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SYNERGIES

Innovating Preparedness by Leveraging SYNERGIES and Enhancing Results of DRM Projects

Grant Agreement No. 101121172
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Report of Validation Workshops in La Réunion

Event key information

ID	**01**
Event title	La Réunion Validation Workshops
Date of the events	28 April 2026, 12 June 2026, 25 Aug 2026
Event responsible	SINTEF, ISIG, UT, ASRUN, AGORAH

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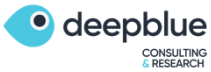
1		DEEP BLUE SRL	DBL	Italy
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 5
1. Description of the events 6
1.1. Validation workshop - 28 April 2026 6
1.1.1. Preparation 6
1.1.2. Attendees 7
1.2. SAVIT Tabletop Game session - 12 June 2026 7
1.2.1. Preparation and set up 7
1.2.2. Attendees 8
1.3. PrepCap webinar - 25 August 2026 8
1.3.1. Preparation and set up 8
1.3.2. Attendees 9
2. Overview of data collection methods 9
2.1. Standard questionnaire 9
2.2. Qualitative methods 10
3. Data collected on specific results 10
3.1. SAVIT Catalogue 10
3.1.1. Methodology 10
3.1.2. Results 11
3.1.2.1. Validation Questionnaire 11
3.1.2.2. Key findings 13
3.2. SAVIT Tabletop Game 14
3.2.1. Methodology 14
3.2.2. Results 15
3.2.2.1. Validation questionnaire 15
3.2.2.2. Key findings 17
3.3. ATLAS of Empowerment 18
3.3.1. Methodology 18
3.3.2. Results 19
3.3.2.1. Validation questionnaire 19
3.3.2.2. Key findings 22
3.4. PrepCap System 23
3.4.1. Methodology 23
3.4.2. Results 24
3.4.2.1. Validation questionnaire 24
3.4.2.2. Key findings 26

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4. Across results: the SYNERGIES journey 27
4.1. Methodology 27
4.2. Key findings 28
5. Conclusions and next steps 29

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 - Project results status 5
Table 2 - SAVIT Catalogue survey questions 12
Table 3 - SAVIT Tabletop Game survey questions 16
Table 4 - ATLAS survey questions 20
Table 5 - PrepCap System survey questions 25

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 – April event 6
Figure 2 – June event 7

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Introduction

The overall objective of the validation activities in La Réunion was to assess the practical usability, applicability and added value of selected SYNERGIES Results in a realistic preparedness context. The activities were defined to move beyond a formative evaluation of the results towards collecting stakeholder feedback on the practical use of the results, their integration into preparedness activities, and their potential refinement before final release.

Since it was possible to validate all project results, a selection was made through a survey sent at the beginning of 2026 to the Local Support Team and members of a larger network of local DRM actors and stakeholders. The survey provided a short presentation of all project's results (many of them having been evaluated or demonstrated during the consortium meeting in La Reunion in fall 2025) and asked participants to prioritise up to 4 results. The ones with highest relevance to local actors were selected for validation.

The table below provides an overview of the full portfolio of SYNERGIES Results, highlighting those specifically selected and tested for formal evaluation and validation in la Réunion.

Table 1 - Project results status

Project Result	**Preparedness Case 1 La Reunion**	
Type of Validation	***Evaluation***	***Validation***
Atlas of Empowerment	☑	☑
Training	☑	
Training for Schools		
Early Warning Tool		
SAVIT Catalogue	☑	☑
SAVIT Tabletop Game	☑	☑
Knowledge Base	☑	
PreCap Digital System		☑

The validation was conducted through 3 separate events:

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- An interactive workshop in April 2026, focusing on the ATLAS of Empowerment and the SAVIT Catalogue, and including an exploration of the SYNERGIES "journey", i.e. of the users envisaged experience across the project's results
- A session of the SAVIT Tabletop Game in June 2026
- A webinar in August 2026, focusing on the PrepCap digital system

Earlier versions of each of these results had been evaluated on the island the previous year, and a primary objective was to present local stakeholders more mature tools, often improved through the feedback of the stakeholders from La Réunion.

1. Description of the events

1.1. Validation workshop - 28 April 2026

Figure 1 – April event

1.1.1. Preparation

The preparation of the validation event was conducted by ISIG and SINTEF, the main developers of the results to be validated, with the support of Sciences Réunion, coordinator of the Preparedness Case 1, AGORAH, local partner in the case. While ISIG and Sintef defined the validation process and activities, e.g., exercises and questionnaires, Sciences Réunion and AGORAH were responsible for mobilising the local actors and taking care of all practical matters. UT also contributed to the definition of activities as the vulnerabilities identified under the guidance of UT during the evaluation workshop in September 2025 was a starting point for the exploration of the ATLAS of Empowerment and the SAVIT Catalogue.

The workshop preparation included the set-up of the agendas for the events, the definition of the validation processes and development of related materials, the design of data collection

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methods, the invitation of participants including follow-up for engagement, and the organisation of the venue. A detailed script was also developed in order to establish a common understanding between ISIG and Sintef, as main facilitators of the event, about the purpose of each session in the events and main facilitation principles.

Materials (agenda, guidelines and questionnaires) were translated to French to facilitate participants' contribution. The agenda (see Annex A) was structured to allow participants to understand the results in the context of the project, to interact with the results and to provide feedback through questionnaires and discussion.

1.1.2. Attendees

The workshop brought together a broad range of 14 stakeholders involved in disaster risk management, community resilience, and public engagement. Participants represented public authorities (municipality, regional authority), civil society organisations, first and second responders, volunteer organisations, the education sector, and a social housing organisation. This diversity ensured a mix of policy, operational, educational, community, and research perspectives to address the two topics of interest: the engagement and empowerment of communities, and the integration of informal help.

The participants had varied experience in their respective functions, 4 with more than 10 years, 5 with 2-10 years and 5 with less than 2 years. They also had varied experience with spontaneous help, 5 with regular experience and 6 with occasional experience. This diversity of experience also ensured a mix of different perspectives and needs for new knowledge.

