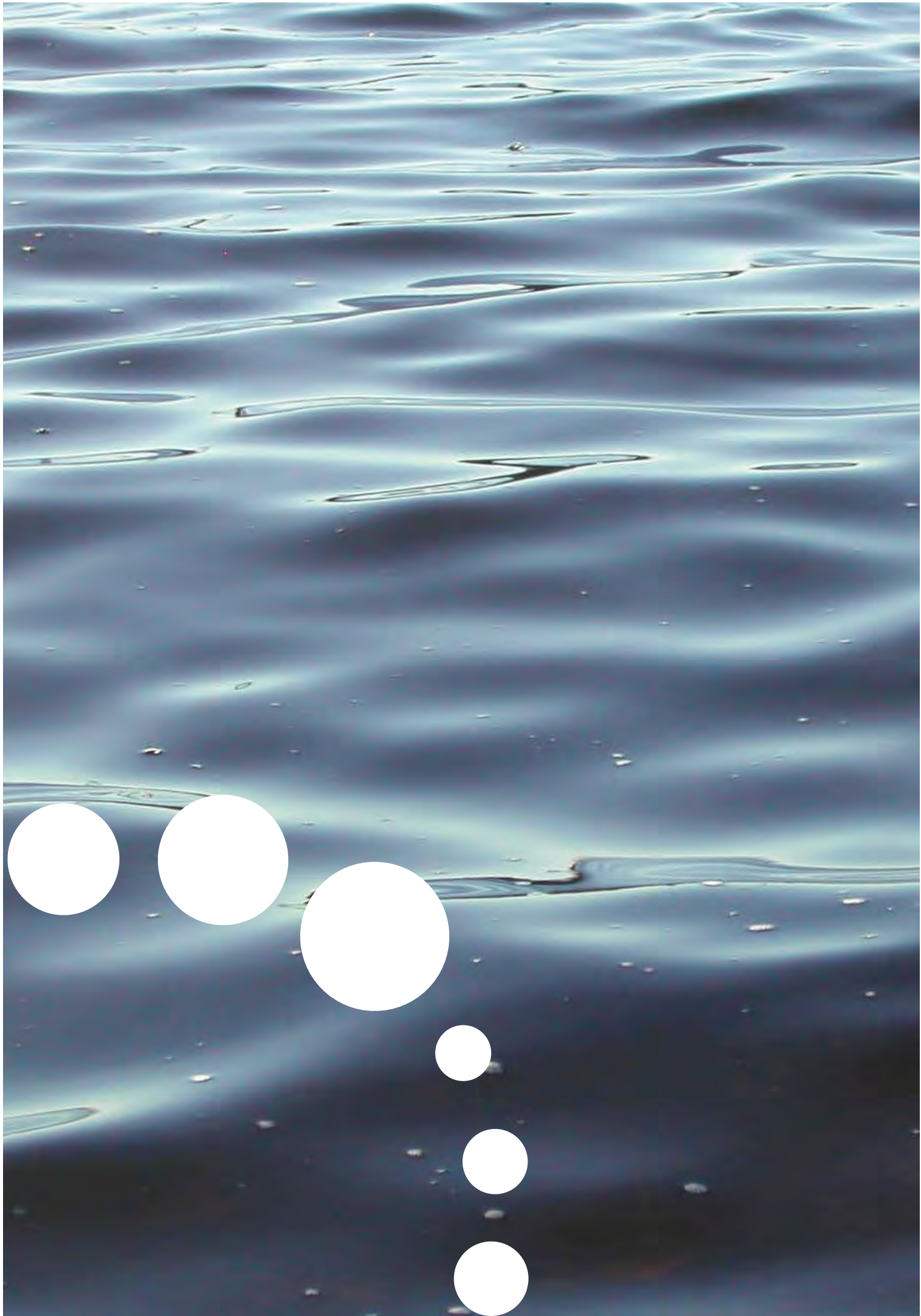




# Content

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>7</b>
National platform in Sweden.....	8
Purpose, objectives and tasks.....	8
The structure of Sweden´s platform .....	9
<b>Activities .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Completed activities .....	13
National Platform meetings .....	13
Evaluation of work in the Authorities' Network .....	14
Mapping of responsibilities during natural emergencies.....	14
Overview of climate adaptation activities.....	15
Further developments of the climate adaptation portal .....	16
Seminars on flooding problems .....	18
UN campaign - Making Resilient Cities.....	19
Reference groups .....	19
International cooperation.....	21
Cooperation in the Nordic countries .....	21
Cooperation in Europe .....	21
Global Cooperation .....	22
Reporting to the UNISDR.....	22
Financial Resources.....	23





