

# 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 28<sup>th</sup>

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 1 (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)

#### Parallel sessions 2 (3 rooms)

13:30-15:00 **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*

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

#### Parallel sessions 3 (3 rooms)

15:30-17:30 **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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## April 29<sup>th</sup>

8:30-9:00 Conference registration

Keynote session II

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** (4 rooms)

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

12:30-13:30 Lunch break

**Parallel sessions 5** (3 rooms)

13:30-15:00 **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.*

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

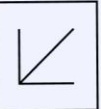
**Parallel sessions 6** (2 rooms)

15:30-17:00 **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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## April 30<sup>th</sup>

9:00-10:30

**Parallel sessions 7** (4 rooms)

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

**Parallel sessions 8** (2 rooms)

10:45 – 12.15

**Workshop (Computer class)** (Daniele Del Bianco): *SYNERGIES ATLAS – The Platform for Empowering Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (20 places)*

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

12:15-12:45

Coffee break

Keynote session III

12:45 - 13:45

**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**

13:45–14:00

Closing session

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

Conference email: [needs2026@ktu.lt](mailto:needs2026@ktu.lt)