Output workshop

From the recording of the workshop conclusion

**COLLAPSE**

**2050**: Immediate impact and response

In 2050, a pandemic affecting the neurological system of human beings causes widespread aggression. To control the situation, territories are separated by walls, dividing the population into infected and non-infected groups. The infected suspect there are underlying reasons for the absence of medications and doctors and distrust official communications, believing there might be a cure that is being held by the non-infected. They think that there are insufficient medications for them but that non-infected individuals have access to these medications. Public authorities lose credibility, and the infected begin to rebel, trying to breach medical barriers and attack the newly imposed borders guarded by military and police forces.

**2051**: Recovery and rebuilding

One year later, in 2051, solid walls separate infected territories from the cities. The infected population has drastically reduced, but some individuals are surviving the disease. In the cities, opinions are divided. Some people believe in sending medications, aid, and doctors to help the remaining infected individuals, viewing them as needing rescue. Messages of support and coping strategies are disseminated to the contaminated areas. However, another segment of the population prioritizes protecting the non-infected zones, advocating for weapons and preparing for potential civil conflict. Non-infected people see themselves as the healthy ones, and infected individuals lose their individual rights. Democracy has collapsed, replaced by a dictatorship responding to non-infected demands for protection from the infected.

**2025**: Preparation and prevention recommendations

For this scenario, the first recommendation is about fostering empathy and solidarity among citizens. Civic service can help build connections among the population, especially among young people, teaching the importance of caring for others despite differences. Education on the value of societal cohesion and group living can prevent internal conflicts. Emphasizing the local-level and focusing on families and neighborhoods, rather than global perspectives, appears as the best way to build resilience, as sharing knowledge, and strengthening community solidarity. Training programs could equip everyone with crisis management skills, survival basics, and self-sufficiency techniques like finding food and starting a fire without electricity. Strengthening municipal crisis response systems and ensuring the state maintains credibility and effective communication during crises are also critical.

**FLUVIAL TSUNAMI**

**2050:** Immediate impact and response

In the hours leading up to the tsunami, it is crucial to consider the period immediately before the catastrophe. Information about the impending wave might be available upstream, potentially causing initial panic as people try to evacuate. The tsunami devastated industrial facilities, hospitals, and other critical infrastructure. With communication antennas destroyed, smartphones and other devices became inoperable, highlighting the urgent need for alternative communication methods. The disaster will likely result in significant pollution, further complicating recovery efforts.

**2051:** Recovery and rebuilding

One year after the tsunami, the displaced population will need to be relocated, ideally close to their original city. Societal organization will begin to take shape with support from regional entities, such as French and German states and the European Union. The places where people collaborate have bounced back better than the places that didn’t. The question of rebuilding the cities starts to rise, the population still doesn’t agree on whether it is needed to rebuild them as it was before or not and to take that crisis as an opportunity to rebuild them in a more resilient way for the future.

**2025:** Preparation and prevention recommendations

Developing comprehensive evacuation plans for cities will ensure swift and efficient responses in case of future crises and will allow to avoid panic. Implementing new measures to safeguard natural resources, which are key for daily life, is necessary. Reviewing and updating current regulations to ensure they are relevant and effective in extreme events seems coherent as the world is evolving.

International cooperation will also be key in case of a crisis situation. Ensuring uniform crisis management capacities across regions by making decisions at the EU or national level will be essential. Fostering cooperation between regions for more resilient reconstruction, regularly updating crisis management policies based on new insights and technologies, and engaging in global exchanges of best practices and tools for crisis management are also important points. Sharing tools and experiences with countries that have faced crises has been highlighted as a potential to provide valuable insights to manage crises. Additionally, establishing robust communication methods that can withstand infrastructure damage, and prioritizing measures to prevent and manage pollution following a disaster are critical to maintain a contact with the citizens and to limit the damages for the environment.

In short, here local government and citizen preparedness are assessed as vital to face a crisis.

**BLACKOUT**

**2050:** Immediate impact and response

In 2050, a cyberattack or terrorist attack creates a complete blackout in the Upper Rhine region, plunging society into a state reminiscent of the Dark Ages. Communication systems fail entirely, halting mobility and rendering supporting devices useless. Bicycles and horses become the only means of transportation. Society collapses without functioning military or police forces, and the regional government disappears. The situation mirrors the aftermath of the fluvial tsunami, with infrastructure destruction and societal disruption. The consequences of such extreme events are largely similar, irrespective of the cause.

