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Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network

CIVITAS SOTERIA

SUMMER SCHOOL 2026
Evidence for Policy in Disaster Risk Management

26 - 28 May 2026

Tallinn University

Tallinn, Estonia

Draft Agenda

Tallinn

Introduction

The 2026 Evidence for Policy in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Summer School 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 Tallinn University and takes place in Tallinn, Estonia, from 26 to 28 May 2026.

The Summer School will bring together a group of 900 participants. These are scientists interested in how to achieve impact on policy making and policymakers and operational staff interested in how to commission and use research to support them in their daily work.

Activities will start on Tuesday, 26 May at 15:30 EET with the registration of participants, and will end Thursday, 28 May at 15:30 EET.

Purpose of the Summer School 2026

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 Event

The Summer School will start in the afternoon of **Day 1** with a welcome session that will include official welcome messages, an interactive team-building session, an overview of the logistical organisation of the event, and an initial briefing to the final exercise that will take place on Day 3.

Day 2 includes two rounds of thematic classes, followed by a field demonstration organized by the Estonian Rescue Services Agency. On **Day 3** participants will have the opportunity to attend a final round of the thematic classes, followed by the final exercise, the debriefing and final closing session.

Each of the eight classes sessions will be split into two parts: in the ***first*** part there will be one keynote speaker (senior expert 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 knowledge network classes, led by a facilitator expert of the specific topic investigated in the session, will **be interactive and** will be linked to the final exercise of 28 May . 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 2026

The Summer School 2026 comprises eight different classes that are repeated three times. Each participant has, therefore, the unique opportunity to attend three classes chosen among those of his/her interest. The classes are presented as follows:

1. Harnessing the economics of disaster risk management and smart investing tools
2. Developing a risk communication approach to support population preparedness Economics for investing in disaster prevention and 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. EU beyond its borders - Preparedness and response in the face of climate-related disasters
6. The multiple uses of artificial intelligence (AI) in disaster risk management
7. Preparedness and resilience for managing the systemic risk of compounding disasters and hybrid threats
8. Cascading impacts with foresight

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Day 1 – 26 May 2026

Time	Activity
Afternoon session	
15.30-16.00	**Registration**
16.00-17.00	**Welcome Session,** *Tallinn Hall room M 218 (MARE building)* • ***Welcome and aims of the Summer School***, Tiina Pajuste, Professor of International Law and Security Studies and Vice-Rector for Research, Tallinn University, Petra Van Nierop, Executive President ICF and Andrea de Guttry, Professor Emeritus, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna ***Official welcome messages*** • Margo Klaos, Director-General of the Estonian Rescue Services Agency • Tuuli Räim, Deputy Secretary General for Crisis Preparedness and Civil Protection, Ministry of the Interior (Estonia) • Erwan Marteil, Head of Unit for Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO) of the European Commission B.3-Prevention and Preparedeness Capacity Building • Interactive session, DG ECHO • Overview of logistical organisation of the Summer School 2026
17.00-17.30	• *Key Note speech: "Why Science Matters for Policy: Insights from International Jurisprudence*", Professor Tiina Pajuste
17.30-19.15	**Briefing regarding the two scenario exercises to be conducted on day 3,** *Tallinn Hall room M 218* **Team building exercise,** *Tallinn Hall room M 218 (MARE building) and Eerik-Juhan Truuväli Auditorium* **Facilitator:** Andrea de Guttry, Professor Emeritus, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna and Petra van Nierop, Vice-President, ICF, lead of the Civitas Soteria consortium
19.15-20.45	**Family picture** **Joint Dinner at Tallin University -** Large atrium of Mare building

