

SuPeRBE

Towards Climate-Resilient Cities: Insights from the **SuPeRBE** Project and its Resilient Built Environment Tools

Consultation meeting
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BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Buildings are responsible for 35% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions and 42% of energy consumption.
- The construction sector is the largest consumer of raw materials in the EU and generates the biggest waste stream by weight.
- Existing buildings must be renovated to meet EU climate goals; new buildings should be zero-emission by 2030.
- Buildings are increasingly exposed to climate risks like heatwaves, floods, and storms, highlighting the need for climate-resilient design.

HEATWAVES AND URBAN OVERHEATING

Heatwaves are prolonged periods of extreme heat that strain buildings and human health. Urban areas are particularly vulnerable due to the heat island effect and poor thermal comfort in buildings.

Built Environment (buildings, infrastructure, cities)

- Overheated interiors,
- Higher energy demand for cooling
- Urban heat island effect
 cities stay hot
 overnight

People

(health, safety, quality of life)

- Health risks: heatstroke, dehydration
- Reduced work performance, poor sleep
- High risk for elderly and people with chronic illnesses



Source: European Commission, 2023

SUPERBE PROJECT

Supporting Cross-scale Planning and Policy Readiness for a Resilient Built Environment

Interreg Central Europe project (2024-2026)

Goal: strengthen local/regional authorities' capacity for climate adaptation (*defining*, *implementing and evaluating solutions*)

Outputs:

- Digital Toolkit with Resilient Built Environment Central Europe Assessment System (RBE-CE) on the SuPeRBE open access digital platform
- Decision-making methodology
- 3D simulation platform



RBE-CE METHOD

It serves as the methodological foundation of the Resilient Built Environment (RBE) Assessment System. It is a multi-criteria analysis approach developed to evaluate climatic risk at the building and neighbourhood scale. Grounded in the impact chains conceptual model, the method generates an overall risk score for a given area and a set of complementary indicators that detail the level of climate-related risk across specific risk categories and urban sectors.

Why is it needed?

- Lack of assessment tools at the building and neighbourhood scale.
- Existing sustainability frameworks are not suited for climate risk assessment.
- Demand for comparable, adaptable, and decision-support-oriented tools for climate adaptation.

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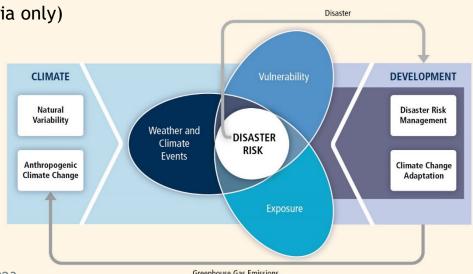
RBE-CE METHOD

Risk concept

Grounded on EN ISO 14091:2021 and IPCC AR6 risk model (Hazard-Exposure-Vulnerability)

Complements sustainability assessment tools (which are usually focused on vulnerability criteria only)

Need to **integrate** these three components into an assessment tool



Source: IPCC AR6, 2023

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

RBE-CE METHOD

IPCC risk concept

IPCC AR6 provides a detailed and nuanced concept of risk as it relates to climate change. The report builds on the risk framework established in previous IPCC assessments, further refining it to account for the complex interactions between climate hazards, exposure, and vulnerability.

$$HV^{WHV} \times EV^{WEV} \times VV^{WV}$$

Vulnerability Value (VV), WV is the weight of VV Exposure Value (EV), WV is the weight of EV Hazard Value (HV), WV is the weight of HV

Risk = weighted geometric mean

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THREE AXES OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT

HAZARD

Climate-related hazards
encompass extreme weather
events (e.g., extreme heat,
droughts, heavy
precipitation) as well as slowonset climate processes
(e.g., sea-level rise). Nonclimate hazards include those
triggered by climatic hazards
(e.g., mass movements,
biological events).

EXPOSURE

Who or what is exposed.

