



SUMMER SCHOOL 2025
Evidence for Policy in
Disaster Risk Management

29 September – 1 October 2025

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

Barcelona, Spain

Draft Agenda

Introduction

The [Evidence for Policy in Disaster Risk Management \(DRM\) Summer School 2025](#) is organised by ICF and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna as part of the Civitas Soteria consortium, funded by and on behalf of the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO). The event is hosted by the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya and takes place in Barcelona, Spain, from 29 September to 1 October 2025.

The Summer School will bring together a group of approximately 80 participants. These are scientists interested in how to achieve impact on policy making - and policymakers and operational staff interested in how to request and use research to support them in their daily work.

Activities will start on **Monday, 29 September at 16:00 CEST** with the registration of participants, and will end on **Wednesday, 1 October at 16:45 CEST**.

Purpose of the Summer School 2025

The Summer School is to build capacity for the research and innovation objectives of the [Preparedness Union Strategy](#). Specifically, it aims to provide participants with:

- a. New knowledge on how to better integrate scientific evidence into policymaking*
- b. New insights on how science and policymaking operate*
- c. New ideas on how to build a sustainable relationship between scientific personnel and decision-makers*
- d. An enlarged network of likeminded professionals, working on disaster risk management with the ambition of using evidence in policymaking*
- e. Access to a global community of practice, exchanging top resources and expertise.*

Structure of the Workshop

The Summer School will start with a welcome session in the afternoon of **Day 1**, followed by a welcome session that will include official welcome messages and a short interactive session, a final overview of the logistical organisation of the event, and a team building exercise.

Day 2 will commence with a keynote speech on the topic of “*From science to maximum impact: Bridging evidence, policy, people and action for a resilient future*”. The keynote speech will be followed by two rounds of classes, followed by a social activity and dinner. On **Day 3**, participants will have the opportunity to attend two rounds of classes followed by the final closing session.

The workshop will be devoted to answering several thematic contemporary questions to disaster risk management. They serve as the main topics of the classes (see brief descriptions attached).

Each of the eight class sessions will be split into two parts: in the **first** part there will be one or two intro speakers (senior experts on the specific topic) who will present a) the current state-of-the-play of the topic, b) different models of approaching the topic (both at national and international level), and c) current challenges which need to be addressed/considered.

The **second** part of the classes, led by a facilitator expert of the specific topic investigated in the session, will be interactive and the participants will be requested to actively participate in performing various activities, such as discussions, problem-solving, simulations etc. The idea is to encourage cooperation between scientist, policymaker, and operational staff to propose solutions to the themes of the classes in line with the purpose of the workshop.

Where relevant, interactive technology will be used, e.g., web-based voting applications, to allow participants to provide instant reactions, votes, or questions on specific points raised by the speakers via smartphones, tablets, or laptops.

Draft Agenda

Day 1 – Monday 29 September 2025

Time	Activity
Afternoon session: 16:00-19:30	
16.00-16.30	Registration
16:30-17.30	<p>Welcome Session</p> <p>Chair: Prof. Marc Berenguer, Associate Professor, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Welcome:</i> Director, Strategy and Policy, DG ECHO, European Commission (TBC) • <i>Aims of the Summer School:</i> Prof. Marc Berenguer and Prof. Andrea de Guttry, Professor Emeritus Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna • Director General of the Ministry for Civil Protection and Emergencies (TBC), Spain • Regional Minister of Interior (TBC), Catalunya • Director of Studies Programme of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (TBC) <p><i>Logistical brief</i></p> <p><i>Interactive session with participants:</i> Juha-Pekka Jäpölä, Project Officer, DG ECHO, European Commission</p>
17.30-19.00	Team building exercise
19:00-20.45	Joint Dinner (at the university campus) & Family Picture

Day 2 – Tuesday 30 September 2025

Morning session: 09:30-13:15	
9.30-10:30	Keynote speech: <i>From science to maximum impact: Bridging evidence, policy, people and action for a resilient future</i>

	Dr. Erika Wichro, Senior Global Health Expert & Crisis Management Advisor
10.30-13.15	<p>Classes Round 1 (coffee break included - 15 minutes break planned)</p> <p>During each round, 5-6 out of the following eight classes will run:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harnessing the economics of disaster risk management and smart investing tools 2. Developing a risk communication approach to support population preparedness 3. Cyber security incidents, blackouts, and energy disruptions as emerging disasters requiring private-public cooperation 4. Leveraging open-source data in crisis management 5. The climate-security nexus: preparedness in the Face of Climate-Related Disasters - A Humanitarian Security Approach 6. The multiple uses of artificial intelligence and machine learning for preparedness 7. Preparedness and resilience for managing the systemic risk of compounding disasters. 8. Applying foresight in disaster risk management
13.15-15.00	Lunch break
Afternoon session: 15:00-17:45	
15:00-17:45	<p>Classes Round 2 (coffee break included - 15 minutes break planned)</p>
19:00	Social event (exact start TBC depending on the activity)
20:30	Joint Dinner (location TBC)

Day 3 – Wednesday 1 October 2025

Morning session: 09:30-12:30	
09.30-12.15	<p>Classes Round 3 (coffee break included - 15 minutes break planned)</p>
12.15-13.15	Lunch break

13:15-16:00	Classes Round 4 <i>(coffee break included - 15 minutes break planned)</i>
Afternoon session: 16:00--16:45	
16:00-16.45	<p>Closing Session</p> <p><i>Conclusions from the classes and discussion</i> Chair: Prof. Andrea de Guttry, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna</p> <p><i>Key takeaways based on the inputs from the class coordinators</i> <i>Comments and feedback from the audience</i></p> <p><i>Closing words</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juha-Pekka Jäpölä, Project Officer, DG ECHO, European Commission • Prof. Marc Berenguer, Associate Professor, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya <p><i>Feedback survey</i> <i>Handing out prize for the best team from Day 1 Team Building exercise</i> <i>Handing out certificates of attendance</i></p>
16:45	Departure of participants
20:00	Dinner for participants who will depart next day on 2 October