

Under the umbrella of the Disaster Risk Reduction Unit of the Natural Sciences Sector of UNESCO, the [UNESCO Chair on Intersectoral Safety for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience of the University of Udine \(Italy\)](#) is convening the

Global Webinar of UNESCO Chairs focused on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

Resilience Catalysts: The Interplay of Education, Science and Culture in Transforming Governance for Building Resilience to Disasters. *Insights from UNESCO Chairs.*

Objective:

The webinar aims to begin exploring the role of UNESCO Chairs focused on disaster risk reduction and resilience, in the complex interplay between Education, Science, and Culture, to enhancing resilience and mitigating disasters.

The webinar will feature presentations from representatives of a selected group of UNESCO Chairs. Each Chair will outline their **"position" within the broader UNESCO field(s)**, highlighting their specific activities and contributions towards disaster risk reduction and building resilience. The predefined positioning criteria have been conceived in consultation with the Disaster Risk Reduction Unit of UNESCO.

Additionally, Chairs will be asked to present case studies, projects or initiatives that highlight the **role of the Chair as a catalyst for resilience**, promoting the communities' capacity to prepare for, absorb, and adapt to shocks from natural hazards and climate impacts.

Finally, the webinar also aims to start **fostering** ongoing dialogue and collaboration among participating UNESCO Chairs.

Expected outcomes:

Participants are provided with an **overview of the activities and initiatives** of the involved disaster risk reduction and resilience-focused UNESCO Chairs. The meeting aims to encourage increased **inter-sectoral collaborations** toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The UNESCO Chairs and their resilience-related activities are **mapped** and will be **compiled** in a concise report to be disseminated with the participants and the Disaster Risk Reduction Unit of UNESCO.

WHY THIS INITIATIVE?

Events and phenomena with a strong impact on the territory, linked to climate change, natural hazards, and human activities are affecting with greater frequency and intensity all countries around the world while social and natural systems are becoming increasingly complex and strongly interconnected. This systemic dimension as well as the complexity of the aforementioned issues calls for strengthening the cooperation among countries and adopting intersectoral approaches to improve safety and resilience.

To address these challenges, a set of global frameworks has emerged, including the [United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#), and the [Paris Agreement](#). These frameworks work hand in hand to provide a coordinated approach for building resilience across various sectors and scales. The [Global Assessment Report \(GAR\) 2022](#) and the [GAR Special Report 2023: Mapping resilience for the Sustainable Development Goals](#) encourage us to reflect on the progress made so far and the road ahead. They are to be conceived as a call to action to better understand and act to address systemic risk and to invest in building resilient communities and global systems.

Operating at the interface of the natural and social sciences, education, culture, and communication and information, UNESCO is uniquely positioned to contribute to disaster risk reduction. The organization's wide mandate and expertise enables it to take a multi-hazard, multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder participatory approach, which is unique amongst UN agencies. As for the UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks, they have proven value in advancing interdisciplinary knowledge generation and UNESCO's role as global observatory and as a laboratory of ideas acting as think tanks and bridge-builders, thereby strengthening the research-training-policy-society nexus.

In this framework, the global webinar proposed by the UNESCO Chair on Intersectoral Safety for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience of the University of Udine aspires to start exploring the role of UNESCO Chairs focused on disaster risk reduction and resilience, in the complex interplay between Education, Science, and Culture, to enhancing resilience and mitigating disasters.

WHO ARE WE?

Created in 2018, the [UNESCO Chair on Intersectoral Safety for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience of the University of Udine \(Italy\)](#) aims to introduce and bring attention to the topic of intersectoral safety as an innovative, holistic approach to disaster risk reduction and resilience, in all phases of the disaster risk management cycle, from prevention, mitigation, and preparedness to response and recovery. The Chair focuses on key safety elements for the protection of the built environment and cultural heritage assets and, in particular, on multi-hazard risk assessment and management, taking into account the mutual interactions among the technical, cultural, social, and economic dimensions of disaster risk.

The main goal of the Chair through this approach is to define a teaching process and research studies involving new generations and different disciplines and considering different perspectives. This will improve awareness and build the capacities of experts and decision-makers in developing strategies and designing actions for disaster risk reduction while considering the social, economic, and cultural dimensions of disasters, together with the technical aspects.

With this in mind, the UNESCO Chair on Intersectoral Safety for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience of the University of Udine together with the Central Europe Initiative (CEI) launched in October 2022 the [ResiliEnhance Program: Enhancing the Resilience to Disasters for Sustainable Development](#) to enhance resilience and safety of societies to foster sustainable development characterized by a greater capacity for proactive action and the prevention and management of present and future risks and crises, notably in Central Europe.

CONTACT

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