According to the IPCC, exposure is the presence of people, livelihoods, species or ecosystems, environmental functions, services, and resources, infrastructure, or economic, social, or cultural assets in places and settings that could be adversely affected

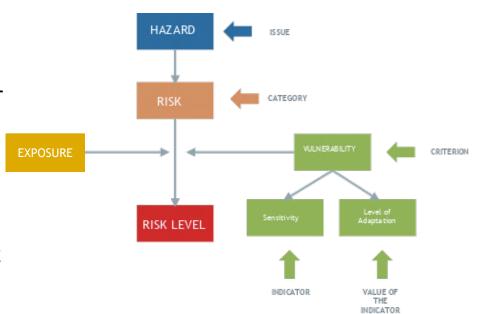
VULNERABILITY

element to be adversely
affected. Vulnerability
aspects refer to the criteria
that influence the
susceptibility of an exposed
element to a climatic hazard,
potentially increasing or
decreasing the associated
risk.

RBE-CE IMPACT CHAIN

RBE-CE Method foresees the application of the impact chain conceptual model to identify the most appropriate criteria and indicators to assess the 3 key components of climatic risk (Hazard, Exposure and Vulnerability) at building and small urban scale, tracking cause-and-effect relationships and facilitate communication of the results.

This approach enables the creation of an assessment system with numerical entities, where each element in the climate risk matrix is assigned a value on a scale of 0-1 (0 optimal, 1 critical value).



RBE-CE METHOD - CHARACTERISTICS

Cross-scale

Urban Sectors are harmonised between RNTool and RBTool, enabling consistent data use and coordinated planning across scales.

Measurable

The RBE Method is grounded in clearly defined, measurable criteria and indicators. The method is contextualizable, allowing them to be tailored to local conditions and data availability.

Modular Structure

The modular structure enables RBE method to be applied across diverse building types and urban areas.

Users can adjust benchmarks and indicator relevance according to specific local priorities.

RBE-CE FOR SECAPS

A Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) is a local government action plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change. Mandated by the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, a SECAP includes an emissions inventory, a climate risk assessment, and a concrete set of measures for mitigation (e.g., energy efficiency) and adaptation (e.g., improving climate resilience).

RBE-CE adds localised, site-specific risk data, ensuring the adaptation solutions are tailored to specific vulnerabilities. SECAPs outline the strategies, while RBE-CE operates at a tactical level to localise them.

SECAPs

Strategic frameworks for climate planning

RBE-CE Risk Assessment

Structured methodology for localized adaptation

Climate Resilience

Ultimate goal of sustainable energy and climate action

TWO MAIN TOOLS FROM RBE-CE

From the Sustainable Built Environment (SBE) Method \rightarrow Resilient Built Environment (RBE) method and two tools, maintaining the **same usability** akin to sustainability protocols.

RNTool (Resilient Neighbourhoods Tool)

- Multi-criteria, modular structure
- Hazards → Urban Sectors → Risk categories → Criteria and Indicators

RBTool (Resilient Buildings Tool)

- Evaluates resilience at the building level
- Hazards → Urban Sectors → Exposed elements
- Integrates Level(s) framework (building components and structure)

HAZARDS FOR CENTRAL EUROPE















Continental region
Increase in heat extremes
Decrease in summer precipitation
Increasing risk of river floods
Increasing risk of forest fires
Decrease in economic value of forests
Increase in energy demand for cooling

Source: EEA, 2024

RNTOOL-CE

RBTOOL-CE

A - Heavy Precipitation

HAZARDS

A - Heavy Precipitation

B - Floods

C - Extreme heat

D - Drought

E - Storms

F - Wildfires

G - Mass movement

B - Floods

C - Extreme heat

D - Drought

E - Storms

F - Wildfires

G - Mass movement

URBAN SECTORS

A1 - Buildings

A6 Environment and Biodiversity A7 - Health

A2 - Transport

A3 - Energy A8 - Emergency Services

A4 - Water A5 - Waste A10 - ICT

A9 - Tourism

Buildings (A1 to A14) Health (A15-A16)

