SUMMER SCHOOL 2025 Evidence for Policy in Disaster Risk Management

29 September – 1 October 2025
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
Barcelona, Spain

Agenda



Introduction

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

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

A pre-requisite is that scientists, policymakers and operational staff have experience of working in fields related to disaster risk management notably by producing science or policy tackling it, using related data in their work on other topics, be interested in the implications of this societal challenge on other fields, among others.

Activities will start on Monday, 29 September at 16.00 CEST with the registration of participants, and will end Wednesday, 1 October at 17.15 CEST.

Purpose of the Summer School 2025

The Summer School 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 Event

The Summer School will start 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 start 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 2 rounds of the Classes, followed concurrently 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.

Each of the eight classes sessions will be split into two parts: in the *first* part there will be one or two keynote 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 on 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. 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.

Content of the Summer School 2025

The Summer School 2025 will be devoted to answering several thematic questions (which also serve as the main topics of the Classes' sessions).

These are presented as follows:

- Class 1: Harnessing the economics of disaster risk management and smart investing tools;
- **Class 2**: Developing a risk communication approach to support population preparedness Economics for investing in disaster prevention and preparedness;
- **Class 3:** Cyber security incidents, blackouts, and energy disruptions as emerging disasters requiring private-public cooperation;
- Class 4: Leveraging open-source data in crisis management;
- **Class 5:** EU beyond its borders: Preparedness in the Face of Climate-Related Disasters A Humanitarian Security Approach;
- Class 6: The multiple uses of artificial intelligence and machine learning for preparedness;
- Class 7: Preparedness and resilience for managing the systemic risk of compounding disasters;
- Class 8: Applying foresight in disaster risk management.



Draft Agenda

Day 1 – 29 September 2025

Time	Activity
Afternoon sess	sion: 16:00-19:30
16:00-16:30	Registration
16:30-17:30	Welcome Session, Auditorium Jose Antonio Torroja, Room C2-001 Chair: Prof. Marc Berenguer, Associate Professor Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
	 Welcome and aims of the Summer School Prof. Marc Berenguer and Andrea de Guttry, Professor Emeritus Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna and Petra van Nierop, Vice-President, ICF, lead of the Civitas Soteria consortium
	 Hanna Jahns, Director, Strategy and Policy, of DG for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), European Commission
	 Virginia Barcones Sanz, Director General of Civil Protection and Emergencies, Ministry of Interior, Spain
	Marta Cassany i Virgili, Director General of Civil Protection, Department of Interior and Public Security, Regional Government of Catalunya
	 Prof. Pedro Díez Mejía, Vice-rector of Research, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
	Interactive session, Juha-Pekka Japola, Project Officer, DG ECHO
	Overview of logistical organisation of the Summer School 2025
17:30-19:00	Team building exercise
	Facilitator: Petra van Nierop, Vice-President, ICF, lead of the Civitas Soteria consortium
	Family picture
19:00-20:45	Fire Wine project demonstration and Joint Dinner (at the University campus, area between buildings C2 and D2)



Day 2 – 30 September 2025

Time	Activity		
Morning session	on: 09:00-13:15		
9:00-10:30	Keynote speech: From science to maximum impact: Bridging evidence, policy, people and action for a resilient future, Auditorium Jose Antonio Torroja, Room C2-001		
	Dr. Erika Wichro, Senior Global Health Expert & Crisis Management Advisor		
10:30-13:15	Classes : round 1 (15 minutes break included)		
	Class 1: Harnessing the economics of disaster risk management and smart investing tools, Room: C1-001a		
	Class 3: Cyber security incidents, blackouts, and energy disruptions as emerging disasters requiring private-public cooperation, Room: D1-103		
	Class 4: Leveraging open-source data in crisis management, Room: D2-305		
	Class 5: EU beyond its borders: Preparedness in the Face of Climate-Related Disasters – A Humanitarian Security Approach, Room: C2-212		
	Class 6: The multiple uses of artificial intelligence and machine learning for preparedness, Room: B1-005		
	Class 7: Preparedness and resilience for managing the systemic risk of compounding disasters, Room: C1-001b		
13:15-15:00	Lunch break Lunch will be served in the area next to <u>Aula Màster</u> (Sala Polivalent) in building A3		
Afternoon session: 15:00-17:45			
15:00-17:45	Classes: round 2 (15 minutes break included)		
	Class 1: Harnessing the economics of disaster risk management and smart investing tools, Room: C1-001a		
	Class 2: Developing a risk communication approach to support population preparedness Economics for investing in disaster prevention and preparedness, Room: B1-003		
	Class 4: Leveraging open-source data in crisis management, Room: D2-305		
	Class 5: EU beyond its borders: Preparedness in the Face of Climate-Related Disasters – A Humanitarian Security Approach, Room: C2-212		



	Class 7: Preparedness and resilience for managing the systemic risk of compounding disasters, Room: C1-001b Class 8: Applying foresight in disaster risk management, Room: D2-216
11X,3()	Social Event — visit La Pedrera (<u>La Pedrera</u>) Passeig de Gràcia, 92, 08008 Barcelona, Spain
20:00	Joint Dinner – walking dinner at El café de La Pedrera

Day 3 – 1 October 2025

Time	Activity		
Morning session: 09:00-12:30			
09:00-11:45 (incl. coffee break)	Classes: round 3 (15 minutes break included)		
	Class 2: Developing a risk communication approach to support population preparedness Economics for investing in disaster prevention and preparedness, Room: B1-003		
	Class 3: Cyber security incidents, blackouts, and energy disruptions as emerging disasters requiring private-public cooperation, Room: D1-103		
	Class 4: Leveraging open-source data in crisis management, Room: D2-305		
	Class 6: The multiple uses of artificial intelligence and machine learning for preparedness, Room: B1-005		
	Class 7: Preparedness and resilience for managing the systemic risk of compounding disasters, Room: C1-001b		
	Class 8: Applying foresight in disaster risk management, Room: D2-216		
11.45-12.30	Announcement and award of the winning Team (from team building- Day 1)		
	Facilitator: Petra van Nierop		
12:30-13:30	Lunch break Lunch will be served in the area next to <u>Aula Màster</u> (Sala Polivalent) in building A3		
13:30-16:15	Classes: round 4 (15 mintes break included)		



Class 1: Harnessing the economics of disaster risk management and smart investing tools, **Room:** C1-001a

Class 2: Developing a risk communication approach to support population preparedness Economics for investing in disaster prevention and preparedness, **Room**: B1-003

Class 3: Cyber security incidents, blackouts, and energy disruptions as emerging disasters requiring private-public cooperation, **Room:** D1-103

Class 5: EU beyond its borders: Preparedness in the Face of Climate-Related Disasters — A Humanitarian Security Approach, **Room:** C2-212

Class 6: The multiple uses of artificial intelligence and machine learning for preparedness, **Room:** B1-005

Class 8: Applying foresight in disaster risk management, Room: D2-216

Afternoon session: 16:15-17:15

Closing Session, Auditorium Jose Antonio Torroja, Room C2-001

I. Conclusions from the classes and discussion

Chair: Prof. Andrea de Guttry, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna

16:15-17:15

II. Closing words

Chairs: Juha-Pekka Japola, Project Officer, DG ECHO, Marc Berenguer, Associate Professor Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya