

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

Venue: Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Kaunas University of Technology
A. Mickevičiaus St. 37, Kaunas.

April 28th

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

Opening session, Room 202 (Aula)

Welcome

Prof. Eugenijus Valatka, Rector, Kaunas University of Technology

Prof. Aistė Balžekienė, Chair, NEEDS2026 committee, Kaunas University of Technology

9:00-10:30 **Dr. Nathan Clark**, Network of European Emergency and Disaster Studies, Vrije University Amsterdam

Dr. Farid Karimi, Project leader, Horizon Europe DeCrises, University of Jyväskylä

Keynote session I *Moderated by Aistė Balžekienė*

Prof. 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 1.1 – 1.3

11:00-12:30 **1.1. Climate Adaptation and Flood Risk** (Room 202(Aula))

1.2. Community Resilience in Practice (Room 208)

1.3. Governance for Resilient Futures (Room 209)

Workshop (Nathan Clark): *Workshop on Approaches for Engaging Younger Generations in Disaster Resilience* (Room 106)

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

Parallel sessions 2.1 – 2.3

13:30-15:00 **2.1. Trust and Resilience in Crisis** (Room 003)

2.2. Technological Innovation for Disaster Reduction (Room 208)

2.3. Urban and Local Resilience in Times of Polycrisis (Room 202 (Aula))

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13:30-15:00 **Workshop** (Verena Flörchinger): *Community Resilience in Polycrisis: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Strengthening Crisis and Disaster Management* (Room 106)

Co-creation session (Andrew Powell): *Co-Producing Risk Using Digitally Mediated Conversation Analysis and Discursive Psychology* (Room 209)

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

Parallel sessions 3.1 – 3.2

3.1. Diversity, Equity and Disability-Inclusive DRM (Room 208)

3.2. Conflict and Complex Emergencies (Room 003)

15:30-17:00

Simulation (Kati Orru): *Disaster Preparedness Capacity Development: A Scenario-Based Exercise for Social Vulnerability Reduction* (Room 106)

Roundtable discussion (Lauren Traczykowski): *Underrepresented Topics in Disaster Education: Disciplines that Global Disaster Curricula Often Leave Out* (Room 202 (Aula))

April 29th

8:30-9:00 Conference registration

Keynote session II Moderated by Audronė Telešienė

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

Moderator: Audronė Telešienė

10:00-10:30 Coffee break

Parallel sessions 4.1 – 4.4

4.1. Displacement Dynamics and Refugee Integration Strategies (Room 209)

10:30-12:30

4.2. Technological Innovation for DRR (Room 106)

4.3. Perception, Trust, and Recovery in Complex Disaster Contexts (Room 208)

4.4. Economic Resilience and Post-disaster Reconstruction (Room 003)

12:30-13:30 Lunch break

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Parallel sessions 5.1 – 5.3

5.1. Volunteering and Civic Engagement (Room 208)

5.2. Health, Preparedness, and Community Resilience (Room 209)

5.3. Preparedness Frameworks and Capacities (Room 003)

13:30-15:00

Roundtable discussion (Robert Larruina): *The Power from Below: Grassroots Organising in Times of Polycrisis* (Room 202 (Aula))

Workshop (Holly Faulkner): *Multi-Criteria Decision-Making as a Decision-Support Tool for Building Disaster Resilience: Role-Play Exercise in Roskilde Fjord, Denmark.* (Room 106)

15:00-15:30

Coffee break

Parallel sessions 6.1 – 6.2

6.1. Community Knowledge and Informal Systems in Disaster Resilience (Room 208)

6.2. Communication Systems and Trust (Room 209)

15:30-17:00

Roundtable discussion (Farid Karimi): *Multilevel Governance for Decarbonisation in Times of Crises* (Room 202 (Aula))

Simulation (Bart Blokland): *Scenario-Based Exercise: Interdisciplinary Response During a Multi-hazard Crisis* (Room 106)

19:00

Conference dinner, registration needed

Venue: Restaurant “Čiop Čiop”, Gediminas str. 44, Kaunas

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April 30th

Parallel sessions 7.1 – 7.4

- 9:00-10:30
- 7.1. Societal Resilience and Crisis Preparedness** (Room 003)
 - 7.2. Foresight and Risk Governance** (Room 208)
 - 7.3. Vulnerability in Displaced and At-Risk Populations** (Room 209)
 - 7.4. Democratic Resilience and Politics** (Room 106)

Workshop (Computer class) (Francesca Sabatini): *SYNERGIES ATLAS – The Platform for Empowering Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (20 places)* (Room 210 (Computer class))

Parallel sessions 8.1 – 8.2

- 10:45 – 12.15
- 8.1. Strategic Foresight for DRR** (Room 208)
 - 8.2. Education, Participation, and Societal Resilience** (Room 209)
- Roundtable discussion** (Toni Collins): *Regulating for Resilience: Developing Governance Frameworks for Early Action* (Room 202 (Aula))

Simulation (Audronė Telešienė): *Scenario-Based Simulation of Cascading Crises in Complex Risk Environment* (Room 106)

12:15-12:45 Coffee break

Keynote session III Moderated by Ainius Lašas

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