RISK CATEGORIES

A7.1 - Health risk for the population

A7.2 - Damage risk for healthcare facilities

vulnerability and exposure indicators

A1 - Foundations

A1.1 Piles

A1.2 Basements

A1.2.1 criterion and indicator

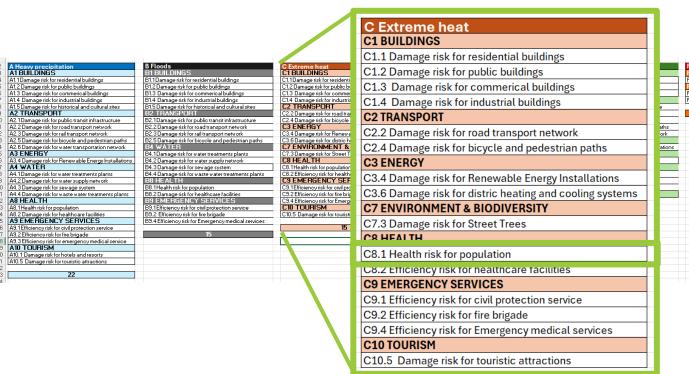
A2 - Load-bearing structural frame

RNTOOL-CE

84 Risk Categories for 7 Hazards

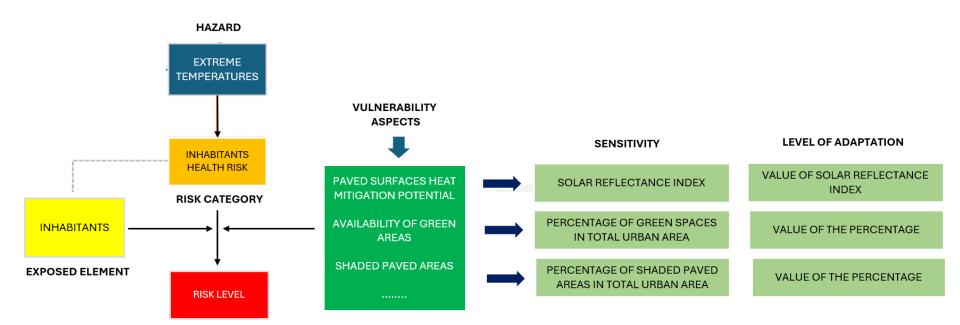


RNTOOL-CE



F Wild-fire
F2 TRANSPORT
F2 2 Damage risk for road transport network
F3 EMERGENCY SERVICES
F3 1 Efficiency risk for risk for risk project on service
F3 2 Efficiency risk for risk for risk project on service
F3 2 Efficiency risk for risk

RNTOOL-CE - EXAMPLE



CONTEXTUALISATION OF THE SUPERBE PLATFORM

Definition of contextualised versions for each case study and assessment of predefined building/neighborhood case study

RBTool/RNtool (generic)

LOCAL PRIORITIES

LOCAL CONDITIONS

DATA AVAILABILITY and ACCESSIBILITY

LOCAL and REGIONAL AUTHORTIES' NEEDS

Options that change: **HAZARDS**, **SELECTED CRITERIA/INDICATORS**, and **BENCHMARKS** (e.g., according to the legislation)

RB-IT1 RB-IT2 RB-HR RB-AT RB-CZ
Piemonte Region Veneto Region Sibenik Schnifis Prague