# Introduction

The commissioning document from the Swedish Government to the MSB states that: *The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) in cooperation with other relevant authorities and organisations, shall through the National Platform improve coordination of the work on preventing and reducing the effects of natural disasters. The aim of these measures should be to fulfil Sweden's commitments to the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action.*

This annual report covers the third year of work of the National Platform, the calendar year 2010.

Through Ms. Mette Lindahl Olsson, the MSB is the point of contact for Sweden's national commitments to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), whereas other responsibilities for the HFA rest with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

During 2010, Sweden and the MSB through Mette Lindahl Olsson held the chair for the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (read more in the section on international cooperation)

During the year the following authorities and organisations were members of the Authorities' Network:

The Swedish Rail Administration\*, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, the Swedish Energy Agency, Lantmäteriet (Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority), the Swedish National Food Administration, the county administrative boards (CAB) of Sweden, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the MSB, the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation (Sida), the Swedish Forest Agency, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare, the Swedish Geotechnical Institute (SGI), Svenska Kraftnät (the Swedish national grid), the Swedish Geological Survey (SGU), the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL), the Swedish River Basin District Authorities, and the Swedish Road Administration\*).

\*) The Swedish Rail Administration and the Swedish Road Administration were replaced on the 1st of April 2010 by the Swedish Transport Administration.

## National platform in Sweden

Sweden's platform was established in September 2007 as a result of a government commission to the Swedish Rescue Services Agency. Today, the MSB (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency) is responsible, on commission from the government, for collaboration with other competent authorities and organisations for running a national platform for natural disasters. The platform should work towards preventing and mitigating the consequences of natural disasters in line with Sweden's undertaking in relation to the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action. The objectives for Sweden's national platform are:

**To create** a safer Sweden by reducing the risks for and increasing societal capacities for dealing with natural disasters.

**To provide** an arena for cooperation between organisations and existing networks so as to increase the collective capabilities of societal stakeholders.

**To support** stakeholders with data for their work on natural disasters at local, regional and national levels.

## Purpose, objectives and tasks

The overall purpose of work within the framework of the national platform is to prevent and mitigate the consequences of natural disasters by improving coordination at local, regional and national levels.

The overall aim of the National Platform is to prevent and mitigate the effects of natural disasters by improving cooperation on local, regional and national levels.

### **The following authorities are represented on the platform:**

Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning; Swedish Energy Agency; Lantmäteriet (the mapping, cadastral and land registration authority); Swedish National Food Administration; all the county administrative boards; MSB; Swedish Environmental Protection Agency; Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; Swedish Forest Agency; Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute; Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare; Swedish Geotechnical Institute; Svenska Kraftnät (the national grid); Geological Survey of Sweden; Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions; Swedish Transport Administration.



To achieve this, activities are conducted within the following three work areas for which strategic objectives have been set:

*1. Cooperation and coordination between authorities and organisations*

The objective is increased and broader cross-sector cooperation between authorities and organisations to obtain a more comprehensive picture of the risks, possible measures and their consequences. This promotes needs-based support for primarily the municipalities, county councils and county administrative boards regarding matters related to natural disasters.

*2. Effective provision of data*

The objective is to identify the needs for data collection, to improve accessibility and facilitate exchanges of geodata and its effective use for disaster management. The availability and use of data will provide a better information for decisions by those actors involved in preventing, reducing and responding to the effects of natural disasters.

*3. Research, development and provision of knowledge*

Via research, development, information and education the objective is to strengthen societal capacity for the prevention and handling of natural disasters.

Work is carried out in activities and initiatives, to which the participating authorities have contributed resources, or in activities initiated by the authorities responsible, or through the participation of other stakeholders.

