

Slovenia Record floods – August 2023

6-8th August 2023. Slovenia and parts of Austria, Croatia and Italy received record rainfall with an average event total, in Slovenia of 166mm from 115 official Slovenian Environment Agency gauges. Between 65-85% of the country was impacted. A piping event in a flood levee, risks to energy supply, cross border defence implications, and supply chain impacts for the car industry were notable impacts from this event.

Learnings for this jurisdiction wide rain events are largely based around planning, continuity, and understanding hazard risk for integrated economies. Compound risk is also featured as there was a short-lived nuclear alert due to the floods.

An indication of the subject matter covered is shown below, with over 20 learnings available.

Resources available

- Hydrological frequency report
- Rainfall data – official
- Rainfall data – unofficial
- Photographic evidence
- Media articles
- Academic papers
- Economic assessment

Useful to

- Regulators
- Dam owners
- Critical infrastructure owners
- Disaster & emergency managers
- Boards
- Defence



Paralje in Slovenia (Source: AP)



Learnings Checklist

Governance Questions

Do plans include activity for an extended period of disruption?

Do unregulated structures need incident plans? (Compliant vs safe)

What assumptions to continuity plans include? Have they been tested?

Are we clear what supply chain natural hazard risk there is?

Category	Event	Learning/prevention activity	Question?
Supply chain risk	Damage to road infrastructure	Impact on European car production as parts required could not be shipped. (BBC)	Is supply chain risk from natural hazards known?
Resourcing	Whole of country impacts (65% or 85% disputed)	The scale of the event overwhelmed the resourcing of the country.	Do plans assume support from elsewhere?
Compound risk	The Krsko nuclear power plant advised the Slovenian directorate for nuclear that it registered an 'unusual event' during the flood (Slovene Govt.)	Potential impacts from the Sava River on nuclear energy production. The river is the cooling source.	Do plans consider compound events?
Financial	Economic impacts	Over 10 billion Euro (11 billion USD) estimates including direct and indirect costs – 16% of 2023 GDP (Slovene Govt)	Are there single hazard events that would impact GDP?
Asset failure	Levee failure on the Mur River at Dolnja Bistrica after piping event related to elevated water levels. (Slovene Govt.)	Evacuation of 500 people	Do unregulated structures require emergency plans?
Crisis planning	Damage to road infrastructure (Nato)	Event response and post event recovery impeded by scale of the damage	Does response and recovery assume access?