RNTOOL - EXTREME HEAT

EXTREME HEAT BUILDINGS Damage risk for residential buildings Indicator Range of values Data sources Building Envelope Surface Tel This criterion investigates the thermal behavior of resid Average surface temperature of bu °C Degrees LIB 25 80 o calculate the value of the indicator: • Use infra Thermal camera surveys, weather stal ISO 14092:2020 (Adaptation to climate change Roof Reflectivity and Emissivi This criterion assesses the capacity of roofs in the neigh Roof albedo (reflectivity) HIB 0.1 o calculate the value of the indicator: • Collect d Roofing material specifications, man ASTM E903 (Standard Test Method for Solar Ab Orientation and Solar Gain This criterion assesses the exposure of residential build Share of west-facing facade area v LIB 100% o calculate the value of the indicator; • Calculate Building plans, site surveys, GIS faca, EN 17037; 2018 (Daylight in Buildings); ISO 520 96 Dark Surface Exposure This criterion evaluates the extent of heat-absorbing ma Share of exposed dark surfaces LIB no unshaded dark surfarfaces are unshaded o calculate the value of the indicator; • Calculate Aerial imagery, GIS land cover analysi EN 15316-4-3:2017 (Heating systems in buildi C1.1.5 Material Degradation This criterion monitors physical damage or accelerated Facades or roofs showing signs o Qualitative igns of heat-induced wyisible heat-induced de To calculate the value of the indicator: • Conduct On-site building condition surveys, r N 1990;2002+A1;2005 (Eurocode – Basis of st Indoor Temperature Monitori This criterion determines the capacity of residential unil Share of residential units with rea HIB 100% o calculate the value of the indicator; • Identify t Smart meter datasets, municipal hou ISO 52016-1:2017 (Energy performance of buil Land Surface Temperature This criterion assesses the overall land surface tempera Average land surface temperature °C Degrees LIB o calculate the value of the indicator: • Use sate Sentinel-3 satellite data (Copernicus Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (Urban Atl This criterion measures the balance between vegetated Ratio of vegetated/permeable to Ratio HIB getated/permeable survegetated/permeable : o calculate the value of the indicator: • Calculate Urban land cover datasets, municipa EN 16798-1:2019 (Energy performance of build C1.1.9 Urban Morphology and Natur This criterion analyzes the influence of building density Average building density and heigh H/W ratio LIB low buildings, allowingets with tall buildings o calculate the value of the indicator:• Calculate Municipal GIS data, cadastral maps, (EN 16798-1:2019 (Energy performance of build HIB This criterion evaluates the presence and extent of gree Green infrastructure area per bloc m² ensive green infrastructh² (no green infrastruct o calculate the value of the indicator: • Calculate Municipal green infrastructure plans EN 16798-1:2019 (Indoor environmental input HIB C1.1.11 Indoor Water Use Reduction o calculate the value of the indicator: • Compare Water utility consumption data, build EN 16941-1;2018 (On-site non-potable water) To calculate the value of the indicator: • Conduct Municipal landscaping plans, site ver EN 16941-1:2018 (On-site non-potable water C1.1.12 Outdoor Water Use Reductio Qualitative 100 0 C1.1.13 District Cooling 100 To calculate the value of the indicator: • Verify the Municipal energy plans, district cool CEN/TR 17603:2021 (District Cooling – Guideli Promote the emplyement of district cooling for space c Connection to the cooling distric Oualitative 0 C1.1.14 Renewable Energy Production This criterion promotes the onsite production of renew Share of renewable energy product HIB 100% 0% To calculate the value of the indicator: • Calculate Building energy monitoring systems, EN ISO 52000-1:2017 (Energy performance of EXPOSURE o calculate the value of the indicator: • Obtain a Municipal demographic records, nat Eurostat (Regional and Urban Statistics), Europ C1.1-E1 | Population Density This criterion measures the number of residents in the (Number of people in the neighbor n n/a C1.1-E2 | Elderly and Sensitive Populat | This criterion measures the share of high-risk groups w | Share of population over 65 / und LIB o calculate the value of the indicator; • Obtain d Municipal demographic records, nati WHO Europe (Heat-Health Action Plans), Euros of sensitive population of sensitive populat C1.1-E3 Lack of Cooling Urban Featur This criterion assesses the availability of urban cooling Area of cooling infrastructure (gre m²/person HIB 20 m²/person 0 m²/person o calculate the value of the indicator; • Calculate Municipal green infrastructure maps WHO Europe (Urban Green Spaces and Health) C1.1-E4 Proximity to Heat-Intensifying This criterion assesses the proximity of buildings within Distance to major impervious/dar HIB 100 m 0 m o calculate the value of the indicator:• Measure GIS land cover data, municipal surfad European Environment Agency (Urban Heat Isla 1000 m C1.1-E5 Distance to Public Cooling Re This criterion assesses the average distance from resid Average distance from residences LIB 100 m o calculate the value of the indicator:• Calculate GIS spatial data, municipal green infr WHO Europe (Urban Green Spaces and Health) LIB 0.5 Building Density and Height 🛘 This criterion assesses the building density and height Average floor area ratio (FAR) Dimensionless (FAR o calculate the value of the indicator:• Calculate Municipal cadastral and land use dat EN 16798-1:2019 (Indoor environmental input C1.1-E7 Solar Exposure of Public and This criterion measures the hours of direct sun exposure of direct sun exposure on r 12 hours/day o calculate the value of the indicator: • Conduct GIS urban morphology data, municip EN 17037:2018 (Daylight in buildings), Europe hours/day 2 hours/day