Activities can take the form of, for example, seminars, studies or projects.

## The structure of Sweden's platform

Sweden's national platform consists of:

- A steering committee – of directors general – which is responsible for the overall direction of the work. These directors general (or equivalent) are from the authorities and organisations represented on the platform.
- An authority network made up of representatives from the contributing authorities and organisations. The authority network carries out the day-to-day platform work.
- A secretariat at the MSB, which is responsible for the coordination, communication and administration of platform work. The MSB is also the point of contact for the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)\*.
- Working groups that can be formed to work on limited specific tasks.
- Reference groups can be formed when there is a specific need.

\*) For Sweden's international undertakings within the HFA the point of contact is the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.



The steering group meets annually in the end of the year. Additional meetings can be called at the request of members of the steering group.

The main tasks of the steering group are to:

- provide overall direction and frameworks for the work
- approve an action programme
- approve an activity plan
- approve the annual report
- decide on new members for the authorities' network

The Authorities' Network meets at least twice a year. Its main tasks are to:

- Prepare objectives for the platform's work in Sweden
- Prepare an action programme, including strategies and measures for attaining the objectives
- Follow up on completed activities in relation to the objectives
- Contribute to and check the annual report
- Prepare an activity plan
- Report back to the Steering Group
- Suggest authorities which ought to participate on the Authorities' Network

The main tasks of the Secretariat are to:

- Coordinate and run the work of the platform
- Coordinate the meetings for the Authorities' Network
- Prepare basic data and background documents
- Prepare proposals for the annual report
- Be responsible for documentation
- Be responsible for information about the platform
- Maintain contact with the UNISDR and the national platforms of other countries
- Arrange seminars
- Prepare Steering Group meetings



*The Authorities' Network gathered at the meeting of the Geological Survey of Sweden in Uppsala in September 2010 Photo: SGU*







# Activities

## Completed activities

### National Platform meetings

The Authorities' Network held three 1-day meetings and one 2-day meeting. Smaller working groups were formed for the activities accounted for in this annual report.

As with previous years there has been a relatively large turnover of representatives for the authorities and organisations represented on the platform, this was primarily as a result of internal restructuring, heavy workloads, parental leave and similar. For the greater part of the calendar year, several authorities were unable to participate at all at Authorities' Network's meetings, and in some cases the appointed representatives and/or deputies have not been present.

The Steering Group met on the 13th October 2010 at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency in Stockholm. Business on the agenda included, for example, a standpoint on the future operation of Sweden's climate adaptation portal, and the reporting and discussion of an overview of climate adaptation work in Sweden within the framework for the National Platform. The Steering Group also agreed that the Swedish River Basin District Authorities, which are attached to certain selected county administrative boards, should in the future be represented by the county administrative boards with one or two representatives on the Authorities' Network and the Steering Group.



*In connection with the meeting in May in Gothenburg the Authorities' Network went on a field trip in Göta Älvdalen and increased their knowledge about stability conditions and on-going railway and road building projects. (Photo: Carin Nilsson, SMHI)*

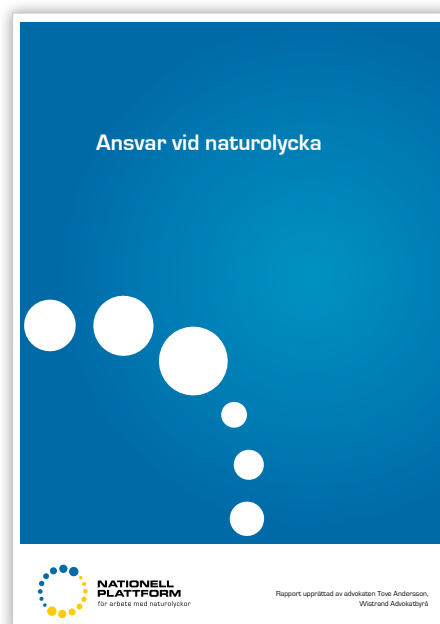
### Evaluation of work in the Authorities' Network

