

AWARENESS EVENT

"Global Catastrophic Risks"



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3rd and 4th of April 2025

Welcome Speech - Opening Keynote

Dr. Aikaterini Poustourli

Head of the IHU's Civil and Emergency Planning Dept. (PSEA)



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« New realities require a new level of preparedness in Europe. Our citizens, our Member States, and our businesses need the right tools to act both to prevent crises and to react swiftly when a disaster hits. Families living in flood zones should know what to do when the waters rise. Early warning systems can prevent regions hit by wildfires from losing precious time. Europe stands ready to support Member States and trusted partners in the neighbourhood to save lives and livelihoods.»

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission





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« Preparedness must be woven into the fabric of our societies — everyone has a role to play. Today's threats are fast, complex, and interconnected; our response must be more proactive, more integrated, and more coordinated at European level. By harnessing the energy of our institutions, businesses, and citizens, we can build resilience and ensure Europe emerges stronger from crises. »

Hadja Lahbib, Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management



Organisational & Scientifically Responsible : Dr. Aikaterini Poustourli, Head of the IHU's Civil and Emergency Planning (PSEA) Dept.

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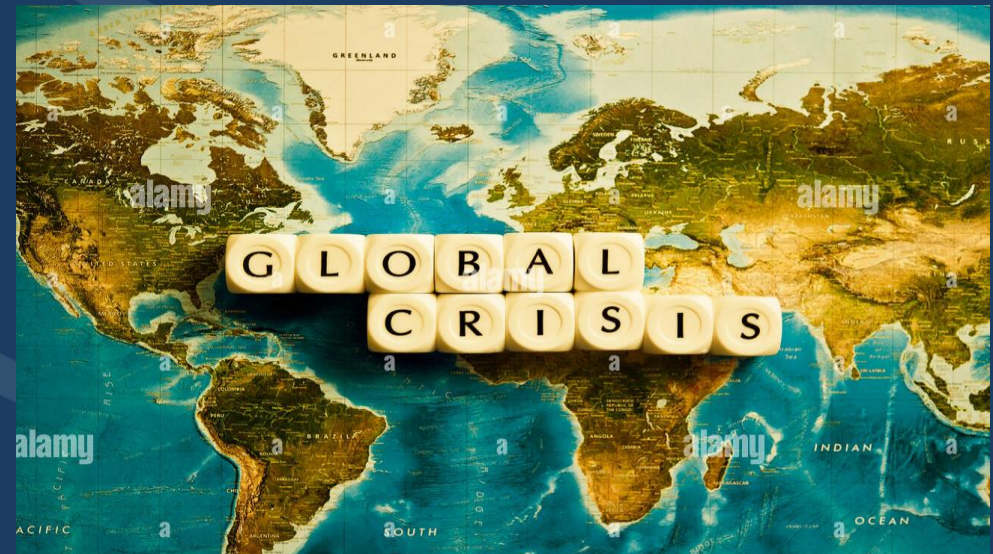
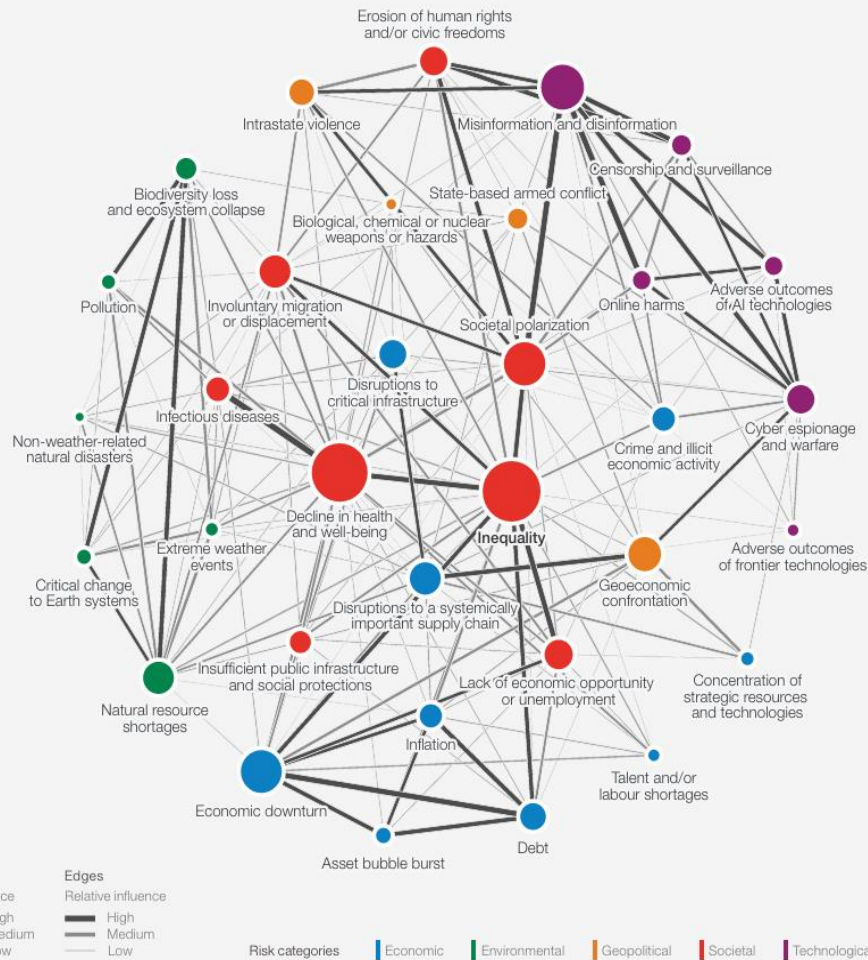
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FIGURE D Global risks landscape: An interconnections map³