1.2. SAVIT Tabletop Game session - 12 June 2026

Figure 2 – June event

1.2.1. Preparation and set up

The preparation of the validation event was conducted by SINTEF, developer of the game, with the support of Sciences Réunion, coordinator of the Preparedness Case 1, AGORAH, local partner in the case. Beyond being responsible for mobilising the local actors and taking

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care of all practical matters, Sciences Réunion and AGORAH were also responsible for facilitating the game session. This was the first game session event that was facilitated by other actors than SINTEF. SINTEF prepared guidelines for game facilitation supporting Sciences Réunion and AGORAH to conduct the activity independently.

Similarly to the first event, the workshop preparation included the set-up of the agenda for the event, the definition of the validation processes and development of related materials, the design of data collection methods, the invitation of participants including follow-up for engagement, and the organisation of the venue. Materials (agenda, guidelines and questionnaires) were also translated in French to facilitate participants' contribution. A French version of the SAVIT Tabletop was used to ease active participation in the game. The agenda (see Annex B) was structured to allow participants to understand the results in the context of the project, to take part in the game and to provide feedback through questionnaires and discussion.

1.2.2. Attendees

The Entre-Deux game session brought together a diverse group of 12 stakeholders involved in risk management, community resilience, volunteering, and public administration. Participants represented public authorities (including regional, intercommunal and municipality), civil society organisations including local associations and volunteer organisations of civil protection. Regional education authorities were also represented by a member responsible for vocational training related to safety and security. This mix provided perspectives from local government, environmental management, citizen groups, risk awareness organisations, and volunteer networks involved in disaster preparedness and response.

The participant group was generally experienced. Five participants had more than 10 years of experience in their current role, four had between 2 and 10 years, and three had less than 2 years of experience. Experience with informal help was also relatively strong: four participants reported regular experience, seven reported occasional or rare experience, and only one participant reported no experience with informal help.

The event combined professional expertise with practical exposure to volunteer engagement and community-based support, creating a knowledgeable audience for discussions on integrating informal help into disaster management.

1.3. PrepCap webinar - 25 August 2026

1.3.1. Preparation and set up

The webinar was prepared by UT, developer of the PrepCap tool and of its digital version demonstrated in the event. Sciences Réunion, coordinator of the PC La Réunion, AGORAH, local partner, and SINTEF, partner in the PC, supported UT with mobilising local actors and taking care of practical matters.

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The webinar preparation included the set-up of the agenda, the definition of the validation processes, the design of data collection methods (online survey), the invitation and reminders sent to participants, and the organisation of the online meeting. Various documents (presentation of the event, agenda) were also translated to French to facilitate participation. The event was organized in English to allow UT to conduct the session, but this choice limited the number of participants in this French-speaking territory (various invitees indicated being interested but not being comfortable enough in English).

1.3.2. Attendees

The webinar brought together a group of 8 stakeholders representing one local regional public authority, three civil society organisations and one regional innovation organisation. This group included one AB member who is part of the national branch of one of the local associations involved, and familiar with the context of La Réunion. The participant group had mixed experience with the topic of vulnerability management at the heart of the session (5 with high experience, 3 with low). In addition to La Réunion stakeholders, the event was attended by project partners UT, SINTEF and SRUN.

2. Overview of data collection methods

2.1. Standard questionnaire

The standard validation questionnaire used in all events was designed to gather comprehensive feedback from participants regarding the relevance, usability, and potential impact of the SYNERGIES Results. It aimed to capture the perspectives of key stakeholders, focusing on their roles, assessments of applicability, and willingness to adopt the presented outcomes.

The questionnaire included questions covering the following areas:

- **Participant Demographics:** questions identifying the actor type and participant capacity at the workshop, establishing the respondent profile.
- **Result Selection:** a question asking participants to specify the SYNERGIES Result they were evaluating, ensuring focused feedback.
- **Perceived Usefulness and Applicability:** questions gauging whether the result addressed participant needs and its potential for recommendation to colleagues in similar organizations.
- **Resource Implications and Adoption Potential:** questions assessing participant willingness to invest resources (time, funds, personnel) and evaluating the ease of integration into existing workflows.
- **Usability and Adaptability:** questions exploring the tool's intuitiveness and its adaptability across various hazards, contexts, and communities.
- **Transferability and Compatibility:** questions determining the result's compatibility with existing systems and operational practices.

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- **Economic viability and Maturity**: questions to evaluate the long-term benefits and operational readiness of the results.
- **Open-Ended Feedback:** a section for general observations, suggestions, and any additional comments from participants.

The questionnaire also included a consent statement, ensuring participants were informed of the voluntary nature of their participation and their right to withdraw at any time. The analysis of the responses to these questions provides valuable insights into the reception and potential impact of the SYNERGIES Results.

2.2. Qualitative methods

The standard questionnaires, which are mainly on scoring questions, were complemented with various qualitative approaches to collect feedback and insights from users' experience with the results.

- Observations - during the exploration of SYNERGIES tools
- User notes
- Online questionnaire supporting group discussions
- Additional questions to the standard questionnaire (multiple choices, open text fields)

3. Data collected on specific results

3.1. SAVIT Catalogue

3.1.1. Methodology

The SAVIT Catalogue was validated through a facilitated guided exploration of the platform complemented by structured qualitative and quantitative data collection. The objective of the session was to assess the practical usability, usefulness, applicability and maturity of the Catalogue.

Following a short introduction to the tool and a recap of key vulnerabilities and priority areas identified in the evaluation workshop in La Réunion in October 2025, participants were invited to explore the catalogue and identify solutions that could be relevant in their context for one selected vulnerability or priority. They were also invited to discuss conditions for the implementation of the identified solutions.

Validation evidence was collected through participants' own notes during exploration and interactive discussions. At the end of the session, participants individually completed validation questionnaires combining standard SYNERGIES validation questions with more specific and open-ended Catalogue-related questions, and covering topics of usefulness, usability, transferability, compatibility, economic viability and maturity. The open-ended questions aimed to better support the interpretation of the quantitative findings from standard questions, thus the identification of priorities for future development and exploitation.

