

About the Chair

Created in 2018, the UNESCO Chair on Intersectoral Safety for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience promotes an integrated, science-based approach to reduce disaster risks and enhance resilience across sectors and scales. The Chair works closely with UNESCO Headquarters and UNESCO Venice Office.

The Chair operates at the interface of:

- Science and policy
- Engineering and social systems
- Education, research, and capacity building



Meeting at UNESCO HQ

Our Impact

- Supporting safer and more resilient communities
- Bridging science, policy, and practice
- Strengthening international cooperation
- Advancing the Sendai Framework and SDG

Partner with Us

We collaborate with universities, UN agencies, governments, NGOs, and international organizations.

Website:

<https://unescochair-sprint.uniud.it/en/>



Chairholder

prof. Stefano Grimaz

Contacts:

SPRINT-Lab (Safety and Protection Intersectoral Laboratory)
Polytechnic Department of Engineering and Architecture
University of Udine
via del Cottonificio 114 – 33100 UDINE, ITALY
tel. +39 0432 558722
e-mail: unescochair.sprint@uniud.it

Social media:

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UNESCO Chair on Intersectoral Safety for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

SPRINT-Lab, University of Udine
(Italy)

ID 2018IT1270



Core Activities



Create knowledge

Interdisciplinary research and methodological innovation on intersectoral safety for disaster risk reduction and resilience, from global school safety assessments to territorial, cultural heritage, and multi-hazard risk studies.



Transfer knowledge

Dissemination of scientific results through guidelines, policy support, publications, and international cooperation, fostering dialogue among science, governance, and society.



Training

Capacity building for students, professionals, and decision-makers through academies, university courses, MOOCs, and tailored training pathways on safety, risk-informed planning, and resilience.



Collaborate and support

Co-creation of solutions with UNESCO, universities, UN agencies, authorities, and communities, providing technical advice and operational support to strengthen disaster risk reduction and safer learning environments.



Create tools

Development and implementation of decision-support tools and methodologies—such as VISUS, SPRINT-Engine and SPRINT Learning-Hub—to transform data into actionable evidence for managing risk and enhancing resilience.



ResiliEnhance Platform



SERM Academy

Long-term Actions

Networks and Cooperation

ResiliEnhance Program: an expert platform to explore effective ways and means for strengthening territorial resilience to adverse events and critical situations in the context of complexity and systemic risk. It operates: globally with the [Resilience Catalysts](#) initiative; regionally with the [ResiliEnhance Platform](#); and locally with the [EUReKA](#) intergenerational arena of knowledge.



EUReKA project

Education, Academies & Learning Platforms

The SERM Academy advances capacity building and knowledge transfer in disaster risk reduction and resilience, translating scientific and experience-based insights into training, innovative tools, and on-field real-scale experiences.

Innovative research

Strengthening the development of innovative cost-effective methodologies related to geophysical measurements serving as a diagnosis tool for heritage buildings.

Major International Projects:

UNESCO-VISUS Projects

Application of the VISUS methodology for large-scale safety assessments of school infrastructure, supporting evidence-based upgrading strategies in multi-hazard contexts.



UNESCO Guidelines for Assessing Learning Facilities in the Context of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation



Medium Term Projects:

[ECHO](#) - Empowering and Connecting Diverse Communities for Multi-Hazard Resilience with Open Data, Open Models, and Open-Source Software
HORIZON-CL3-2024-INFRA-01 (Resilient Infrastructure)

[MAPS](#) - Migration and Displacement Action Plan for Sub-Saharan Africa
EuropeAid/181237/ACT/MULTI – NDICI/AFRICA/20247462-027, Co-funded by European Commission

[CONCORDIA](#) - COoperative Network for COordinated Disaster Impact Assessment
Interreg Italia-Slovenia, co-funded by European Union