During the year the forms for the work of the platform and the secretariat were evaluated via a questionnaire sent to the Authorities' Network. The questionnaire was sent to 34 people and 15 responded. The answers revealed, for example, that the Authorities' Network's meetings were felt to be well prepared. Most felt that active participation on the platform increases knowledge and possibilities for cooperation with other authorities. A majority also stated that the work of the platform had contributed to cooperation between meetings. In international work it is desired to contribute with expertise, general advice, or as speakers at workshops and similar. Areas for improvement identified in the questionnaire are first and foremost knowledge about the platform in one's own organisation and the support of one's own organisation for representatives in network. Many also feel that there is more to do when it comes to strengthening the connection between one's own authority's objectives, the national objectives and the priorities of the platform and the Hyogo Declaration.

### Mapping of responsibilities during natural emergencies

The report Responsibilities During Natural Emergencies, written in 2009 by advocate Tove Andersson (Wistrands law firm, Gothenburgoffice) has been published and distributed to municipalities, county administrative boards, and county councils and is also available on the web site. The report was also presented in connection with the seminars on flooding that the platform sponsored in 2010. The report has been received with a great amount of interest and a second printing has already been made.

Complementing the report has also The Swedish Geotechnical Institute report Responsibilities and rules for coastal erosion been distributed (SGI Varia 534)



*The report Responsibilities During Natural Emergencies was written in 2009 by advocate Tove Andersson, Wistrands law firm, Gothenburgoffice.*

The report states that legislation, when it comes to responsibility before, during and after a natural emergency is neither simple nor general, even if much has been analysed and described by government committees on how responsibility can manifest itself. The clearest regulated responsibility can be found in emergency legislation.

The municipality is responsible for the rescue service during emergencies or imminent danger of emergencies (there is also a national rescue service for certain specific circumstances). It is the municipality that is obliged to respond and cover the cost. Some parts of high cost operations are reimbursed by the government; this is also the case with certain costs for preparatory measures in accordance with emergency legislation.

The individual is responsible in those instances where it is not a case of a rescue service, and where neither the municipality nor the government are willing to provide grants for carrying out, for example, preventive measures for natural emergencies, (the government is at liberty to do that, whereas the municipality must follow the principle of equality in the Local Government Act). The individual property owner, in most practical cases the building owner, has the primary responsibility for protecting his/her property. This still applies during natural emergencies. If the government or the municipality cannot or will not assist, then the individual must turn to his/her private insurance protection to his/her costs.

#### Overview of climate adaptation activities

A working group led by Bengt Rydell (SGI) with its starting point in the Climate and Vulnerability Study has mapped out activities in progress in the field of Climate adaptation in Sweden. This mapping shall, among other things, form the basis for discussions on coordination needs.



*The report Climate Adaptation in Sweden – an overview was printed and published on the webpage during 2010.*

The report Climate Adaptation in Sweden – an overview is a study based on an inventory and account of government bills/parliamentary resolutions, government commissions, and other activities connected to climate adjustment. Interviews were conducted with representatives from authorities nationally and regionally, who were in the Climate and Vulnerability Study proposed for tasks in connection with climate change and climate adaptation. This report was given a layout in accordance with the platform's graphic profile and printed in a limited number and published on the website.

Results from the inventory were reported to national authorities, county administrative boards and municipalities.

For the national authorities a total of 74 activities were reported, most within the sectors of construction and civic planning, technical supply systems and agriculture. Within other studied sectors activities for climate adaptation were less extensive. Authorities on the National Platform participate in 46 activities, that is to say, just over 60%. Additionally, several of the authorities on the National Platform participated in the networks that to a greater or lesser extent work with climate adaptation issues.

In the Climate and Vulnerability Study's final report a total of 59 different proposals were submitted for adaptation measures in various areas. Of the total of 28 tasks delegated, or partially delegated, 20 have been given to authorities represented on the National Platform.

Connected to this study there was discussion on the term climate adaptation or more correctly, adaptation for a changed climate and its delimitations. This applies, for example, to what and which activities are covered by the term, which can be of significance for responsibilities and forms of future adaptation work. There is therefore a need to clarify the meaning and delimitations of the term climate adaptation. The report is a situation report and there is a need to continually update it.