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3.1.2. Results

3.1.2.1. Validation Questionnaire

Participant demographics and engagement

The validation exercise involved a multidisciplinary group of 14 stakeholders, ensuring a comprehensive representation of the disaster risk management landscape in La Réunion. The composition of the participant group included Civil Society Organisations and NGOs (35.7%), Public Authorities (28.6%), and Volunteer Networks (14.3%), with First and Second Responders, Social Housing Organisations, and Educational System Representatives each accounting for 7.1% of the total.

In terms of engagement, 57.1% of the attendees interacted with the project for the first time, while 42.9% provided continuity by having previously participated in the September 2025 Evaluation Workshop.

Perceived usefulness & added value:

- **Operational Value:** 71.4% rated the Catalogue as *"Very"* (50.0%) or *"Extremely"* (21.4%) effective in facilitating their activities and addressing organizational needs (mean score: 3.71 / 5).
- **Added Value over Legacy Practice:** 78.6% confirmed high added value compared to current practices (mean score: 3.93 / 5).
- **Peer Recommendation:** 85.7% would recommend the Catalogue to peer organizations (mean score: 4.00 / 5).

Usability & user autonomy:

- **Ease of Use:** 64.3% found the platform intuitive (3.43 / 5).
- **Need for Facilitation/Training:** Autonomy scores indicated that users require initial support (mean score: 3.14 / 5 for independent use by colleagues). Furthermore, 64.3% noted that mini-trainings or video tutorials are necessary for effective organizational onboarding (2.93 / 5 on needing no training).

Adaptability, compatibility & operational feasibility:

- **Hazard & Context Flexibility:** 100% of respondents rated the Catalogue as *"Very"* (92.3%) or *"Extremely"* (7.7%) adaptable across different hazard types (4.08 / 5) and operational environments (4.08 / 5).
- **Feasibility & Stability:** 78.6% judged the tool sufficiently mature for real-world pilot testing (3.79 / 5), with 64.3% confirming feasibility of local implementation (3.79 / 5).

Qualitative insights & recommendations

- **Key Strengths:**

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1. Highly valued as a centralized repository and structured reference guide for integrating spontaneous and informal volunteers.
2. Clear categorization by functions and objectives facilitates strategic planning and multi-year resilience building.

- **Main Barriers to Adoption:**
  1. **Language & Terminology:** Prominent use of English in drop-down menus creates friction for local French/Creole speakers.
  2. **Initial Navigation Curve:** Users requested clearer landing-page guidance explaining the platform's core logic and search filters.
  3. **Local Contextualization:** Need for locally relevant case studies from La Réunion rather than generic European examples.

- **Actionable Recommendations:**
  1. Integrate a dedicated French/Creole language toggle across all drop-down menus and interface elements.
  2. Implement a geographic filter allowing users to instantly isolate solutions applicable to La Réunion and similar island contexts.
  3. Produce a short (2-minute) introductory video embedded on the home page explaining user workflows and search functions.

Table 2 - SAVIT Catalogue survey questions

Survey questions	N. respondents	Average (1-5)
Could the Result / idea facilitate your activity and address your needs?	14	3.71
Would you recommend this Result / idea to colleagues in an organisation similar to yours?	14	4.00
Would you be willing to invest resources in your current organisational context to use it?	14	3.29
I found this tool easy and intuitive to use.	14	3.43
My colleagues could use this Result without additional assistance.	14	3.14
The Result does not require investment/resources (e.g. training, supervision) to be used.	14	2.93
How adaptable do you think the content of this Result would be for use with other types of Hazards?	13	4.08

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How adaptable do you think the content of this Result would be for use with other types of Contexts / Environment?	13	4.08
How adaptable do you think the content of this Result would be for use with other types of Communities or user groups?	13	3.85
The Result could be easily integrated into existing systems and platforms without major modifications.	13	3.54
The Result is compatible with other current operational working practices.	13	3.77
The expected benefits of using this Result justify the effort required for its adoption.	14	3.71
The Result appears feasible to implement within my organisational and national context.	14	3.79
Compared to current practices, this Result provides added value.	14	3.93
The Result appears sufficiently developed for testing or pilot use in real-world conditions.	14	3.79
The Result performed reliably during the demonstration.	13	3.85
The Result could be further developed into an operational solution with reasonable effort.	12	3.75
The Result appears stable enough for continued use and refinement.	14	3.57

3.1.2.2. Key findings

Participants generally viewed the SAVIT Catalogue as a useful and relevant source of inspiration for identifying approaches to integrate spontaneous and informal volunteers. The catalogue was particularly valued for helping users discover potential solutions, reflect on current practices, and better understand the challenges of managing informal help. Its categorisation by objectives and functions was considered helpful, and several participants saw potential for its use in planning, preparedness activities, training, workshops, and multi-year resilience programmes.

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From a usability perspective, the interface was often described as clear, visual and intuitive, but many participants struggled to identify where to start, understand the functions and sub-functions, or find specific information efficiently. Common recommendations included adding a short introductory explanation, improving search and filtering functions, providing more visual elements, reducing the use of English terminology, and creating explanatory videos or user guidance. Several participants noted that some prior knowledge or facilitation would be needed for effective use.

Regarding transferability, participants felt the catalogue could be applied beyond natural disasters and adapted to different types of organisations, communities, and contexts. It was seen as particularly relevant for public authorities, civil society organisations, volunteer organisations, and disaster-risk-management practitioners. However, users stressed the need for more locally relevant examples, geographical filters, and references that reflect the realities of Réunion and similar contexts.

In terms of compatibility and implementation, the main barriers identified were limited time, perceived complexity, organisational relevance, language issues, and uncertainty about roles, responsibilities, and institutional procedures. Participants frequently requested training, facilitation, practical guidance, and closer alignment with local operational frameworks. Several respondents suggested that the catalogue is most immediately compatible with exercises, workshops, preparedness activities, and awareness-raising initiatives, while wider operational use would require additional development, local adaptation, and stronger integration with existing institutional processes.

