

## **Policy-Making Decisions under the Thumb of Disasters – A Case of the Floods in the Czech Republic**

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### ABSTRACT

Floods are a natural phenomenon that cannot be completely prevented and causes large property damages. The reception of the risks associated with natural catastrophes makes the systematic realization of preventive measures difficult. After 100 years, Czech Republic was heavily affected by large floods in 1997 and 2002. In the climate of significant administrative changes due to the reform of the public administration and responsibility redistributions towards the municipalities and citizens, the Czech society was forced to solve flood mitigation and protection.

The main purpose of the paper was to analyze changes driven by the Czech municipalities and what they learnt from the disastrous floods in 2002. From the evaluation of the questionnaire we determined several types of. We also described the legal background related to those groups and compared the given requirements with the practical functioning of the system. We also examined the dynamics of particular changes, communication and cooperation procedures among the main acting and responsible bodies.