The Steering Group agreed at its meeting in October that the platform ought to be responsible for the updating of the report during 2011, and to dedicate one meeting with the Authorities' Network to a theme related to climate adaptation and the meaning and delimitations of the term. The working group consisted of Bengt Rydell (SGI), Cecilia Alfredsson (MSB), Carin Nilsson (SMHI), and Erika Lind (Swedish National Food Administration).

#### **Further developments of the climate adaptation portal**

A working group led by Carin Nilsson (SMHI) has studied various alternatives for the continued operation and development of the climate adaptation portal.

The report contains ambitions for activities and resources, as well as a proposal about how the organisation could be formed around the portal, in addition to the current way of structuring the work. Two main proposals are presented for financing, either through a cooperation agreement with several of the agencies in the national



platform, or the that the SMHI through a specific commission and financing from the government , takes responsibility for the portal. Structurally, it is suggested that the working group for the climate adaptation portal is included within the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction or that the SMHI runs the climate adaptation portal.

The Steering Group agreed unanimously that work is needed to to meet the increasing need of municipalities and county administrative board regarding state-of-the-art information. The Steering Group also agreed that until further notice the portal should maintain a strong connection to the National Platform with the motive of continued integration of disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation work.

The Steering Group agreed to support the SMHI director-general by reporting to the government, as soon as possible the need for a specific commission, including financing, for the operation and development of the portal The Cabinet Office will be requested to report back to the Steering Group with a proposal during 2011.

The working group consisted of Cecilia Alfredsson (MSB); Arne Bergkvist, (Lantmäteriet); Elisabeth Öhman (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency); Carin Nilsson (SMHI); Martin Karlsson (Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning); and Yvonne Rogbeck (SGI).

The screenshot shows the homepage of the climate adaptation portal. The header features the title "Klimatanpassningsportalen" in large white letters against a dark background with a city skyline. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: "Start", "Klimatet förändras", "Så påverkas samhället", "Roller och ansvar", "Verktyg", "Om portalen", and "Kontakt".

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a section titled "AKTUELLT" with several news items:

- 13 december 2010**: "Senaste nytt inom klimatforskningen" - A link to a presentation from the Climate Forum, moderated by Naturvårdsverket and SMHI on November 24. The video is 16 minutes long. [Senaste nytt inom klimatforskningen](#), [Läs artikeln från Klimatforum](#)
- 15 december 2010**: "Nordiska erfarenheter av klimatanpassning" - Documentation from the first large Nordic climate adaptation conference, "Climate Adaptation in the Nordic Countries: Science, Practice, Policy", held in Stockholm in November. [Dokumentation från konferensen](#)
- 29 november 2010**: "Kommunala klimatprofilerna tas fram med ny handbok" - The research program Climatolia has produced a handbook for municipalities to create climate profiles. [Handboken till Climatolia hemside](#)
- 13 oktober 2010**: "Fallstudiekonferens om klimatanpassning i Stockholm" - Hitta-SWEDCAs fallstudie kring klimatanpassning i Stockholm-regionen kommer att samlas till slutkonferens 8 november. Syftet är att diskutera det genomförda arbetet och få tillfälle till erfarenhetsutbyte kring klimatanpassning i Stockholm-regionen. Konferensen sker i samband med den internationella klimatanpassningskonferensen "Climate Adaptation in the Nordic Countries: Science, Practice, Policy". [Stockholmfallstudien om konferens](#), [Hitta-SWEDCA](#)

The right column features a section titled "Verktyg för klimatanpassning" with a sub-link "Verktyg för klimatanpassning" and a description: "Verktyg för dig som arbetar med klimatanpassning i kommun eller landstyreelse." Below this is another section titled "Så påverkas samhället" with a sub-link "Så påverkas samhället" and a description: "Hur påverkas din verksamhet av klimatförändringar? Hur minskar din verksamhet riskerna och vilka åtgärder är planerade för att nå något hållbarhet?"

Logos for partner organizations are displayed in the middle of the page: SMHI, Naturvårdsverket, Boverket, Energimyndigheten, Lantmäteriet, and SGI.