Day 2 – 27 May 2026

Morning session

9.30-12.00	***Round 1- Thematic classes*** *(coffee break included - 15 minutes break planned)* ***Please note that, during each round, the following eight classes will always be held in the same room- as follows:*** • **Class 1** - Harnessing the economics of disaster risk management and smart investing tools (**Room M 214** – 2nd floor of the Mare building) • **Class 2** - Developing a risk communication approach to support population preparedness Economics for investing in disaster prevention and preparedness (**Room M 135** – 1st floor of the Mare building) • **Class 3** - Cyber security incidents, blackouts, and energy disruptions as emerging disasters requiring private-public cooperation (**Room S 233** – 2nd floor of the Silva building) • **Class 4** - Leveraging open-source data in crisis management (**Room M 226** – 2nd floor of the Mare building) • **Class 5** - EU beyond its borders - Preparedness and response in the face of climate-related disasters (**Room M 136** - 1st floor of the Mare building) • **Class 6**- The multiple uses of artificial intelligence (AI) in disaster risk management (**Room S 243** - 2nd floor of the Silva building) • **Class 7** - Preparedness and resilience for managing the systemic risk of compounding disasters and hybrid threats (**Room M 227** – 2nd floor of the Mare building). • **Class 8** - Cascading impacts with foresight (**Room M 224** – 2nd floor of the Mare building)
12.00-13.00	**Lunch break**
Afternoon session	
13.00-15.30	**Round 2- Thematic classes** *(coffee break included - 15 minutes break planned)* ***Please note that, during each round, the following eight classes will always be held in the same room- as follows:*** • **Class 1** - Harnessing the economics of disaster risk management and smart investing tools (**Room M 214** – 2nd floor of the Mare building) • **Class 2** - Developing a risk communication approach to support population preparedness Economics for investing in disaster prevention and preparedness (**Room M 135** – 1st floor of the Mare building) • **Class 3** - Cyber security incidents, blackouts, and energy disruptions as emerging disasters requiring private-public cooperation (**Room S 233** – 2nd floor of the Silva building) • **Class 4** - Leveraging open-source data in crisis management (**Room M 226** – 2nd floor of the Mare building) • **Class 5** - EU beyond its borders - Preparedness and response in the face of climate-related disasters (**Room M 136** - 1st floor of the Mare building)

	• **Class 6**- The multiple uses of artificial intelligence (AI) in disaster risk management (**Room S 243** - 2nd floor of the Silva building) • **Class 7** - Preparedness and resilience for managing the systemic risk of compounding disasters and hybrid threats (**Room M 227** – 2nd floor of the Mare building) • **Class 8** - Cascading impacts with foresight (**Room M 224** – 2nd floor of the Mare building)
15:45 – 18.15	**Attendance at a demonstration organised by the Estonian Rescue Services Agency and local partners focusing on civil protection, rescue and EOD equipment** **Address:** Silikatsiidi 4, Tallinn 11216 ***Detailed timetable:*** *15.45- Board the buses at Tallinn University- meeting point is the main entrance of Mare building (Uus-Sadama 5).* *16.15-17.45- Demonstration* *17.45- Return to the hotel (ETA 18.15)*
19:30	**Joint Dinner at Olde Hansa restaurant** Vana turg 1, Tallinn, 10140

Day 3 – 28 May 2026

Morning session	
09.00-11.30	**Round 3- Thematic classes** *(coffee break included - 15 minutes break planned)* ***Please note that, during each round, the following eight classes will always be held in the same room- as follows:*** • **Class 1** - Harnessing the economics of disaster risk management and smart investing tools (**Room M 214** – 2nd floor of the Mare building) • **Class 2** - Developing a risk communication approach to support population preparedness Economics for investing in disaster prevention and preparedness (**Room M 135** – 1st floor of the Mare building) • **Class 3** - Cyber security incidents, blackouts, and energy disruptions as emerging disasters requiring private-public cooperation (**Room S 233** – 2nd floor of the Silva building) • **Class 4** - Leveraging open-source data in crisis management (**Room M 226** – 2nd floor of the Mare building) • **Class 5** - EU beyond its borders - Preparedness and response in the face of climate-related disasters (**Room M 136** - 1st floor of the Mare building) • **Class 6**- The multiple uses of artificial intelligence (AI) in disaster risk management (**Room S 243** - 2nd floor of the Silva building)

	• **Class 7** - Preparedness and resilience for managing the systemic risk of compounding disasters and hybrid threats (**Room M 227** – 2nd floor of the Mare building) • **Class 8** - Cascading impacts with foresight (**Room M 224** – 2nd floor of the Mare building)
11.45-14.30	**Final exercise** *(including lunch which will be served from 12.30-13.30)* **Palsinski scenario** – Room A 046 (basement floor of ASTRA building) **Arganil Scenario** – *room* M-225 Eerik-Juhan Truuväli auditorium
Afternoon session	
14.30-15.30	**Conclusions from the exercise and discussion,** *Tallinn Hall room M 218 (MARE building)* ***Chair**: Prof. Andrea de Guttry, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna* ***Closing words*** ***Chair**:* Tiina Pajuste, Professor of International Law and Security Studies and Vice-Rector for Research, Tallinn University • Interactive session, DG ECHO • Tiina Pajuste, Professor of International Law and Security Studies and Vice-Rector for Research, Tallinn University • Erwan Marteil, Head of Unit for Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO) of the European Commission B.3-Prevention and Preparedness Capacity Building
15.30	**Departure of participants**
19.00	**Dinner for participants who will depart on 29 May, at the ParkInn hotel**