



GLOBAL RISK ASSESSMENT DATASET AND THE EU'S ROLE
IN THE GOVERNANCE OF GLOBAL RISKS

GRADEU JEAN MONNET MODULE – 2022- 2025
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Research Note - 2

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Research Note 2 – Mapping Global Risks through GRAD: Early Trends and Methodological Insights (2022–2023)

The second phase of the GRADEU Jean Monnet Module focused on establishing a systematic foundation for analyzing global risks through the creation of the Global Risk Assessment Dataset (GRAD). While the idea of global risk had already gained traction in policy and academic discussions, few empirical tools existed to trace how these risks evolved over time. The GRAD project was developed to fill this gap by collecting, coding, and categorizing more than three decades of risk-related reports published by leading international organizations and think tanks.

Preliminary results from the first coding cycle (1990–2020) revealed three important trends: the growing visibility of climate and environmental risks, the convergence of risk categories (climate–energy–economy), and the increasing Europeanization of global risk language. Methodologically, the GRAD dataset combined qualitative content analysis with quantitative coding, ensuring both analytical depth and comparability. The findings suggested that risks are socially constructed and institutionally framed, rather than objectively discovered.

This phase of research showed that understanding global risks requires both empirical mapping and critical reflection. The GRAD dataset provided a framework for studying how power and knowledge shape governance agendas. For the EU, these findings revealed the importance of strategic foresight and coordination, while also identifying gaps between its narratives and practical capacity.

Further Readings:

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United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). (2022). Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022: Our World at Risk – Transforming Governance for a Resilient Future. Geneva.

World Economic Forum. (2023). Global Risks Report 2023.