Screen dump from the portal [www.klimatanpassning.se](http://www.klimatanpassning.se)

### Seminars on flooding problems

A working group led by Åke Svensson from the platform's secretariat at the MSB has planned, and in cooperation with selected county administrative boards, held four seminars with presentations of inspired examples of municipal work with flooding problems. Information was also presented at the seminars about the support national authorities can provide for work to be accomplished at the county and local levels. The seminars were held on 21 September in Stockholm, 21 October in Gävle, 26 October in Piteå, and 7 December in Gothenburg. The seminars attracted about 250 participants from the municipalities, the county administrative boards, government authorities, insurance companies, and consultants. The documentation from the series of seminars has been collated and will be published during 2011 in Swedish. (Photos from the seminars, Photos: Cecilia Hardestam)

The working group consisted of Barbro Näslund Landenmark (MSB); Bengt Rydell, Carina Hultén (SGI); Clas Magnusson (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency); Carl Granström, Carin Nilsson (SMHI) Christina Nordensten (Swedish National



*Seminars were among others held in Piteå and Gothenburg. Photo: Cecilia Hardestam*

Food Administration); Anna Hedenström (SGU); Åke Svensson (MSB); Ann-Marie Falk (Stockholm CAB); Per Larson (Västra Götaland CAB); Åke Lindahl (Gävleborg CAB); Micael Bredefeldt (Norrbotten CAB); Monica Nilsson (Västerbotten CAB); and Håkan Söderholm (Västernorrland CAB).

### UN campaign - Making Resilient Cities

The UNISDR initiated the global campaign “Making Cities resilient – My city is getting ready” to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action at the local level. The platform’s steering group has encouraged participation by Sweden’s municipalities. In cooperation with the SKL the MSB invited all municipalities to participate in the campaign and supplied information from the UNISDR, as well as offering limited financial support for international travel. So far, over 500 towns and cities around the world have been nominated and accepted as in the campaign, of which over 30 are in Europe, and one of those is in Sweden, namely Karlstad Municipality. Sweden’s participation in the campaign contributes to promoting disaster risk reduction work and exchanges of knowledge with other municipalities and towns round the world, and the platform is now encouraging more municipalities to register their interest in participation.



*From the kick off in Bonn Photo: UNISDR*

### Reference groups

The Authorities’ Network was used in connection with the MSB collating viewpoints and facts related to the government commission to analyse and evaluate how crisis preparedness had worked during the periods of large amounts of snow in the winter of 2010.





MSB was in October to host the first meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction. The meeting was held in Stenungsund, north of Gothenburg. Photo: Johan Eklund



## International cooperation

### Cooperation in the Nordic countries

In March the first Nordic meeting was held in Oslo with Norway's Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB) who took the initiative. Representatives from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden all took part in the meeting. Sweden was represented by Åke Svensson and Janet Edwards from the platform's secretariat at the MSB, Tor Borinder from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and member of the Authorities' Network, and Olle Jonsson from the Ministry of Defence. The aim of the meeting was to exchange experiences and information about the work on climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and also work in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). At the meeting possible cooperation areas were also discussed and how we can better support each other in the Nordic countries on work in accordance with the HFA. Sweden, at the time of the meeting, was the only Nordic country with a national platform, but Finland announced that it would soon be creating a platform and they actually did that at the beginning of May. The next Nordic HFA meeting is planned for 2011 hosted by Sweden and the MSB.

### Cooperation in Europe

#### *European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction*

During 2010, Sweden, via the MSB and the HFA focal point, Mette Lindahl Olsson, held the presidency of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR). This forum was created in London in November 2009; and includes the HFA focal points and representatives for national platforms in Europe, UNISDR, the EU Commission, the Council of Europe – EUR-OPA and the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI). By the end of 2010 thirty-six countries had appointed HFA focal points and sixteen of these had created national platforms.

