

Youth Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction Activities

Summary of the Survey Results by
Secure Kids Youth Working Group

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March 2025



Introduction

Outlining the authors, purpose and relevance of the research survey

This summary constitutes an input of the Secure Kids CBSS Baltic Sea Region Youth Forum's Working Group for the Secure Kids project. Since October 2024 the members of the Working group have been supporting the CBSS actions by developing recommendations for the project's website, as well as conducting the respective survey in order to better understand Baltic Sea Region (BSR) Youth in the context of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities.

The purpose of the survey was to explore youth perspectives from BSR on DRR, with the three different sections covering themes such as knowledge, expectations, challenges and barriers for participation. It was disseminated through CBSS social media channels and newsletters to gain insights from the young voices from the region. The data collection process took over one month and twenty-two respondents participated.

Disaster Risk Reduction activities focus on identifying, assessing, and minimizing the risks of disasters to protect lives, livelihoods, and communities. Specific examples include emergency planning, prevention, disaster response, and community cooperation plans. In the context of the rising probability of occurrence of climate-change-related disasters in the BSR, the topic of DRR is of crucial relevance.



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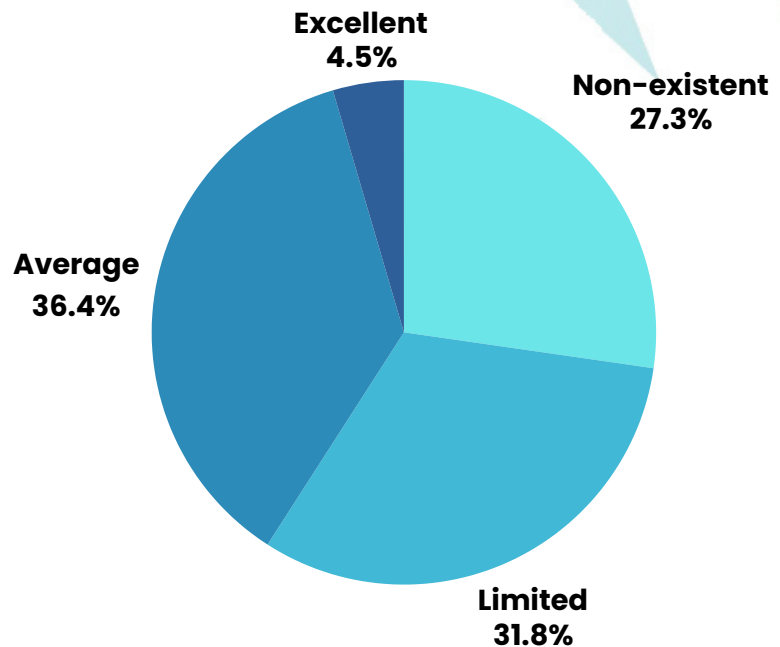


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Key Takeaways

1. Over 59% of respondents have a non-existent or limited understanding of DRR.

36% replied that their understanding is average and only 5% believe it is excellent. Therefore, this suggests that there is a strong need to not only enhance awareness about what DRR entail but also increase its presence in the educational curriculum.



2. The overwhelming majority of the respondents (91%) never participated in the DRR activities.

Out of 22 respondents, only 2 replied positively to whether they participated in any DRR projects. The follow-up question revealed that it was done through regional and federal agencies in the form of workshops. This shows that the lack of understanding of DRR can be the result of participation opportunities.

3. The youth is keen on developing their knowledge and acknowledges the importance of education on the topic of DRR.

32% responded that prevention and education are the most interesting aspects for them, with the same number going for emergency planning. Moreover, the most popular answer (29%) to the question about what activities would be useful in your context also involved the word "knowledge."



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Key Takeaways

4. Actions to Improve Youth Participation:

- Increasing the availability of educational materials.
- Organizing events in local communities.
- Providing financial support for participation in projects.

5. Perceptions of DRR Information Accessibility:

- Only one respondent believed there were enough accessible DRR information sources, while the majority felt there were not enough.
- The majority wanted to find information about the DRR in school/university.
- The most popular suggestions were organizing events in local communities, increasing the availability of educational materials, and providing financial support for participation.

6. Suggested Improvements in overall:

- Hosting events in schools and universities.
- Using social media for outreach.
- Increasing educational materials and financial support.
- Organizing local community events.



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Conclusions

Summary of the findings

The survey results indicate that while young people express interest in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), their actual participation remains low. Key barriers include limited awareness, lack of outreach, and accessibility challenges. However, there are clear opportunities to bridge this gap by leveraging educational institutions, social media, and local events as engagement platforms.

To enhance youth involvement in DRR, the following strategies should be considered:

- Expanding educational materials on DRR within schools and universities.
- Increasing outreach through social media and awareness campaigns.
- Offering financial support and incentives for participation in DRR projects.
- Organizing hands-on activities such as training sessions, workshops, and community events.

Future research should explore the effectiveness of different engagement strategies and assess how digital platforms can further support youth participation in DRR.

Thank You!

We sincerely appreciate the contributions of all participants who took the time to share their perspectives on DRR. Your insights are invaluable in shaping policies and programs that will make disaster preparedness more accessible and engaging for young people. Thank you for helping us contribute to this important discussion.



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Appendix: Survey Structure

Part 1: Knowledge About DRR

1. How would you rate your knowledge about Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities?
 - a) I know nothing about it.
 - b) I have a general idea.
 - c) I am quite familiar with it.
 - d) I consider myself an expert.

2. Have you ever participated in DRR-related activities (e.g., workshops, projects, consultations)?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No

3. If you have participated could you tell us more about what type of activities it was and who organised it?
(open-ended question)

4. Which aspects of DRR are most interesting to you or that you would like to learn more about? (You can select more than one option)
 - a) Disaster response
 - b) Prevention and education
 - c) Emergency planning
 - d) Community cooperation
 - e) Other (please specify)

Part 2: Expectations for Participation in DRR

5. What forms of participation in DRR would you find most appealing for youth?
 - a) Workshops and training sessions
 - b) Awareness campaigns
 - c) Online consultations
 - d) Practical projects
 - e) Other (please specify)

6. What motivates young people to get involved in DRR activities, in your opinion?
(open-ended question)

7. How could DRR organisers better engage youth? (You can select more than one option)
 - a) By hosting events at schools and universities
 - b) Using social media platforms
 - c) Creating opportunities for youth to co-decide
 - d) Other (please specify)



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Appendix: Survey Structure

Part 3: Challenges and Barriers

8. What are the biggest challenges that prevent young people from participating in DRR activities?
(open-ended question)
9. Do you think the availability of information about DRR is sufficient?
- Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
10. If you said yes, could you elaborate on where you find information about DRR?
- Local government website
 - International organization's website
 - At school/university
 - Other (please specify)
11. What actions should be taken to make it easier for youth to participate in DRR activities?
- Increasing the availability of educational materials
 - Organizing events in local communities
 - Providing financial support for participation in projects
 - Other (please specify)
12. Would you like to share anything else with us regarding the youth participation in DRR?
(open-ended question)



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