

Handling crisis-induced turbulence due to climate change: How a Norwegian municipality collaborated with other actors to respond robustly to an extreme weather incident

Gulnara Nadamova and Aase Kristine Lundberg

Abstract

The consequences of climate change are increasingly hitting local governments and they have to develop robust governance responses to handle these consequences. In this book chapter, we examine how an extreme weather incident in August 2023, leading to floods, landslides, isolated communities and evacuated residents, was handled by different actors in a medium size municipality in South-East Norway. We combined interviews with municipal officials, local politicians, civil society actors and national experts who collaborated in handling the crisis with document analysis. The findings document how public and private actors were able to come up with robust governance strategies when they were exposed to turbulent events due to climate change. Moreover, this case demonstrates a need for developing strategies that can handle crisis-induced turbulence under deep uncertainties related to changing climate and its widespread societal impacts.