



International Institute of Humanitarian Law
Institut International de Droit Humanitaire
Istituto Internazionale di Diritto Umanitario



Disaster Law



With the support of

Croce Rossa Italiana

10th International Disaster Law Course

3-30 October 2025

Hybrid (Online & Sanremo, Italy)

www.iihl.org

Background

Disasters are among the largest threats to human security and development the world is facing today. Is international law stepping up? Are humanitarian actors, institutions and scholars ready to face challenges raised by disasters caused by natural hazards or human activities?

This **hybrid specialised course** will provide a comprehensive overview of the **existing international provisions and key regulatory issues related to the prevention and management of disasters**, including through a **residential specialized workshop** focusing on the challenges they pose and how they are addressed in the **EU context**.

Target audience

Staff of **governments, international and regional organizations, NGOs, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, academics**, graduate and post-graduate **students** with an interest in humanitarian assistance and disaster management issues.

Structure

Through a mixture of online and on-site lectures, practical exercises, self-assessment tools and interactive group works, the course, organised by the Sanremo Institute in collaboration with the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Disaster Law** and with the support of the **Italian Red Cross**, will provide a dynamic and tailored learning environment to all participants.

Online Foundation Training

3 – 17 October

- 2-week online **Foundation Training** on the legal and operational framework for **disaster governance and relief** only

Full Hybrid Course*

3 – 30 October

- 2-week online **Foundation Training**
- 1-week self-paced **Module on EU Basics**
- 4-day on-site **Specialised Workshop on Disaster Law in the EU**

* Attending the on-site specialised workshop only, may be granted upon request on a case-by-case basis.

Online course

The online section of the course will feature both **live** and **self-paced sessions** accessible through the IIHL **platform**.

Module 0

Opening Session and Course Overview

3 October 2025

Live session at 2.00 pm (CEST), approx. 60 min.

Gian Luca Beruto

Secretary-General, International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL)

Giulio Bartolini

Editor-in-Chief, Yearbook of International Disaster Law; Member, IIHL

Tommaso Natoli

Head of Humanitarian Diplomacy and International Law, Italian Red Cross; IFRC-ItRC Disaster Law Focal Point (Europe)

Keynote

Xavier Castellanos Mosquera

Under Secretary General for National Society Development and Operations Coordination, IFRC

Module 1

International, Regional and Domestic Legal Frameworks

6 October 2025

Live session at 2.00 pm (CEST), approx. 120 min.

Giulio Bartolini

Editor-in-Chief YIDL

Tommaso Natoli

IFRC-ItRC Disaster Law Focal Point (Europe)

Isabelle Granger

Global Lead, Disaster Law and Auxiliary Role, IFRC

Module 2

IDL, IHL, and Human Rights Law

8 October 2025

Live session at 2.00 pm (CEST), approx. 120 min.

Marlies Hesselmann

Lecturer in International Law, University of Groningen

Emanuele Sommario

Assistant Professor in International Law, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa

Module 3

Refugee, Migration and Displacement

10 October 2025

Live session at 2.00 pm (CEST), approx. 120 min.

Walter Kaelin

Professor Emeritus in International Law, University of Bern, Former Representative of the UNSG on the Human Rights of IDPs

IIHL Refugee Dept. representative

International Institute of Humanitarian Law

Module 4

International Disaster Response and Management

13 October 2025

Live session at 2.00 pm (CEST), approx. 120 min.

Dug Cubie

Senior Lecturer in Law, University College Cork

Isabelle Granger

Global Lead, Disaster Law and Auxiliary Role, IFRC

Module 5

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

15 October 2025

Live session at 2.00 pm (CEST), approx. 120 min.

Marie Aronsson-Storrier

Lecturer in Law, University College Cork

Stella Ngugi

Disaster Law Coordinator, Africa Region, IFRC

Module 6

Online Roundtable on the Role of International Organisations in Disaster Management

17 October 2025

Moderated online roundtable with experts at 2.00 pm (CEST), approx. 120 min.

Stéphane Michaud

Manager for Operations Coordination in Disaster, Climate and Crises, IFRC

WFP representative (TBD)

World Food Programme

Gian Luca Burci

Former Legal Counsel, WHO; Adjunct Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute

Marina Skuric Prodanovic

Chief, System-wide Approaches and Practices Section, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)



Self paced online session
20-24 October 2025
Introduction to EU Basics.*

*Hybrid course participants only (accessible upon enrollment)

Residential specialised workshop

The **on-site section** of the course will focus on the **regional dimension of Disaster Law in Europe**.

Module 7

Opening

27 October 2025
2.00 pm (CET), Villa Ormond, Sanremo (Italy)

Gian Luca Beruto
Secretary-General, International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL)
Isabelle Granger
Global Lead, Disaster Law and Auxiliary Role, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Interplay IDL-EU Law

Susanna Villani
Jr Assistant Professor of EU Law, University of Bologna
Grega Grobovsek
Legal and Policy Officer, DG-ECHO
Tommaso Natoli
Head of Humanitarian Diplomacy and International Law, Italian Red Cross; IFRC-ItRC Disaster Law Focal Point (Europe)

Welcome cocktail

6.15 pm (CET), Villa Ormond, Sanremo (Italy)

Module 8

Disaster Risk Prevention and preparedness at the EU level

28 October 2025
9am (CET), Villa Ormond, Sanremo (Italy)

Christina Corbane
Deputy Head, Disaster Risk Management Unit, European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC)

Sepehr Marzi
Consultant, European Commission JRC

Lunch break

1.00 pm (CET), Villa Ormond, Sanremo (Italy)

Module 9

Disaster preparedness at the EU level

28 October 2025
2.00 pm (CET), Villa Ormond, Sanremo (Italy)

Grega Grobovsek
Legal and Policy Officer, DG-ECHO
Miriam Alba Reina
Disaster Management Officer, Red Cross EU Office

Module 10

Disaster Response and Crisis Management at the EU level

29 October 2025
9.00 am (CET), Villa Ormond, Sanremo (Italy)

Grega Grobovsek
Legal and Policy Officer, DG-ECHO
Tommaso Natoli
IFRC-ItRC Disaster Law Focal Point (Europe)

Lunch break

1.00 pm (CET), Villa Ormond, Sanremo (Italy)

Module 11

EU beyond its borders in disasters: External Action and International Humanitarian Aid - part 1/2

29 October 2025
2.00 pm (CET), Villa Ormond, Sanremo (Italy)

Federico Casolari
Professor of EU Law, University of Bologna
Sandra Romero Ruiz
Preparedness Policy Adviser, DG-ECHO

Social dinner

8.00 pm (CET), Sanremo (Italy)

EU beyond its borders in disasters: External Action and International Humanitarian Aid - part 2/2

30 October 2025
9.00 am (CET), Villa Ormond, Sanremo (Italy)

Sandra Romero Ruiz
Preparedness Policy Adviser, DG-ECHO
Isabelle Granger
Global Lead, Disaster Law and Auxiliary Role, IFRC

Lunch break

1.00 pm (CET) Villa Ormond, Sanremo (Italy)

Module 11

Closing Session

2.00 pm (CET), Villa Ormond, Sanremo (Italy)

Gian Luca Beruto
Secretary-General, IIHL
Isabelle Granger
Global Lead, Disaster Law and Auxiliary Role, IFRC