Definitions of Global Risks:
SOCIETAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, GEOPOLITICAL,
ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC dimensions

- [WEF Global Risks Report 2025.pdf](#)
- [Future Shocks 2022: Addressing risks and building capabilities for Europe in a contested world](#)

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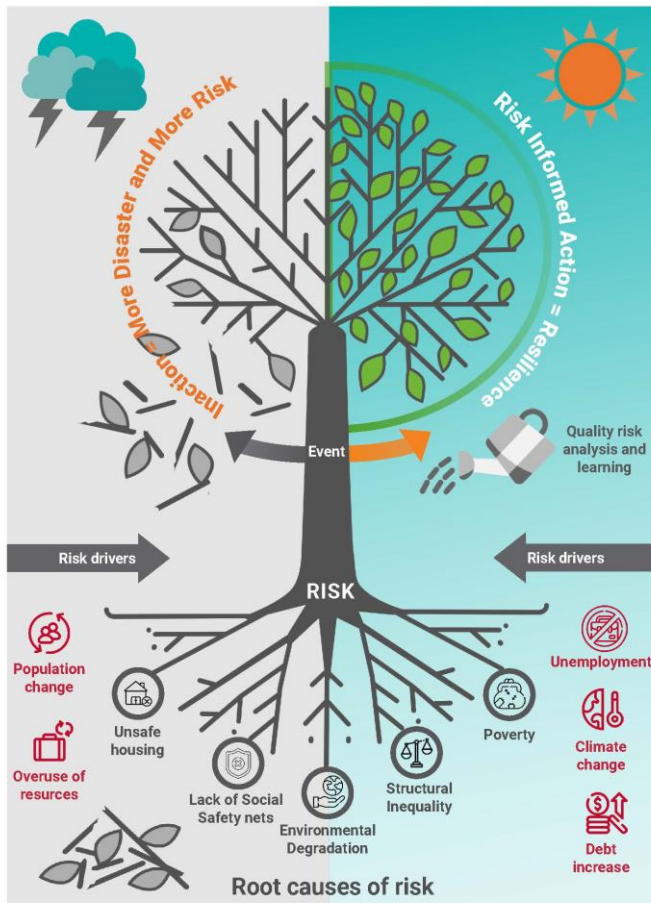
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Disasters are becoming more frequent, more intense, and more expensive. At the same time, the systems we rely on to manage these risks—our financial tools, infrastructure, and social support—are falling behind. The result is a growing gap between the risks we face and our ability to recover. To build a safer future, this gap must be closed. Governments, international institutions, businesses, and households all have a role. That means rethinking how and where we invest. It means protecting not only people, but also the assets, jobs, and services we depend on. Realigning finance with resilience is not just smart policy—it is essential for long-term stability and growth. GAR2025 shows that change is possible. Across regions and sectors, innovative solutions are already helping to break negative spirals, strengthen financial systems, and protect the most vulnerable. The path forward is clear.

