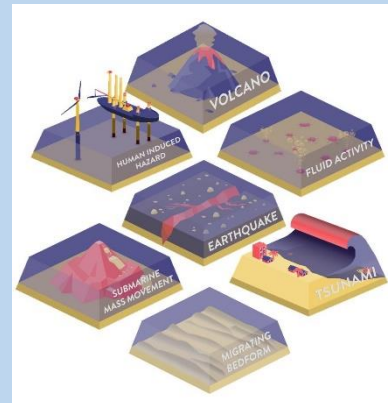


## Safeguarding society and the Blue Economy from marine geohazards

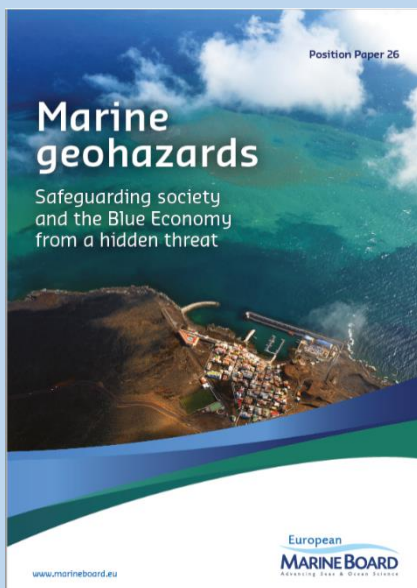
### Background

Marine geohazards pose significant **threats** to society and several Blue Economy sectors (e.g. offshore energy, tourism and fisheries). As coastal human populations and the economic activities conducted in the marine and coastal environments are increasing, society and the economy will be more exposed and vulnerable to marine geohazards. However, **awareness** and **knowledge** of these hazards is **limited**, especially in a European context. This knowledge is integral in **developing effective risk-mitigation strategies** to protect coastal populations and economic activities at sea.



### Recommendations

Marine geohazards will certainly occur in the future. To enhance resilience, reduce risks and raise general awareness, EMB recommends to:



- Include marine geohazards as natural hazards in all policies relating to risk mitigation and land management, at European, regional, national and local level.
- Consider marine geohazards in local, national and EU marine and maritime legislation and legislation pertaining to the development of the Sustainable Blue Economy.
- Require that public authorities use all seafloor infrastructure installations for environmental and geohazard monitoring.
- Develop probabilistic scenarios of marine geohazard risks for all major coastal settlements and industrial infrastructures.
- Establish a stakeholder forum to identify knowledge gaps and technological needs. This could be achieved through the development of specific EU research programs on marine geohazards.
- Set up a field laboratory for marine geohazards at a focus site in Europe to concentrate research, facilities and *in situ* modelling.
- Promote a common standard for marine geohazard interpretation and mapping to ensure the safe development of the Blue Economy.
- Combine long-term *in situ* monitoring with geohazard studies in the surrounding region to identify long-range signals.
- Support technological advancement to improve the detection capability and availability of sensors.
- Create holistic databases of raw data and homogeneous interpretations and make them available to the scientific community to apply advanced techniques in support of marine geohazard studies.

Download Position Paper 26 for free at: <https://www.marineboard.eu/publications/marine-geohazards-safeguarding-society-and-blue-economy-hidden-threat>