

## **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION – LOCAL RESILIENCE IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

### **Introduction to Geospatial Technologies for Achieving SDGs – Demographic Considerations**

Summer course offered by Central European University, in partnership with UNFPA

#### **SIDE EVENT/MODULE DESIGNED BY UNDRR-ROECA**

**02 JULY 2021 10-11.30 CET**

#### **CONCEPT**

The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated that cities must accelerate action on disaster resilience. With the reality of climate impacts, the risks are increasing every day. Cities need to recover better and greener.

This module aims at introducing the topic of Urban Disaster Risk Reduction and its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. It also brings the experience of UNDRR's global initiative, [Making Cities Resilient 2030 \(MCR2030\)](#) and the tools and resources available to cities building resilience, such as the Disaster Resilience Scorecards and Uscore-2. The session will bring the example of practical work in cities in Central Asia. Participants will have a clear idea of how cities are building resilience, how they are learning from each other, showcasing the value of the network and the support of partners. The module aims to allow participants to understand cities resilience journeys and discuss how their organisations could support that.

To support local governments in building resilience and reduce risks, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), together with its global and regional partners, has launched the initiative Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030). MCR2030 connects partners and bring synergised collaboration and support to cities along the resilience journey, so cities can count on a collaborative approach from partners to maximise effectiveness. MCR2030 will connect thousands of cities and help them share knowledge and resources. MCR2030 is a unique cross-stakeholder initiative for improving local resilience through advocacy, sharing knowledge and experiences, establishing mutually reinforcing city-to-city learning networks, injecting technical expertise, connecting multiple layers of government and building partnerships.

This side event is organised by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Europe and Central Asia (UNDRR-ROECA) and the Regional Secretariat for Making Cities Resilient 2030 for Europe and Central Asia, in collaboration with Huddersfield University – UK.

Language: English

## AGENDA

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10:00 -10:05

### **Introduction**

Viktor Lagutov, Central European University (CEU)

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10:05-10:35

### **Keynote presentation:** Urban Disaster Risk Reduction and how they contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals

**Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga**, Head, Global Disaster Resilience Centre  
Huddersfield University, United Kingdom

Cities are complex in nature. They consist of many inter-dependent physical systems and human communities that are vulnerable to disasters in varying degrees. Increased global exposure to natural hazards has primarily been driven by population growth and the trend for an increased proportion of that population to live in cities rather than in rural areas. More than 50% of the world's population now lives in cities or urban areas, and this figure will likely rise to 75% in the next 50 years, and 2 billion new urban residents expected by 2030.

As cities grow larger and become economically more productive, more and more people settle in cities, leading to urban sprawl and increasing densification. As a result of rapid urbanisation, cities are becoming extremely vulnerable to threats posed by natural hazards. In addition, increase in severe weather events. Disasters have highlighted the need for cities to augment their ability to withstand the disaster risks they may face and mitigate and respond to such risks in ways that minimise the impact of severe weather events and natural hazards on the social, environmental, and environmental economic infrastructure of the city.

Fast-growing cities and urban areas are engines of growth and wealth accumulation. However, well-managed urbanisation can contribute to resilient, sustainable, and inclusive growth. Moreover, this growth has positive results in social improvements and cultural, educational and other impacts.

There is a need to encourage cities and human settlements to become inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable and provide and maintain essential social services and infrastructure. In this context, this session aims at understanding the concept of disaster-resilient cities for sustainable development.

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11:35 - 10:50

### **Making Cities Resilient 2030** – How organisations and partners can support cities in building their urban resilience.

**Ms Helena Monteiro**, MCR2030 Secretariat for Europe and Central Asia  
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Europe and Central Asia

The Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative responds to the growing need to boost resilience at the local level. Global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change reveal the systemic nature of disasters and remind us of the extent to which local communities and local governments face the brunt of the impacts of significant crises. Local governments are both responsible for planning to alleviate risk and are the first responders when disaster strikes.

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Building resilience of local governments through robust risk governance structures and processes is critical to ensure that impacts are mitigated and measures taken at the most localised and disaggregated level.

Cities and Partners across Europe and Central Asia can count on MCR2030 to provide the platform through which actors with strong ties and experience in implementing actions for disaster risk reduction connect with cities that are making progress in strengthening their resilience. By building on the experience of cities with a proven record in building resilience, partners and local governments come together to support peer cities, making the entire region stronger.

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10:50 - 11:05 **Disaster Resilience Scorecards and Local Resilience Strategy Development: The Central Asia Initiative**

**Ms Olga Shashkina**, Specialist on Local Resilience Building

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Europe and Central Asia

MCR2030 offers a suite of tools of the UNDRR and the global partnership that enhances cities' understanding of risk reduction and supports resilience building. For instance, the Disaster Resilience Scorecards, developed by IBM, AECOM and UNDRR with support from the European Commission and USAID, contain a set of assessments that enable cities to assess their resilience to disasters to allow the development of resilient strategies for cities and to assist countries and local governments in monitoring and reviewing progress and challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Over 200 cities worldwide have used the tool to ensure the resilience of critical infrastructure. The Disaster Resilience Scorecards have been complemented by the Public Health Addendum-Resilience of Health Systems to reinforce health considerations across Disaster Resilience assessment methodology. The governance mechanism and process for conducting resilience assessments using Disaster Resilience Scorecards are detailed.