LOCAL VALID BENCHMARKS TO BE ASSIGNED

CONTEXTUALISATION OF THE SUPERBE PLATFORM

List of natural hazards highlighted in the Prague 2030 Climate Plan:

- Heatwaves and urban overheating
- Short-duration heavy rainfall (flash floods) and river flooding
- Droughts and water scarcity
- Extreme weather events (e.g. windstorms, hail, ice) storms
- Severe winter conditions (e.g. heavy snowfall, freezethaw cycles)

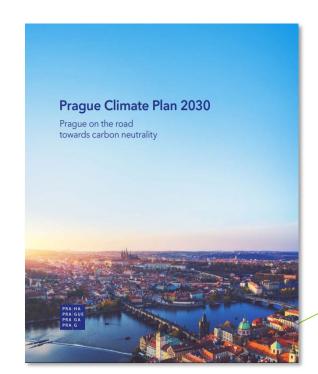












CONTEXTUALISATION OF THE SUPERBE PLATFORM



A-HEAVY PRECIPITATION

A1-BUILDINGS

A1.1 Residential

A2-TRANSPORT

A2.2 Road transport

A2.3 Bicycle and pedestrian paths

A8-HEALTH

A8.1 Health risk for population

C-EXTREME HEAT

C1-BUILDINGS

C1.1 Residential

C7-Environment & biodiversity

C7.3 Street trees

C8-HEALTH

C8.1 Health risk for population

We are seeking experts to help us define the benchmarks of several criteria for the Czech/Prague context for RNTool (neighbourhood scale) - if you are interested in contributing with your expertise, please let us know!

CEN WORKSHOP AGREEMENT

RBE-CE Assessment System is the first of its kind to propose a multi-scale approach implementing the EN ISO14091:2021 "Adaptation to climate change — Guidelines on vulnerability, impacts and risk assessment making" at the building, neighbourhood and community scale, so it will be the object of a new CEN Workshop Agreement.

A CEN Workshop Agreement is a reference document (a pre-standard) from the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) that would facilitate the transnational adoption of the RBE Assessment System.

The preparation of the CEN Workshop Agreement will be supported by UNI (Italian National Standardisation Body), and it will start in November 2025.

SUPERBE TRAINING SYSTEM

DECISION-MAKERS: policy-makers and managers in municipalities, regional administrations or other public bodies, investors, developers, etc.

TECHNICAL COORDINATORS: technical officials and technical staff who work in municipalities or other public bodies. They play a key role as an interface between decision-makers and professionals.

PROFESSIONALS: architects, engineers, geologists, etc., who operate in the fields of building design and urban planning.

The skills and knowledge acquired with the SuPeRBE training will be recognized according to the European TRAIN4SUSTAIN Competence Quality Standard method (CEN Workshop Agreement - CEN/WA 17939)

A **Skill Passport** describing the acquired level of competence in relation to the different areas of expertise will be issued at the end of the e-course.



European Skills Registry

We aim to enhance the recognition and comparability of qualifications and skills in the construction sector, particularly in relation to sustainable energy, by fostering a common understanding, promoting the TRAIN4SUSTAIN Competence Quality Standard, and facilitating transnational recognition through the Skills Passport.

Registration



Competence Quality Standard



Skills Passport



Courses



Projects





SuPeRBE



Czech Technical University in Prague University Centre for Energy Efficient Buildings



Pre-registration for the SuPeRBE platform



https://www.uceeb.cz/



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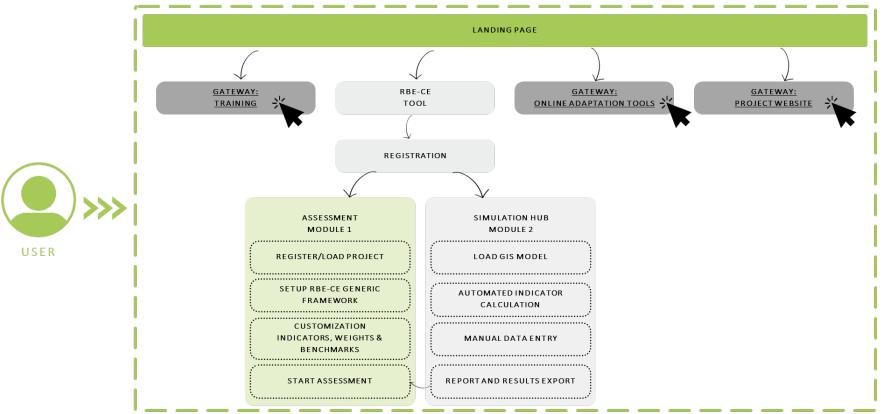
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SUPERBE PLATFORM