**2051:** Recovery and rebuilding

One year later, the population grapples with the long-term impacts of the blackout. Communities must reorganize and become more self-reliant, similar to the post-tsunami recovery process. Support from neighboring regions and international bodies is crucial. The focus shifts to whether to restore the previous state of affairs or rebuild in a more resilient and sustainable manner, just as with the tsunami scenario.

**2025:** Preparation and prevention recommendations

Preparation in 2025 involves reducing dependence on information and communication technology (ICT) and service-based economies. Energy system redundancy appears to be crucial; reliance on a single energy source must be reduced by diversifying supply to enhance resilience. Smaller, self-sufficient units (communities and cities) are more resilient; it could be interesting to work on their development. Working on fostering cooperation between regions could improve the links they have and might help the reconstruction process in case of crisis. Knowledge of food cultivation, particularly in urban areas, becomes valuable. Municipal systems for crisis reaction and risk management are key to handling local-level crises. Strategies should be developed to manage and reduce panic in the event of a blackout. Establishing robust communication methods that can withstand infrastructure damage could allow the regional and national states to keep their credibility. Regularly updating crisis management policies based on new insights and technologies, engaging in global exchanges of best practices and tools for crisis management, and rolling out new measures gradually to ensure effective integration are important steps. Coordination at higher levels is necessary to ensure consistent and efficient crisis management across regions.

Similarities between the recommendations of each scenario

Resilience and self-sufficiency: All three scenarios emphasize the importance of building smaller, self-sufficient communities. The collapse scenario mentions smaller, self-sufficient communities enhancing resilience, similar to the blackout scenario which emphasizes smaller, resilient units.

Crisis management and preparedness: Each scenario stresses the need for effective crisis management strategies, including preparation and response plans. The collapse scenario talks about training programs and crisis management skills, the tsunami scenario highlights comprehensive evacuation plans, and the blackout scenario emphasizes crisis reaction systems at the municipal level.

Communication: All three scenarios insist in establishing robust communication methods that can withstand infrastructure damages. This point stresses the importance of effective communication to maintain public trust and manage crises. Maintaining communication between authorities and citizens in case of crisis could avoid questioning of public authorities, which could lead to a period of social revolt and, in the event of a crisis, leave a place of governance to groups of people with ideas contrary to democracy. In the event of a crisis, being able to maintain a democratic system that is heard and believed by the population can be a key factor in preventing the initial crisis from being compounded by internal social conflict, as in the collapse scenarios and, to a lesser extent, in the blackout scenario.

International and regional cooperation: In all of the three scenarios, regions and international collaboration is highlighted as a key element for resilience and recovery. The collapse scenario suggests global exchanges of best practices, the tsunami scenario advocates for international cooperation and sharing tools, and the blackout scenario calls for fostering cooperation between affected regions in the rebuilding process.

~~~

All three scenarios emphasize the need for robust communication methods capable of withstanding infrastructure damage. This point underlines the importance of effective communication in maintaining public confidence and managing crises. Maintaining communication between authorities and citizens in the event of a crisis could prevent public authorities from being called into question, which could lead to a period of social revolt and, in the event of a crisis, leave a place of governance to groups of people with ideas that run counter to democracy. In the event of a crisis, the ability to maintain a democratic system that is heard and believed by the population may be a key factor in preventing the initial crisis from being aggravated by internal social conflicts, as in the collapse scenarios and, to a lesser extent, in the blackout scenario. Tackling social differences and tensions is also key to manage crisis situations. Crises often exacerbate social differences and can lead to heightened tensions. Recommendations aimed at fostering empathy, solidarity and societal cohesion are essential to mitigate these risks. By promoting inclusive and cohesive communities, regions can reduce the likelihood of social conflict and ensure a more united response to crises. Managing population displacement is another important element. Developing comprehensive evacuation plans and ensuring that displaced populations receive adequate support and are integrated into host communities are essential to maintaining social stability and facilitating recovery.

In all three scenarios, regional and international collaboration is seen as a key element of resilience and recovery. The collapse scenario suggests global exchanges of best practice, the tsunami scenario advocates international cooperation and sharing of tools, and the blackout scenario calls for encouraging cooperation between affected regions in the rebuilding process.

The output of the collapse scenario focuses on fostering empathy and solidarity through civic service and education on societal cohesion. It also emphasizes self-sufficiency skills such as finding food and starting a fire without electricity. As crises often exacerbate social differences and can lead to increased tensions, fostering empathy, solidarity, and societal cohesion appears to be essential to mitigate these risks. Promoting inclusive and cohesive communities, regions can reduce the likelihood of social conflicts and ensure a more united response to crises. To guarantee the safety of citizens, the credibility of the state during crises needs to be maintained, this is possible with communication channels able to work even in extreme situations.

The output of the fluvial tsunami scenario is specific for natural disasters, with a focus on developing comprehensive evacuation plans. It stresses safeguarding natural resources and prioritizing measures to prevent and manage pollution following a disaster. And it emphasizes the importance of quick communication to higher authorities during crises.

And finally, the output of the blackout scenario focuses on the energy system redundancy and on the importance of reducing dependence on a single energy source. The example provided to justify this point is the French energy production system that relies heavily on nuclear plants which makes the electricity supply dependent on the uranium price and availability. To avoid energetical shortages, diversifying energy sources and reducing reliance on a single supply could ensure supply to at least essential services and could help the overall organizations to recover more quickly from disruptions. This scenario also stresses the importance of reducing dependence on information and communication technologies and on the service-based economies that are dependent on energy availability.