*United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction/ GAR Special Report 2024 Forensic Insights for Future Resilience: Learning from Past Disasters: Global Assessment Report (GAR) 2025 | UNDRR
[THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development](#)
[What is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction? | UNDRR](#)*

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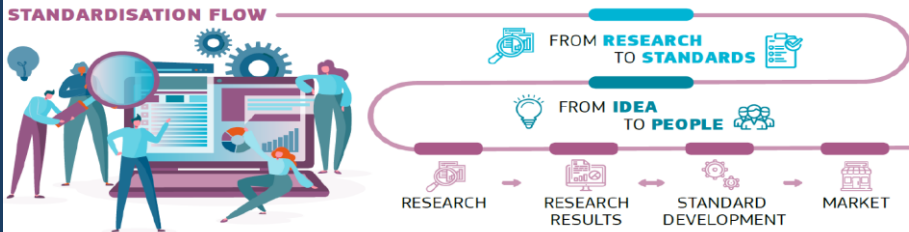
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Integration with FP Projects



Source: From Research to Standards (EC)

10

Making standards for Europe



► International



► Regional (European)



► National



HE CLUSTER 3: Civil Security for Society

A work programme structured in 6 destinations



Capability-based approach
End-User oriented
Societal dimension
Synergies and market creation

► International

► Regional (European)

► National



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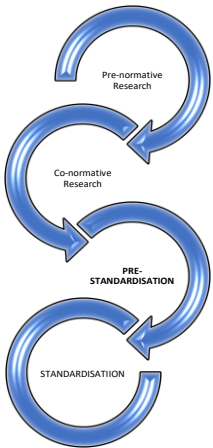
CEN CENELEC Types of Deliverables:
European Standard (EN)
Technical Specification (TS)
Technical Report (TR)
Guides
Harmonization Document (HD)-
CENELEC only
CEN and/or CENELEC Workshop
Agreement (CWA)

CEN/TC 391 - Societal and Citizen Security

General Structure Work programme Published Standards

CEN/TC 391 Subcommittees and Working Groups

Working group	Title
CEN/TC 391/WG 1	Healthcare Facilities
CEN/TC 391/WG 2	High risk hazards and CBRNE
CEN/TC 391/WG 3	Risk, resilience and emergency/crisis management



*DRS and Standardisation,
Aik. Poustourli 2022*



*DRS and Standardisation,
Aik. Poustourli 2018*

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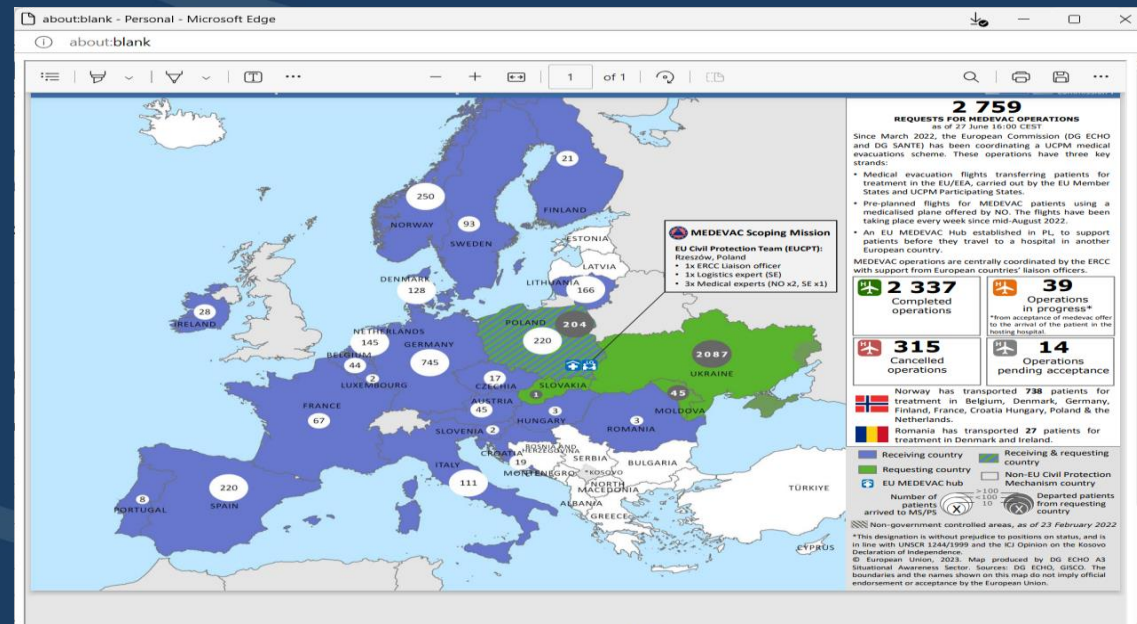


