

Societal Resilience in Times of Cascading Crises and Disasters



Network of European Emergency and
Disaster Studies 2026 Conference

28–30th of April 2026,
Kaunas, Lithuania

Program of the Conference (preliminary)

Venue: A. Mickevičiaus St. 37, Kaunas.

April 28th

8:00-9:00 Conference Desk Open, registration

Opening session, Room 202 (Aula)

9:00-10:30 Keynote session I

Dr. Chris White, Professor, University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom

Assessing the Cascading Impacts of Natural Hazards on Critical National Infrastructure

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

Parallel sessions (3 rooms)

11:00-12:30 **Workshop** (Nathan Clark): *Workshop on Approaches for Engaging Younger Generations in Disaster Resilience*

12:30-13:30 Lunch break (provided on-site, vegan options included)

Keynote session II

13:30-14:30 **Dr. Ieva Gajauskaitė**, Head of Division within the Total Defence and Crisis Management Group at the Ministry of National Defence, Lithuania

Resilience by Design during Polycrisis Era: Lithuania's Next Steps Toward a Total Defence Posture and Comprehensive Crisis Management

Parallel sessions (3 rooms)

14:45-16:15 **Roundtable discussion** (Lauren Traczykowski): *Underrepresented Topics in Disaster Education: A Project*

Workshop (Verena Flörchinger): *Community Resilience in Polycrisis: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Strengthening Crisis and Disaster Management*

16:15-16:45 Coffee break

Parallel sessions (3 rooms)

16:45-18:15 **Simulation** (Kati Orru): *Disaster Preparedness Capacity Development: A Scenario-Based Exercise for Social Vulnerability Reduction*

Co-creation session (Andrew Powell): *Co-Producing Risk Using Digitally Mediated Conversation Analysis and Discursive Psychology*

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8:30-9:00 Conference registration

Keynote session III

9:00-10:00 **Dr. Fabia Hüsler**, Head of National Drought Program, Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Switzerland

From Early Warnings to Action: How Scenario-Based Simulation Exercises Strengthen Drought Preparedness

10:00-10:30 Coffee break

Parallel sessions (4 rooms)

10:30-12:00 **Simulation** (Ulrika Varankaitė): *Scenario-Based Simulation of Cascading Crises in Complex Risk Environment*

12:00-13:00 Lunch break

Parallel sessions (3 rooms)

13:00-14:30 **Roundtable discussion** (Robert Larruina): *The Power from Below: Grassroots Organising in Times of Polycrisis*

Workshop (Holly Faulkner): *Multi-Criteria Decision-Making as a Decision-Support Tool for Building Disaster Resilience: Role-Play Exercise in Roskilde Fjord, Denmark.*

14:30-15:00 Coffee break

Parallel sessions (2 rooms)

15:00-16:30 **Roundtable discussion** (Farid Karimi): *Multilevel Governance for Decarbonisation in Times of Crises*

Simulation (Bart Blokland): *Scenario-Based Exercise: Interdisciplinary Response During a Multi-hazard Crisis*

19:00 **Conference dinner**, registration needed

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Parallel sessions (4 rooms)

9:00-10:30

Workshop (Irfan Tatli): *From Awareness to Action: Participatory Risk Reduction in Everyday Living Spaces for Cascading Crises*

10:30-11:00

Coffee break

Parallel sessions (3 rooms)

11:00-12:30

Workshop (Computer class) (Daniele Del Bianco): *SYNERGIES ATLAS – The Platform for Empowering Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management*

Roundtable discussion (Toni Collins): *Regulating for Resilience: Developing Governance Frameworks for Early Action*

12:40-13:10

Closing session

Conference website: <https://needs.ktu.edu>

Conference email: needs@ktu.lt