Overall, feedback was positive: participants considered the catalogue mature and valuable as a knowledge and inspiration tool, while recommending improvements in guidance, localisation, visual design, and practical implementation support to increase its accessibility and long-term uptake.

3.2. SAVIT Tabletop Game

3.2.1. Methodology

The SAVIT Tabletop Game is a facilitated serious game designed to help stakeholders explore how spontaneous and informal helpers can be better integrated into disaster management. Participants work in small multidisciplinary teams, reflecting on a disaster scenario in different rounds (e.g., before / warning phase, during / first half day, after / a couple of days after). They collaboratively identify challenges and opportunities related to informal help, needs (in the form of key functions) and potential approaches. Rather than role-playing, participants contribute from their own professional perspectives and experiences, as if they were tasked with providing recommendations for local authorities and practitioners. The purpose is not to manage the emergency itself, but rather to stimulate discussion, learning, and reflection on what tools, approaches, and organisational arrangements could improve the integration of informal volunteers before, during, and after crises.

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The validation session of the SAVIT Tabletop Game took place on 12 June at Le Dimitile Hotel, located in the municipality of L'Entre-Deux (Réunion Island, France). The session built from the one conducted during the 2025 meeting in La Reunion and was adapted to the local context. The cyclone scenario was specifically developed for the municipality of L'Entre-Deux in collaboration with the municipality's disaster risk manager. Considering local vulnerabilities, the scenario featured a widespread power outage, neighbourhoods isolated by landslides, and limited emergency shelter capacity. The game cards were translated to French. The workshop was facilitated by Sciences Réunion and AGORAH.

The session brought together 14 participants representing national government services, local authorities and intermunicipal organisations, the education sector, as well as associations and civil society organisations involved in disaster risk management and community resilience. Participants were divided into four multidisciplinary teams of three to four people.

Following an introduction to the municipality's geographical context and key vulnerabilities, participants analysed the scenario through the three phases of the game (before, during, and after the crisis). In each round, teams identified the key actors involved in the event, determined the most critical functions for integrating informal help, selected relevant solutions using the solution cards, and discussed the local conditions that could enable or hinder implementation. Participants could access the SAVIT Catalogue online throughout the session. At the end of each round, each group pitched its selected solution to the other group, which was followed by a collective vote and discussion.

The session concluded with a short debriefing, allowing participants to provide qualitative feedback on their experience playing the game. Participants completed the validation questionnaire, while the facilitators documented structured observations throughout the session to support the evaluation of the game.

3.2.2. Results

3.2.2.1. Validation questionnaire

Participant demographics and engagement

During the workshop, the tabletop game validation session involved 12 operational and strategic stakeholders. The participant group consisted of Civil Society Organisations (41.7%), Public Authorities (33.3%), Volunteer Networks (16.7%), and Support Services (8.3%).

A total of 75.0% of these attendees were participating in a SYNERGIES evaluation activity for the first time, while 25.0% had attended the previous year's evaluation workshop.

Perceived usefulness & capacity building:

- **Capacity Building:**100% of participants would recommend the game to peer organizations (mean score: 4.75 / 5).
- **Added Value:** 100% agreed that the game provides substantial added value over traditional static methods (4.73 / 5).
- **Addressing Needs:** 91.7% confirmed it directly addresses organizational preparedness needs (4.17 / 5) and expressed willingness to invest organizational resources (time, funds, staff) to deploy it (4.50 / 5).

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Usability & user autonomy:

- **Game Dynamics & Intuitiveness:** 100% rated the serious game format as intuitive and easy to use (mean score: 4.33 / 5).
- **Demonstration Reliability:** Reliability during the exercise scored 4.64 / 5 (100% top-box agreement)
- **Facilitation Requirement:** Autonomous usage by colleagues without additional support scored 3.58 / 5, indicating that trained facilitation remains helpful for maximizing session outcomes.

Economic viability, compatibility & maturity:

- **Operational Development:** 90.9% agreed that the game can be further developed into a permanent operational tool with reasonable effort (4.45 / 5)
- **Feasibility & Stability:** Feasibility of local implementation scored 4.55 / 5, stability for continued refinement scored 4.73 / 5, and readiness for real-world pilot testing scored 4.50 / 5 (100% top-box agreement).

Table 3 - SAVIT Tabletop Game survey questions

Survey questions	N. respondents	Average (1-5)
Could the Result / idea facilitate your activity and address your needs?	12	4.17
Would you recommend this Result / idea to colleagues in an organisation similar to yours?	12	4.75
Would you be willing to invest resources in your current organisational context to use it?	12	4.50
I found this tool easy and intuitive to use.	12	4.33
My colleagues could use this Result without additional assistance.	12	3.58
The Result does not require investment/resources (e.g. training, supervision) to be used.	12	3.67
How adaptable do you think the content of this Result would be for use with other types of Hazards?	12	4.58
How adaptable do you think the content of this Result would be for use with other types of Contexts / Environment?	12	4.75

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How adaptable do you think the content of this Result would be for use with other types of Communities or user groups?	12	4.50
The Result could be easily integrated into existing systems and platforms without major modifications.	12	4.17
The Result is compatible with other current operational working practices.	12	4.33
The expected benefits of using this Result justify the effort required for its adoption.	11	4.27
The Result appears feasible to implement within my organisational and national context.	11	4.55
Compared to current practices, this Result provides added value.	11	4.73
The Result appears sufficiently developed for testing or pilot use in real-world conditions.	10	4.50
The Result performed reliably during the demonstration.	11	4.64
The Result could be further developed into an operational solution with reasonable effort.	11	4.45
The Result appears stable enough for continued use and refinement.	11	4.73

3.2.2.2. Key findings

Participants viewed the game as a useful tool for reflection, learning, and identifying potential solutions for integrating informal help in disaster management. Many felt it helped clarify concepts introduced through the SAVIT Catalogue and stimulated discussion about current practices, stakeholder roles, and mechanisms for coordinating volunteers and communities. The game was particularly appreciated as a way to encourage collective thinking and exchange between organisations with different perspectives.

