

# 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 28<sup>th</sup>

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

**1.1. Climate Adaptation and Flood Risk** (Room 202(Aula)). Chair *Fabia Huesler*

**1.2. Community Resilience in Practice** (Room 208). Chair *Thomas Kox*

11:00-12:30 **1.3. Governance for Resilient Futures** (Room 209). Chair *Vineta Kleinberga*

**Workshop** (Nathan Clark): *Workshop on Approaches for Engaging Younger Generations in Disaster Resilience* (Room 106) (30 places)

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). Chair *Thomas Bryer*

**2.2. Technological Innovation for Disaster Reduction** (Room 208). Chair *Asta Jurgutė*

**2.3. Urban and Local Resilience in Times of Polycrisis** (Room 202 (Aula)).  
Chair *Rūta Pelikšienė*

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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) (30 places)

**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). Chair *Ieva Birka*

**3.2. Conflict and Complex Emergencies** (Room 003). Chair *Aleksandra Dragojlov*

15:30-17:00

**Simulation** (Kati Orru): *Disaster Preparedness Capacity Development: A Scenario-Based Exercise for Social Vulnerability Reduction* (Room 106) (20) places)

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

## April 29<sup>th</sup>

8:30-9:00

Conference registration

### Room 202 (Aula)

**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**

10:00-10:30

Coffee break

## Parallel sessions 4.1 – 4.4

**4.1. Displacement Dynamics and Refugee Integration Strategies** (Room 209).  
Chair *Natalia Beldyga*

10:30-12:30

**4.2. Technological Innovation for DRR** (Room 106). Chair *Christopher White*

**4.3. Perception, Trust, and Recovery in Complex Disaster Contexts** (Room 208).  
Chair *Aistė Balžekienė*

**4.4. Economic Resilience and Post-disaster Reconstruction** (Room 003).  
Chair *Jurgita Jurkevičienė*

12:30-13:30

Lunch break

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## Parallel sessions 5.1 – 5.3

**5.1. Volunteering and Civic Engagement** (Room 208). Chair *Lauren Traczykowski*

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

Chair *Audronė Telešienė*

13:30-15:00

**5.3. Preparedness Frameworks and Capacities** (Room 003). Chair *Matúš Mišík*

**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) (20 places)

15:00-15:30

Coffee break

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## Parallel sessions 6.1 – 6.2

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

Chair *Paulina Budrytė*

15:30-17:00

**6.2. Communication Systems and Trust** (Room 209). Chair *Jungwon Yeo*

**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) (30 places)

19:00

**Conference dinner**, registration needed

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

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April 30<sup>th</sup>

## Parallel sessions 7.1 – 7.4

**7.1. Societal Resilience and Crisis Preparedness** (Room 003).

Chair *Joaquin Zenteno Hopp*

9:00-10:30

**7.2. Foresight and Risk Governance** (Room 208). Chair *Rasmus Dahlberg*

**7.3. Vulnerability in Displaced and At-Risk Populations** (Room 209).

Chair *Eefje Hendriks*

**7.4. Democratic Resilience and Politics** (Room 106). Chair *Farid Karimi*

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

## Parallel sessions 8.1 – 8.2

**8.1. Strategic Foresight for DRR** (Room 208). Chair *Matti Kojo*

**8.2. Education, Participation, and Societal Resilience** (Room 209). Chair *Emily Scott*

10:45 – 12.15

**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

## Room 202 (Aula)

**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](mailto:needs2026@ktu.lt)