In October, the MSB was host to the forum's first official meeting and was responsible for preparations, working groups and execution in cooperation with the UNISDR, the Council of Europe and Dr. Pande Lazarevski, Coordinator for the Implementation of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

For three days 53 delegates from 24 countries and the UNISDR, the EU Commission, the Council of Europe – EUR-OPA, the DPPI and the World Health Organisation met in Stenungsund to discuss common issues. Subjects discussed were for example, climate adaptation and the connection to disaster risk reduction, exchanges of information, HFA at the local level, cost-benefit studies, and risk assessments. Bengt Rydell from the SGI and Jan Ekström from the Swedish Transport Administration arranged a field trip to demonstrate the consideration of risk taken in connection with the building of roads and railways in Göta Älvdalen. During 2011 the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia under the leadership of Dr. Pande Lazarevski will chair the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction Damir Cemerin, Deputy

Commander of Civil Protection at the National Protection and Rescue Directorate in Croatia will serve as Vice Chair in 2011 and chair in 2012.

#### *Cooperation with the EU project PPRD South*

The organisation, objectives, activities and preventive work of Sweden's National Platform was presented by MSB in January in Cairo during a workshop for EuroMed's EU project PPRD South (Prevention, Preparedness, Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters). Over 30 decision-makers from the project participated in the workshop on the theme "Disaster Risk Reduction: Mechanisms, Tools and Methodologies in the field of Civil Protection".

#### *Cooperation with the Council of Europe*

In September, Sweden participated in its capacity as Chair of the EFDRR at the 12th Ministerial meeting for the "European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement" in St. Petersburg to present the work of the EFDRR. Sweden's National Platform was presented as a good example aimed at supporting the establishment of national platforms and work on the implementation of the HFA in Europe.

At the end of May and the start of June Sweden participated in its capacity as president of the EFDRR on the Global Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Sweden in conjunction with UNESCO, UNISDR and the Council of Europe held a seminar about the European forum and the Sweden's National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

#### **Global Cooperation**

During the year the UNISDR started a process called the Mid-Term Review for the HFA to collate opinions on the model for the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. Sweden's HFA focal point Mette Lindahl Olsson of the MSB participated on the UNISDR's Advisory Board for the HFA Mid-Term Review along with 13 other delegates from around the world.

All of the 168 countries that have signed the Hyogo Declaration have had the chance to submit viewpoints on the HFA's five priority areas, work process, and priorities for the future, for example, via the debate on the internet that the UNISDR held during July and August. All authorities on Sweden's National Platform also had the opportunity to take part in the internet debate.

#### **Reporting to the UNISDR**

All countries that have signed the HFA are responsible for reporting to the UNISDR on what has been done from 2009-2011 to implement the five principles of the HFA. The aim of following up on the work is to identify gaps, identify what ought to be done to improve a country's ability to prevent and handle natural emergencies and to show other countries how disaster risk reduction work can be undertaken. The UNISDR will analyse the material and compile it by continent and present a coordinated report at the global platform meeting in Geneva in May 2011.

Sweden's reporting has been coordinated by Janet Edwards (MSB) of the platform's secretariat. The authorities on the platform have reported on relevant government commissions, strategies, research projects, training courses, measures, tools and more. All the authorities in the platform have taken an active part. The coordinated work on disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation measures have been described. A follow up on the reporting has been made with the Authorities' Network, and as a result of some identified shortcomings, a couple of new activities have been included in the activity plan for the next few years.

## Financial Resources

The MSB covered the costs for work required as the Swedish focal point for the HFA, the chairmanship, and the first official meeting for the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction. UNISDR, and the Council of Europe supported the participation of certain countries. MSB financed the platform secretariat, administration, reporting, studies, as well as printed information, its distribution and other types of communication. Other authorities and organisations within the Swedish National Platform covered their own costs for participation in meetings and other assigned activities.

Activities that normally fall within the area of responsibility of an authority are carried out and financed by the authority and were included in HFA reporting but were not included in the activity plan for the platform.

Activities initiated by the platform were financed via agreements within the Authorities' Network for every individual case, via cooperation with other organisations (in Sweden or overseas) or through participant fees.

For the calendar year 2010, the platform's work (secretariat and activities) were financed by the MSB at a cost of SEK 1.2 million. The authorities financed their own time and travel expenses. The authorities that acted as hosts for meetings of the Authorities' Network and Steering Group meetings covered the associated costs.







**Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency**

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