~~~

Specificities of each scenario:

* Collapse scenario: the output focuses on fostering empathy and solidarity through civic service and education on societal cohesion. It also emphasizes self-sufficiency skills such as finding food and starting a fire without electricity. And it highlights the importance of maintaining credibility of the state during crises. Crises often exacerbate social differences and can lead to increased tensions. Recommendations to foster empathy, solidarity, and societal cohesion are essential to mitigate these risks. By promoting inclusive and cohesive communities, regions can reduce the likelihood of social conflicts and ensure a more united response to crises.
* Tsunami scenario: this output is specific for natural disasters, with a focus on developing comprehensive evacuation plans. It stresses safeguarding natural resources and prioritizing measures to prevent and manage pollution following a disaster. And it emphasizes the importance of quick communication to higher authorities during crises.
* Blackout Scenario: These recommendations focus on the impact of losing electrical infrastructure, emphasizing on the energy system redundancy and reducing dependence on a single energy source. It stresses the importance of reducing dependence on ICT and service-based economies. And it highlights the need for knowledge of food cultivation, particularly in urban areas. Energy system redundancy is critical for resilience. Diversifying energy sources and reducing reliance on a single supply ensures that communities can maintain essential services and recover more quickly from disruptions.

By identifying these similarities and specificities, we can see how different types of crises might require both common strategies and specific approaches tailored to the unique challenges they present.

Conclusion :

The presence of these recommendations in all the scenarios developed indicates that these elements are fundamental to building resilience and preparedness on a regional scale. These common action points highlight the critical areas that need to be addressed to effectively manage and recover from different types of crisis. The systematic focus on these elements underlines their importance in building a robust and resilient society, capable of withstanding and adapting to different extreme events. Robust communication systems are essential, as effective communication is vital for coordinating response efforts, disseminating information and maintaining public confidence. Ensuring that communication networks can withstand damage and continue to function during crises is essential to managing the immediate consequences and facilitating recovery.

Tackling social differences and tensions is also essential. Crises often exacerbate social differences and can lead to heightened tensions. Recommendations aimed at fostering empathy, solidarity and societal cohesion are essential to mitigate these risks. By promoting inclusive and cohesive communities, regions can reduce the likelihood of social conflict and ensure a more united response to crises. Managing population displacement is another important element. Developing comprehensive evacuation plans and ensuring that displaced populations receive adequate support and are integrated into host communities are essential to maintaining social stability and facilitating recovery.

Local food production is seen as an importantl measure of resilience. Reducing dependence on imports and ensuring that communities have the knowledge and resources to produce their own food builds resilience by securing a vital resource. Maintaining government credibility during crises is essential. Effective communication, transparent decision-making and responsive action are needed to maintain public confidence and ensure that people follow advice and support recovery efforts. Redundant energy systems are essential to resilience. Diversifying energy sources and reducing dependence on a single supply enables communities to maintain essential services and recover more quickly from disruptions.

International and regional cooperation is also key. Cooperation between regions and countries is essential to share best practices, resources and technologies. Participation in global exchanges of knowledge and tools strengthens collective capacity to manage and recover from crises. Regular updating of crisis management policies on the basis of new knowledge and technologies ensures that response strategies remain effective and relevant. Progressive implementation of new measures enables gradual adaptation and minimizes the risk of system saturation.

By focusing on these key action points, regions can significantly improve their preparedness for a wide range of crises. These elements represent the fundamental building blocks of a resilient society, capable of managing disruption, reducing vulnerability and recovering quickly from adverse events.

Points spécifique (communs et différents) aux scénarios

Collapse : on passe d'une crise sanitaire qui se transforme en crise sociale

Tsunami : on passe d’une crise venant d’un évènement naturel à une crise sanitaire (eaux polluée)