CASE STUDIES

Definition of contextualised versions for each case study and assessment of predefined building/neighborhood case study



















Calculation of quantitative indicators

The values of the quantitative vulnerability indicators linked to the criteria associated to the Risk Category are calculated. The output consists of a set of quantities expressed in different units of measurement.

Hazard	Extreme Heat		
Risk Category	Health Risk for Population		
Vulnerability Criterion	Indicator	Calculated Value	
Capacity of paved surfaces to reflect solar radiation	mean Solar Reflectance Index of paved surfaces in the area	76	
Availability of Green Areas	Percentage of green spaces on total urban area surface	15 %	
Shading of Paved Surfaces	Percentage of paved surfaces shaded on June 21st at 12:00 PM	5 %	

Normalisation of quantitative indicators' values

The calculated values of quantitative indicators are normalised in the interval (0,1). The term "normalisation" refers to the transformation of indicator values measured in different units into unit-less values on a common scale. The normalisation interval used in RBE Method is a value range from 0 to 1, the most applied in climate risk studies in general. A zero value is defined as "optimal", no improvement necessary or possible and 1 as "critical".

Normalisation values	Description	
0-0.2	Optimal (No improvement necessary)	
>0.2-0.4	Rather positive	
>0.4-0.6	Neutral	
>0.6-0.8	Rather negative	
>0.8-1	Critical (Could lead to severe consequences)	

Normalisation of quantitative indicators' values

For the "higher is better" indicators (higher the numerical value of the indicator, the higher the performance level), the value is normalised applying the following formula:

$$X_{norm} = \frac{x_{max} - x_i}{x_{max} - x_{min}}$$

where:

Xi: value of the indicator

X_{min} = critical indicator's value (corresponding to score 1)

 X_{max} = optimal indicator's value (corresponding to score 0)

Indicator values worse than X_{min} will be allocated to the value X_{min} and indicator values exceeding X_{max} will be allocated to the value X_{max}

For example, if the value (Xi) of the indicator "mean Solar Reflectance Index of paved surfaces in the area" is 14, with the following benchmarks:

- X_{max} (Optimal performance) = 58, benchmark associated to score 0
- X_{min} (Critical performance) = 0, benchmark associated to score 1

The resulting normalised value will be: $X_{norm} = 0.76$ (rather negative)

Aggregation of normalised values to calculate the Vulnerability Value of the Risk Category

To calculate the Vulnerability Value (VV) of the Risk Category, the normalized values of the indicators are aggregated using an arithmetic mean. This results in the total Vulnerability Value for the Risk Category:

$$VV = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (I_i \times W_i)$$

Where:

- I_i is the normalised value of the *i*-th indicator
- W_i is the weigh associated with the i-th indicator
- n is the number of indicators considered

Weighting factors must fulfil the following properties:ì

- 0<= W_i<=1
- $\qquad \sum_{i=1}^n W_i = 1$

Example:

The Risk Category "Health Risk for Population" belonging to the Hazard "Extreme heat" contains 3 criteria. The criterion "Capacity of paved surfaces to reflect solar radiation" has been considered more relevant than the other 2 in the following Table:

Hazard	Extreme Heat		
Risk Category	Health Risk for Population		
Vulnerability Criterion	Indicator	Normalised value	Weight
Capacity of paved surfaces to reflect solar radiation	mean Solar Reflectance Index of paved surfaces in the area	0.65	0.5
Availability of Green Areas	Percentage of green spaces on total urban area surface	0.70	0.25
Shading of Paved Surfaces	Percentage of paved surfaces shaded on June 21st at 12:00 PM	0.40	0.25

The Vulnerability Value (VV) of the Risk Category results to be:

$$VV = (0.65 \cdot 0.5) + (0.70 \cdot 0.25) + (0.40 \cdot 0.25) = 0.6$$