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Υπουργείο Κλιματικής Κρίσης και Πολιτικής
Προστασίας (civilprotection.gr)

- Γενική Γραμματεία Πολιτικής Προστασίας: www.civilprotection.gr
- Πυροσβεστικό Σώμα : www.fireservice.gr
- Ελληνική Αστυνομία : www.hellenicpolice.gr
- ΕΚΑΒ : www.ekab.gr
- Κέντρο Ελέγχου & Πρόληψης Νοσημάτων (ΚΕΛΠΝΟ) www.keelpno.gr
- Εθνικό Αστεροσκοπείο Αθηνών www.noa.gr
- Οργανισμός Αντισεισμικού Σχεδιασμού και Προστασίας (ΟΑΣΠ) : www.oasp.gr
- Ευρωμεσογειακό Σεισμολογικό Κέντρο <https://www.emsc-csem.org/>



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The IHU's Civil and Emergency Planning Department was established in April 2024, and its main mission is to enhance the risk culture and raise awareness within our University community while bringing together the relevant stakeholders for building synergies and capacities through its events and other activities.

To raise awareness through the local communities where its campuses are located on topics related to Risk/Disaster/Crises/Emergency Management and Civil Protection, among others.

IHU as a HEI is playing a significant role in the aforementioned topics and has an important performance to demonstrate from research and other activities. ViceRector Prof. Xanthos Stelios will speak right after about these achievements in his speech.



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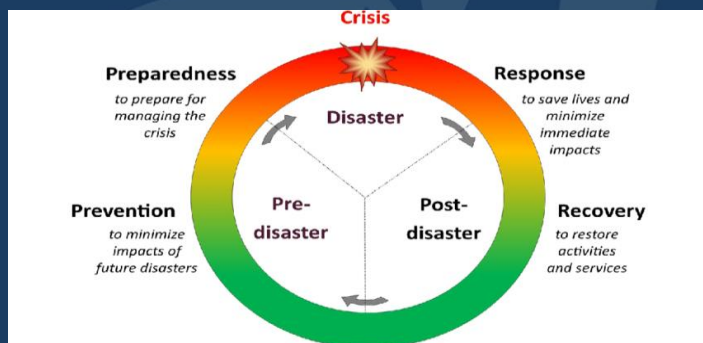
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Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) can develop and offer specialized training programs, courses, and certifications that equip students, citizens and professionals with the knowledge and skills required to address the challenges posed by crises and disasters. Universities play a pivotal role in conducting research on DRM topics, which is fundamental to developing accurate and predictive models that can improve disaster preparedness.

Universities' involvement ensure that students and individuals are aware of relevant European and international agreements, harmonised legislation and standards (i.e. of the Sendai Framework and ISO and EN Standards for Risks, Crises and Emergency), but also build a strong foundation for disaster resilience through research, innovation, and capacity building. Living in an interdependent and interconnected world, risks, hazards, crises and disasters have global impacts and cascading effects.



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We understand the reason why our distinguished speakers are coming from both ecosystems (meaning standardisation and research). They both contribute to having a framework of **a common language and interoperable systems to serve societies, to help the experts, the officers and first responders working in the field operationally, to act efficiently and save lives while at the same time remaining secure and resilient.**

The theme of Global Catastrophic Risks aims to honor the pioneering initiative of the European standardisation ecosystem, and especially of the Technical Committee 391, which is working on that most pertinent challenge than ever.

Summing up, by leveraging their knowledge, education and research capabilities, Universities can contribute significantly to building more resilient and secure societies.



[CITIZENS-ENGAGEMENT_I MERIDA-PYROSVESTIKIS06122024_AIKATERINI-POUSTOURLI-241206121601qzuqhf.pdf](#)

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**Hybrid Awareness Events of the IHU Civil and Emergency Planning Dept. (PSEA),
entitled "*Global Catastrophic Risks*",
3 to 4 April 2025, Conference Center "Evagoras Pallikaridis", IHU's Campus of Serres, Greece**

Speeches, interventions, and discussions are taking place in English

The pdf presentation files will be uploaded on the website (<https://www.ihu.gr/monades/psea>) as soon as they become available from the speakers.

The venues are accessible to attendees with mobility disabilities.

For more information, please contact:

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Aikaterini POUSTOURLI - SCI - Scientists - HEI, R&I**