Cooperation among actors such as UNDRR – Europe and Central Asia (UNDRR ROECA), the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and World Health Organisation (WHO) is supporting capital cities in Central Asia in building resilience. This coordinated approach under the MCR2030 initiative enables cities to progress along the resilience journey, maximising efforts from different partners.

MCR2030's tool - Uscore-2, aims to leverage city to city peer learning. It envisages city to city peer review process involving local governments of all sizes engaged in a resilience journey. It supports assessing the situation, validating actions, identifying gaps and sharing recommendations between cities. Furthermore, it promotes integrated approaches to DRR, mutual learning, sharing of practices, policy dialogue and trust-building.

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11:35 - 10:50 **Q & A with all panellists**

**Moderator:** Viktor Lagutov, Central European University (CEU)

**MCR2030 VIDEO**

**SPEAKERS**

## **Dilanthi Amaratunga**

Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga holds the chair in Disaster Risk Management at the University of Huddersfield, UK. She leads the Global Disaster Resilience Centre, responsible for supporting research on disaster management portfolios. She is a leading international expert in disaster resilience with an extensive academic career with a solid commitment to encouraging colleagues and students to fulfil their full potential. She has project managed to successfully complete many international research projects generating significant research outputs and outcomes. She provides expert advice on disaster resilience to national and local governments and international agencies, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. She is engaged in many significant research engagements worldwide, in partnership with key academic and other organisational stakeholders. She has produced over 400 publications, refereed papers, and reports and has made over 100 keynote speeches in around 30 countries. Among many leadership roles, she is the joint chief editor of the International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment and the Chair of the International Conference on Building Resilience (ICBR) series, which she co-created. In 2019, she won the prestigious Newton Prize, which recognises the best research and innovation projects that impact socially and economically, between Indonesia and the United Kingdom from 2016 to 2019. Amaratunga is a member of the European Commission and UNDRR's European Science & Technology Advisory Group representing the UK, a Steering Committee member of the Frontiers of Development programme, a Collaborative Programme of The Royal Academy of Engineering, The Academy of Medical Sciences, The British Academy and The Royal Society, and a Steering Committee member of the UK Alliance for Disaster Research. The alliance aims to bring together the UK's rich and diverse disaster research community to facilitate collaboration and partnership to aid representation of the research community at the government level in the UK and facilitate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. She is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), a Fellow of The Royal Geographical Society, and a Fellow and a Chartered Manager of the Chartered Management Institute, UK.

## **Helena Monteiro**

Helena is a high-calibre urban development specialist with 15+ years of experience in programs and projects designed to advance inclusive growth, resilience, and good governance. Her background extends across government, multilateral organisations, and NGOs, emphasising Latin American urbanisation. As an expert in program development and managing complex stakeholder relationships, Helena's areas of expertise include urban transformation and resilience, with particular experience in strategy development and delivery in multi-cultural environments. She is also deeply committed to inclusive community engagement and is well versed in the inner workings of policymaking. Helena is the project specialist responsible for implementing the Making Cities Resilient 2030 in Europe and Central Asia at the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. In addition, Helena was responsible for delivering the 100 Resilient Cities programme in an extensive portfolio in Latin America and the Caribbean, coaching city officials and developing robust, resilient strategies for cities as diverse as Quito, Buenos Aires, Salvador, Panama. Before her work at 100RC, Helena ran the Office of Foreign Affairs for the São Paulo State Government in Brazil, where she was responsible for leading the international relations team of the state, coordinating the strategy with all government departments and their overseas counterparts. She holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of Sao Paulo and an MSc in City Design and Social

Science from The London School of Economics and Political Science. Originally from Brazil, Helena is based in London, UK, but lived in Mexico and worked in different cities in Latin America. She is fluent in English, Portuguese, French and Spanish.

### **Olga Shashkina**

Olga is a multilingual practitioner, experienced working at various strategic and operational levels, both for governmental agencies (UK and Georgia), the United Nations, non-governmental organisations and the private sector. Her core expertise includes disaster risk reduction, urban resilience, environmental management, capacity development, advocacy and policy development. Her experience spans Europe, Central Asia, the Caribbean, South East Asia and the Pacific. As a Specialist on Local Resilience Building for the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in Europe and Central Asia, amongst other duties, she facilitates the implementation of disaster resilience assessments and the development of local disaster resilience strategies for the capital cities of Central Asia. With her combined legal, humanitarian, disaster risk management and environmental perspectives, she has produced and contributed to multiple policy briefs, reports, capacity assessments and evaluations in the field of disaster resilience; among them the peer review of Finland implementation progress at the national level of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, performed by UNDRR, European Commission and OECD, the UNDRR/ISC scientific and technical report Hazard Definition and Classification Review aiming to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework. In recognition of her effective advocacy skills, she was selected as the advocate for the Making Cities Resilient global campaign and elected by the Member States to be the Vice-Chair of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement on behalf of Georgia in the Council of Europe. Operationally, Olga also has field experience of humanitarian response (as a UNICEF staff member) from the 2008 Russian-Georgian military conflict and the 2010 Haiti earthquake emergency relief operations. Olga speaks English, Russian, French, Spanish and Georgian.