In terms of usability, feedback was generally positive, but several participants reported difficulties understanding where to start, interpreting functions and sub-functions, or navigating some of the concepts. A recurring recommendation was the need for stronger facilitation, especially at the beginning of the session. Participants also suggested simplifying terminology, adding more explanatory materials, incorporating visual elements or short videos, and making the content more accessible for non-specialist audiences.

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Regarding transferability, participants believed the game could be applied in a variety of settings, particularly for training, exercises, workshops, and awareness-raising activities. However, they highlighted the importance of adapting scenarios and examples to local contexts and target audiences. Several respondents recommended greater contextualisation for Réunion Island, more locally relevant examples, and a higher level of popularisation for civil society and community groups. Some also suggested versions for schools, the general public, or specific institutional contexts.

Concerning compatibility and implementation, the most frequently identified needs were facilitation, training, and additional support materials. Participants felt that successful adoption would require alignment with existing institutional procedures and operational frameworks. Time constraints, perceived complexity, and organisational priorities were identified as potential barriers. Some respondents also noted gaps in the available solutions, including limited consideration of traditional knowledge and practices and a lack of options for situations where communication infrastructure is unavailable, such as major cyclone-related blackouts.

Overall, the game was regarded as a valuable and engaging discussion tool with strong potential for preparedness, training, and stakeholder engagement. The main recommendations focused on improving accessibility, strengthening facilitation, increasing localisation, and better linking the game content to operational realities and community contexts.

3.3. ATLAS of Empowerment

3.3.1. Methodology

The ATLAS of Empowerment was validated during the La Réunion Validation Workshop through a facilitated hands-on exploration of the platform complemented by structured qualitative and quantitative data collection. The objective of the session was to assess the practical usability, usefulness, applicability and maturity of ATLAS while gathering evidence to support its further refinement before wider deployment.

Following a short introduction to the objectives, logic and main functionalities of the platform, participants worked in small multidisciplinary groups and were guided through the complete ATLAS workflow. The validation exercise included the exploration of the repository of solutions and case studies, completion of the Self-Assessment Tool (SAT), interpretation of the personalised results, use of the Strategy Builder to develop context-specific strategic actions, and familiarisation with the Contribution function for sharing additional practices and experiences. Throughout the session, facilitators encouraged participants to assess the relevance, usability and applicability of the different ATLAS components in relation to the preparedness challenges identified in the La Réunion case.

Validation evidence was collected through complementary methods. Interactive discussions and facilitator observations captured participants' experiences while exploring the platform,

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whereas an online interactive exercise gathered immediate perceptions and priorities for improvement. At the end of the session, participants individually completed a dedicated ATLAS validation questionnaire combining the standard SYNERGIES validation framework with ATLAS-specific questions addressing usefulness, usability, transferability, compatibility, economic viability and maturity. Open-ended questions further supported the interpretation of the quantitative findings and the identification of priorities for future development.

The workshop involved fourteen stakeholders representing public authorities, civil society organisations, volunteer organisations, first responders, the education sector and other local actors. Since participants interacted with ATLAS for the first time within a facilitated workshop environment, the results should be interpreted as evidence of a first operational validation, identifying strengths, limitations and development priorities rather than measuring long-term adoption under operational conditions.

3.3.2. Results

3.3.2.1. Validation questionnaire

Participant demographics and engagement:

The ATLAS of Empowerment validation session in La Réunion involved 14 local stakeholders. The participant group was led by Public Authorities (42.9%), alongside Civil Society Organisations (14.3%), First/Second Responders (7.1%), Volunteer Networks (7.1%), and specialized local actors (28.6%, including social housing providers and scientific culture associations).

Regarding prior engagement with the project, 57.1% of attendees participated in a SYNERGIES activity for the first time, while 42.9% had previously attended the September 2025 Evaluation Workshop.

Usefulness:

- **Operational Value & Need Alignment:** 85.7% of participants agreed that ATLAS facilitates their activities and addresses organizational preparedness needs (mean score: 3.93 / 5).
- **Added Value over Legacy Practice:** 85.7% confirmed high added value compared to current practices (mean score: 3.93 / 5).
- **Peer Recommendation & Resource Commitment:** 100% of respondents would recommend ATLAS to peer organizations (mean score: 4.21 / 5), and 69.2% expressed willingness to invest organizational resources (mean score: 3.62 / 5).

Usability:

- **Ease of Use:** 92.9% rated the platform as easy and intuitive to use (mean score: 4.07 / 5).
- **Autonomy & Training Needs:** Autonomous usage by colleagues without external assistance scored 3.21 / 5 (57.1% agreement). Respondents indicated that initial

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training, supervision, or guidance materials remain necessary (mean score: 3.21 / 5 on needing no training/resources).

Adaptability, compatibility & operational feasibility:

- **Hazard & Context Flexibility:** 100% of participants rated ATLAS as adaptable across different hazard types (4.36 / 5) and operational environments/contexts (4.36 / 5). Adaptability across target communities or user groups also received 100% positive agreement (mean score: 4.29 / 5).
- **System Compatibility & Integration:** Ease of integration into existing systems scored 3.92 / 5 (84.6% agreement), while compatibility with current operational practices scored 3.93 / 5 (92.9% agreement).
- **Economic Viability:** Expected benefits justify the adoption effort (mean score: 3.79 / 5), and implementation feasibility within local organizational/national contexts scored 3.79 / 5 (78.6% agreement).

Maturity:

- **Demonstration Reliability:** ATLAS performed reliably during the live demonstration (100% agreement, mean score: 4.36 / 5).
- **Pilot Readiness & Stability:** 100% agreed that the platform is sufficiently mature for real-world pilot testing (mean score: 4.29 / 5). Platform stability for continued use and refinement scored 4.21 / 5 (92.9% agreement).

