

Exchange between Gothenburg and New Orleans - Making Cities Resilient

The City of Gothenburg and the City of New Orleans have an exchange in the years 2015 and 2016 on climate adaptation. The exchange has grown out of Gothenburg's involvement in the campaign Making Cities Resilient. The main objective of this international exchange is to share knowledge and experiences about disaster risk reduction and how to make the cities resilient to the consequences from natural hazards such as flood inundation and sea level rise. In the past year there has been a successful exchange of experiences with New Orleans. The cooperation will be completed and documented by a joint report.

The Campaign Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready was launched in May 2010 by the UN agency for international disaster risk reduction, UNISDR. The purpose of the campaign is to promote the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster: 2005-2015 (HFA) at the local level.

The matching of Gothenburg with New Orleans for this exchange is requested because of similar challenges. Gothenburg is Scandinavia's fifth largest city with about 550,000 inhabitants in the urban area and one million in the Greater Gothenburg region. During the 2000 census, the New Orleans population was registered as nearly 485,000 inhabitants, however, including suburbs it was 1.3 million. The year after Hurricane Katrina, the population dropped to around 224,000 inhabitants. Both cities are situated on a river and have ports of national and international significance. This increases the need for risk analysis, mitigation measures, and risk awareness in city planning to attain the desired level of safety since they are important economic hubs for their respective countries.

Project Goal

The main objective of this international exchange has been to share knowledge and experiences about disaster risk reduction and how to make the cities resilient to the consequences from natural hazards such as flood inundation and sea level rise. New Orleans has acquired extensive knowledge and experience during and after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. This includes the risks, impacts to society and better ways to rebuild after the catastrophe. The City of Gothenburg and Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) will learn from scientists, researchers from Louisiana universities and from local and national experts in the field of disaster risk reduction. The aim is also to learn about the development that is going on in New Orleans regarding how climate adaptation is addressed, risks and how to build back after Hurricane Katrina in a way that creates resilience to natural hazards.

Results

Through this two-way exchange, Sweden and the United States provide information from researchers and specialists on creating resilience against natural disasters. Gothenburg has carried out Sweden's first international exchange with another region of the world under the Making Cities

Resilient campaign, in this case, North America. Another result is increased knowledge of how Gothenburg and New Orleans creates resilience, supported by research in disaster risk reduction in urban planning, that can be used by local governments and even spread to other municipalities through the Making Cities Resilient campaign.

More information

Documentation from the exchange between Gothenburg and New Orleans will be published on the web page for Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB):

<https://www.msb.se/en>

Documentation from the international scientists-practitioners exchange between Gothenburg and New Orleans, 26-28 May 2015 (presentations in English)

<https://www.msb.se/sv/Forebyggande/Naturolyckor/Nationell-plattform/Kampanjen-Making-Cities-Resilient/Kunskapsbank>

Report Outlining Research from Gothenburg, Sweden-New Orleans City-to-City Exchange:

<http://www.sdmi.lsu.edu/stephenson-disaster-management-institute-releases-report-outlining-research-from-gothenburg-sweden-new-orleans-city-to-city-exchange/>