Qualitative insights & recommendations

- **Main Barriers to Adoption:** Language barrier (need for complete French translation across interface elements), varying levels of digital literacy among local stakeholders, and the need to structure internal crisis management workflows.
- **Actionable Recommendations:** Provide a full French localization toggle, organize internal presentation workshops, territorialized content adaptation to island realities, present ATLAS at upcoming regional exercises (e.g., Cyclonex 2026), and document the validation workflow for user-submitted solutions.

Table 4 - ATLAS survey questions

Survey question	N. respondents	Average (1-5)
Could the Result / idea facilitate your activity and address your needs?	14	3.93

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Would you recommend this Result / idea to colleagues in an organisation similar to yours?	14	4.21
Would you be willing to invest resources in your current organisational context to use it?	13	3.62
I found this tool easy and intuitive to use.	14	4.07
My colleagues could use this Result without additional assistance.	14	3.21
The Result does not require investment/resources (e.g. training, supervision) to be used.	14	3.21
How adaptable do you think the content of this Result would be for use with other types of Hazards?	14	4.36
How adaptable do you think the content of this Result would be for use with other types of Contexts / Environment?	14	4.36
How adaptable do you think the content of this Result would be for use with other types of Communities or user groups?	14	4.29
The Result could be easily integrated into existing systems and platforms without major modifications.	13	3.92
The Result is compatible with other current operational working practices.	14	3.93

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The expected benefits of using this Result justify the effort required for its adoption.	14	3.79
The Result appears feasible to implement within my organisational and national context.	14	3.79
Compared to current practices, this Result provides added value.	14	3.93
The Result appears sufficiently developed for testing or pilot use in real-world conditions.	14	4.29
The Result performed reliably during the demonstration.	14	4.36
The Result could be further developed into an operational solution with reasonable effort.	13	3.77
The Result appears stable enough for continued use and refinement.	14	4.21

3.3.2.2. Key findings

Overall, participants provided a positive assessment of ATLAS and recognised its potential to support participatory disaster risk management and preparedness planning. The platform received an overall evaluation score of 7.9/10, with all respondents assigning scores between 7 and 10, indicating a favourable but realistic appreciation of its current level of maturity.

Participants consistently recognised ATLAS as more than a repository of good practices. Its principal added value was identified in the integration of self-assessment, tailored recommendations, case studies and strategic planning within a single workflow that supports users from the identification of needs to the development of possible actions. The Self-Assessment Tool emerged as the most immediately understandable and mature component, providing a clear entry point for analysing organisational needs and identifying relevant preparedness measures. The Strategy Builder was also positively assessed as a valuable feature for translating identified priorities into structured actions, although participants indicated that this functionality would benefit from additional guidance, practical examples and longer testing sessions to fully demonstrate its potential.

Across the validation activities, contextualisation emerged as the principal condition for successful adoption. Participants highlighted the importance of enriching the platform with

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examples and case studies reflecting the realities of La Réunion and comparable island contexts, improving multilingual accessibility through French localisation, and providing additional guidance and supporting materials to facilitate autonomous use. Rather than requesting substantial technical modifications, respondents mainly emphasised the need to strengthen local relevance, accessibility and flexibility in navigating the platform according to different organisational needs and preparedness contexts.

The validation further showed that the main challenges for future uptake are organisational rather than technical. Participants generally considered the platform intuitive, reliable and sufficiently mature for continued piloting, while identifying time constraints, organisational priorities and the need for training and facilitation as the principal barriers to wider adoption. ATLAS was considered particularly suitable for preparedness planning, capacity-building activities, facilitated workshops and strategy development processes, rather than as a routine operational tool.

Overall, the workshop confirmed that ATLAS has reached an appropriate level of maturity for continued piloting and progressive deployment. The validation demonstrated that its distinctive contribution lies in supporting users through a structured process linking self-assessment, contextual interpretation and strategic planning, while identifying clear priorities for further development centred on localisation, multilingual accessibility, practical guidance and continued validation in real operational contexts.

3.4. PrepCap System

3.4.1. Methodology

An online interactive session with stakeholders in La Réunion presented the PrepCap digital platform and its potential contribution to scenario-based, vulnerability-informed, and collaborative preparedness planning. Building on the in-person tabletop exercise conducted in September 2025, the session demonstrated how the methodology is operationalised digitally. Participants were guided through a workflow linking disaster scenarios and cascading impacts to vulnerable population groups, assistance needs, responsible actors, and preparedness capacities. The presentation also showed how discussion results can be documented and used to produce structured reports.

The interactive component invited participants to review vulnerability-triage content pre-filled using findings from the 2025 workshop and to identify the organisations responsible for assisting groups requiring urgent or additional support—an aspect not completed during the earlier exercise. In practice, participation was limited. Participants were generally hesitant to contribute, and the remote demonstration of the platform made it difficult to encourage interaction and sustain engagement. Consequently, the intended collaborative review and completion of the assessment could only be partially achieved.

The meeting concluded with a discussion structured around Mentimeter questions. This provided participants with an opportunity to assess the platform's usefulness, usability, transferability, compatibility, economic viability and level of maturity, as well as to identify issues requiring further consideration in its continued development. The Mentimeter results should be interpreted with caution, as the number of responses varied between one and four participants across individual questions, limiting the representativeness and generalisability of the findings.

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3.4.2. Results

3.4.2.1. Validation questionnaire

Participant demographics and engagement:

The online validation session brought together 8 representative stakeholders representing regional public authorities, civil society organisations, and regional innovation entities. The participant group possessed varied levels of prior experience with vulnerability management in disaster contexts (62.5% high experience, 37.5% lower experience).

Usefulness:

- **Operational Value & Need Alignment:** Participants gave a positive rating to PrepCap's ability to facilitate activities and address organizational preparedness needs (mean score: 4.00 / 5).
- **Added Value over Legacy Practice:** The platform scored strongly regarding its clear added value compared to current practices (mean score: 4.00 / 5).
- **Peer Recommendation & Resource Commitment:** Willingness to recommend the platform to peer organizations scored a moderate 3.00 / 5, with willingness to commit organizational resources (time, funds, staff) also averaging 3.00 / 5.

Usability:

- **Ease of Use:** Participants rated the digital platform's intuitiveness and user-friendliness at 3.50 / 5.
- **Autonomy & Training Needs:** Independent usage by colleagues without additional assistance scored 3.50 / 5. However, respondents indicated that some level of investment in initial training or supervision remains necessary (mean score: 3.00 / 5 on needing no extra investment).

Adaptability, compatibility & economic viability:

- **Hazard & Context Adaptability**: PrepCap demonstrated high flexibility across different hazard types (4.00 / 5), while adaptability to varying operational environments and target communities/user groups scored 3.00 / 5.
- **System Compatibility**: Ease of integration into existing systems without major modifications scored 3.00 / 5, and compatibility with current operational workflows similarly scored 3.00 / 5.

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- **Economic Viability**: Expected benefits justify the adoption effort (4.00 / 5), and implementation feasibility within local organizational/national contexts received a solid rating of 4.00 / 5.

Maturity:

- **Demonstration Reliability & Stability:** PrepCap performed reliably during the live demonstration (3.50 / 5) and was judged stable enough for continued refinement (3.50 / 5).
- **Operational Readiness:** Further development into an operational tool
- was deemed achievable with reasonable effort (3.50 / 5), while current readiness for real-world pilot testing scored 3.00 / 5.

Table 5 - PrepCap System survey questions

Survey question	N. respondents	Average (1-5)
Could the Result / idea facilitate your activity and address your needs?	1	4.00
Would you recommend this Result / idea to colleagues in an organisation similar to yours?	1	3.00
Would you be willing to invest resources in your current organisational context to use it?	1	3.00
I found this tool easy and intuitive to use.	4	3.5
My colleagues could use this result without additional assistance.	4	3.5
The Result does not require investment/resources (e.g. training, supervision) to be used.	4	3.00
How adaptable do you think the content of this Result would be for use with other types of Hazards?	2	4.00
How adaptable do you think the content of this Result would be for use with other types of Contexts / Environment?	2	3.00
How adaptable do you think the content of this Result would be for use with other types of Communities or user groups?	2	3.00
The Result could be easily integrated into existing	1	3.00

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systems and platforms without major modifications.		
The Result is compatible with other current operational working practices.	1	3.00
The expected benefits of using this Result justify the effort required for its adoption.	1	4.00
The Result appears feasible to implement within my organisational and national context.	1	4.00
Compared to current practices, this Result provides added value.	1	4.00
The Result appears sufficiently developed for testing or pilot use in real-world conditions.	2	3.00
The Result performed reliably during the demonstration.	2	3.5
The Result could be further developed into an operational solution with reasonable effort.	2	3.5
The Result appears stable enough for continued use and refinement.	2	3.5

3.4.2.2. Key findings

The session provided useful insights into the conditions under which the platform can support collaborative preparedness assessment and into the limitations of the online collaborative use format.

Conversations during the session with SYNERGIES partner participants raised several key issues:

1. The **appropriate level of detail when defining a scenario**. An important consideration was whether the platform's scenario description can adequately reflect heterogeneity within the affected area, including differences in exposure, population vulnerability, access to services and likely assistance needs. It was concluded that the platform is particularly useful when the affected area and anticipated hazard impacts is clearly specified while leaving sufficient flexibility to discuss uncertainties, possible developments and effects that cannot be predicted in advance.
2. The issue of **compatibility of PrepCap with existing organisational platforms and operational systems** was raised. For example, the medical authority in La Réunion already uses its own information system, and it remains uncertain whether PrepCap could be technically integrated with that system without substantial modification. This may limit its immediate use as an embedded operational tool. Nevertheless, participants regarded PrepCap a valuable content-based complement to existing analyses approaches. Its initial added value may therefore lie in supporting analysis, collaborative planning and reporting, even where full technical integration is not yet feasible.

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3. Whether the **digital formal adequately supports the collaborative completion of an assessment**. PrepCap has primarily been used in facilitated group settings, where participants gather around a shared screen and discuss the assessment entries collectively. In this format, the platform is valuable for structuring the assessment, systematising contributions, documenting results and supporting reporting and conclusions. However, entering information directly into the platform while simultaneously facilitating a group discussion may be cumbersome and could interrupt the flow of interaction. Collaborative use may therefore require a clearly defined facilitation process, such as separating open discussion from data entry or assigning a dedicated rapporteur.
4. The capacity to support **remote interactions during a demonstration of the system**. The online session suggested that the remote format requires more careful preparation than an in-person workshop, particularly when participants tend to be hesitant in virtual settings. Participants could not interact with the platform directly; instead, they were invited to propose responses, while the facilitator entered information into the platform. However, engagement remained limited, indicating that a more interactive format may be needed to encourage active participation.

Possible improvements in future remote sessions include providing access to the platform in advance, offering a short orientation or practice task, using smaller breakout groups, assigning specific roles, and allowing participants to enter information themselves. If direct interaction with the platform cannot be provided, remote sessions may be better suited to demonstrations, training, or the review of previously collected results than to collaborative completion of a full assessment. For substantive multi-stakeholder assessment and discussion, an in-person or carefully designed hybrid format is likely to remain more appropriate.

4. Across results: the SYNERGIES journey

4.1. Methodology

The SYNERGIES Journey session was designed as a co-creation and validation exercise to explore how different SYNERGIES tools and components could be combined into coherent, context-sensitive pathways supporting preparedness planning. Rather than validating individual tools in isolation, the workshop focused on testing the overall Journey concept and its ability to help stakeholders move from locally identified preparedness priorities towards realistic pathways for action.

The exercise adopted a facilitated back-casting approach. Participants worked in small multidisciplinary groups and started from one preparedness priority previously identified during the workshop. They were then invited to imagine a desirable future state in which the priority had been successfully addressed and to work backwards in order to identify the changes, enabling conditions and actions required to reach that outcome. Only after this collective reflection were the different SYNERGIES tools introduced and discussed as possible contributors to the proposed pathway. This sequencing deliberately encouraged participants to develop context-driven rather than tool-driven solutions.

The group work was structured around five successive reflection stages: (i) identification of a preparedness priority, (ii) definition of a desired future objective, (iii) identification of the main drivers of change, (iv) reflection on the contribution of different SYNERGIES tools, and (v) development of a plausible pathway for action. Facilitators guided discussions while ensuring that participants remained focused on concrete preparedness challenges and realistic actions.

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Each group subsequently presented its proposed journey during a plenary discussion, allowing similarities and differences across pathways to be compared and collectively reflected upon.

The methodology generated both qualitative evidence on participants' reasoning processes and practical insights into the perceived role of the different SYNERGIES tools within integrated preparedness pathways. The exercise therefore validated not only individual tool contributions, but also the conceptual assumptions underpinning the SYNERGIES Journey framework and its potential application in real preparedness contexts.

4.2. Key findings

The workshop confirmed the value of the SYNERGIES Journey approach as a facilitation framework capable of supporting stakeholders in moving from the identification of local preparedness challenges towards the development of coherent and context-sensitive action pathways. Participants naturally structured their discussions around locally relevant priorities before considering possible tools and solutions, demonstrating that the proposed journey logic successfully supports a needs-driven approach to preparedness planning.

One of the strongest findings emerging from the exercise concerned the importance of contextualisation. Across all groups, participants consistently emphasised that preparedness solutions cannot be transferred directly between contexts but must be adapted to local institutional arrangements, stakeholder relationships, territorial characteristics and available capacities. This reinforced the view that SYNERGIES Journeys should be understood as flexible pathways supporting the selection, adaptation and combination of different tools according to local needs rather than as predefined sequences of activities.

The exercise also demonstrated that stakeholders readily perceived the different SYNERGIES tools as complementary rather than independent products. Participants recognised that different tools provide value at different moments of the preparedness process, supporting diagnosis, identification of solutions, communication, capacity building or operational planning depending on the specific challenge being addressed. This confirmed the usefulness of presenting the project results as an integrated ecosystem of mutually reinforcing resources rather than as stand-alone outputs.

An additional finding concerned the importance of organisational maturity and cooperation arrangements in shaping tool adoption. Participants highlighted that the same tool may fulfil different functions depending on existing preparedness capacities, institutional experience and whether it is applied by a single organisation or through multi-stakeholder collaboration. These observations suggest that future SYNERGIES Journeys should remain sufficiently flexible to accommodate different entry points, organisational contexts and collaboration settings.

Overall, the validation demonstrated that the Journey concept provides a meaningful framework for integrating the different SYNERGIES results around concrete preparedness priorities. Rather than promoting a fixed sequence of tools, the exercise confirmed the value of an adaptive and user-centred approach in which preparedness pathways emerge from local needs, collaborative reflection and the contextualised combination of available resources. These findings provide a solid basis for the further refinement of the SYNERGIES Journey framework and its application within future preparedness planning and capacity-building activities.

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5. Conclusions and next steps

The activities conducted in La Reunion successfully validated the practical utility, usability, and strategic value of the SYNERGIES Results within the island preparedness context.

Key strategic conclusions by result:

1. **A Flexible, Needs-Driven Framework for Preparedness Planning:** The SYNERGIES Journey approach was found as an effective facilitation framework that helps stakeholders move from identifying local preparedness challenges to developing tailored action pathways.
2. **Contextualisation Is Essential for Success:** Preparedness solutions cannot simply be transferred between settings. Participants consistently stressed the need to adapt tools to local institutional structures, stakeholder relationships, territorial characteristics, and available capacities.
3. **The Tools Work Best as an Integrated Ecosystem:** Participants viewed the different SYNERGIES tools as complementary resources that support different stages of preparedness, including problem identification, solution development, communication, capacity building, and operational planning.
4. **The SAVIT Catalogue is a valuable learning tool for integrating spontaneous and informal volunteers:** Participants appreciated its structured organisation, which helped them identify potential solutions, reflect on current practices, and support preparedness, training, and resilience planning activities. While the tool interface was generally seen as clear and intuitive, participants asked for better guidance, improved search and filtering functions, more visual content, reduced reliance on English terminology, and training or facilitation support.
5. **The SAVIT Catalogue is transferable to other contexts and domains:** The catalogue has strong transferability potential but requires local adaptation for broader implementation. Participants believed it could be applied across different organisations and contexts beyond disaster management, but highlighted the need for locally relevant examples, geographical customisation, practical guidance, and closer alignment with existing institutional frameworks and procedures.
6. **The SAVIT Tabletop Game is an effective tool for reflection, learning, and discussion around the integration of informal help in disaster management:** It helped clarify concepts from the SAVIT Catalogue, encouraged collective problem-solving, and facilitated exchanges between organisations with different perspectives and roles.
7. **Facilitation is key for effective use of the SAVIT Tabletop Game:** Although feedback on usability was generally positive, many participants found some concepts, functions, and terminology difficult to understand without support. Participants emphasised the need for stronger facilitation, clearer explanations, simpler language, more visual content, and additional guidance materials to make the game accessible to a wider audience.

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8. **The ATLAS is perceived as a relevant and sufficiently mature tool for structured reflection, self-assessment, planning support and strategy development:** Participants recognised the relevance of the platform's content, the usefulness of the self-assessment logic and the potential of ATLAS to support the identification of possible measures and solutions.
9. **PrepCap was deemed as a useful framework for structuring collaborative, scenario-based preparedness assessment** and translating stakeholder discussions into documented priorities, responsibilities and follow-up actions. Remote sessions should enable direct participant interaction with the platform; otherwise, in-person or hybrid formats are more suitable for completing multi-stakeholder assessments.

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