ESTAG list of experts, 2022-23

NATIONAL EXPERTS:

1. **Armenia**: Dr. Lilit Gevorgyan, Researcher at the Institute of Geological Sciences at the Armenian National Academy
2. **Austria:** Mr. Christian Resch, Managing Director Disaster Competence Network Austria
3. **Belgium**: Prof. Debarati Guha-Sapir, Professor at University of Louvain, School of Public Health.
4. **Croatia:** Dr. Svonko Sigmund, Teaching assistant, University of Zagreb
5. **France:** Prof. Myriam Merad, National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), France
6. **Germany**: Prof. Reimund Schwarze, Head of Climate Change and Extreme Events RG, Leipzig
7. **Italy:** Professor Fausto Guzzetti. Head of the DPC Office for technical and scientific activities for risk forecasting and prevention.
8. **Israel**: Dr. Alexander Altshuler, Head of the Research and Development Department at the Israel National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA)
9. **Montenegro**: Dr Nina Serdar, Assistant professor at the Faculty of Civil Engineering University of Montenegro, scientific-research expert in Earthquake Engineering and Seismic risk assessment
10. **Russian Federation**: Dr. Elena Arefyeva, Chief researcher of the All-Russian Research Institute for Civil Defense
11. **Slovenia**: Dr. Blaz Komac, Head of Department of Natural Hazards at the Anton Melik Geographical Institute
12. **Spain:** Dr. Urbano Fra Paleo, Professor in Human Geography at the University of Extremadura
13. **Sweden**: Dr. Jorgen Sparf, Department of Social Sciences of the Mid Sweden University
14. **United Kingdom**: Prof. Mark Pelling, Professor in Geography at the King's College of London

THEMATIC EXPERTS:

1. **Disaster Risk Management**: Prof. Dilanthi Amaratunga, Global Disaster Resilience Center, University of Huddersfield
2. **Multi-hazard risk assessment, climate risk assessment**: Dr Jaroslav Mysiak, Director of the Risk Assessment and Adaptation Strategies division of the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change.
3. **Risk modelling, wild fires**: Dr. Jean Louis Rossi, Professor and coordinator of the risk modeling research group part of the project "Fire" of the University of Corte
4. **Data Management**: Mr. Massimo Migliorini, data interoperability expert
5. **Earth Observation & GIS:** Prof. Alexander Siegmund, Professor of Physical Geography and its Didactics at the Heidelberg University of Education and Honorary Professor of Geography at the University of Heidelberg

6. **Liaison with JRC**: Mr Ian Clarke
7. **Young scientists:** Cecilia Skarne, Dr. Signe Mikulane

ESTAG members' biographies

Dr. Lilit Gevorgyan is a researcher at the Institute of Geological Sciences of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences. She holds a PhD in risk and emergency management and MSc in mathematics with research interests in socio-economic vulnerability analysis. Her research aimed at studying spatial links between Socio-economic developments and Ecosystem Services and built a Human-Environment Systems Vulnerability Index to floods.

Mr. Christian Resch is managing director of Disaster Competence Network Austria. He graduated the military academy with a Master's Degree in CBRN defense and accomplished numerous assignments in humanitarian aid and disaster response within the framework of the United Nations and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. For the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defense, he works as CBRN research and development manager. He further holds a Master of Engineering in Process and Plant Safety and is currently completing a PhD, addressing performance parameters in emergency management of major accident hazard sites.

Prof. Debarati Guha-Sapir is professor of Epidemiology at the University of Louvain Institute of Health and Society (IRSS). She studied in Johns Hopkins University and finished her doctoral degree in Louvain School of Public Health. Debarati is specialized in natural disasters and civil conflict as well as their impact on human populations. She is currently working on heatwaves in Europe and neighboring countries as well as climate disasters in South Asia. Debarati is also fully engaged in strengthening evidence based policy for disaster preparedness. She and her team maintain the international database EMDAT for 184 countries in the world. She is of Indian origin and remains closely connected professionally to her country of birth.

	Dr. Zvonko Sigmund is Teaching Assistant at the University of Zagreb Faculty of Civil Engineering. Dr. Sigmund has developed seismic disaster risk reduction investment planning model for the built heritage. His research was set the basis for the quick seismic risk assessment implemented in the risk assessment of the City of Zagreb. Zvonko was also involved in the National Risk Assessment and is a part of Croatian Civil Protection MUSAR team. His research interests amongst others are Seismic Safety of the Built Environment, Public Policy, Built Heritage Protection, Feasibility and Sustainability in DRR Preventive Measures.
	Prof. Myriam Merad is a Civil engineer. She obtained a Master of Business Administration, a Master in scientific methods in management science, a PhD in Management Sciences (Decision-aiding), and a HDR (high-level specialization university-granted and higher education-sanctioned degree obtained post PhD). Her fields of expertise are in risk, resilience and sustainability governance and decision analysis in safety, security and health-environment. Myriam contributed to European Union and French research programmes in risk governance and to research programmes in the field of Technological Risk Prevention. Myriam is part of the French National Center for Scientific Research as research Director/Professor. She chaired the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety working group.
	Prof. Reimund Schwarze is the Head of the Climate Change and Extreme Events RG, at the Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, Leipzig. Prof. Schwarze is also a scientific advisor of the German National Authorities responsible for disaster risk reduction, DKKV. Prof. Schwarze is specialized in the fields of economics and finance of DRR.
	Fausto Guzzetti, geologist, senior research scientist on leave from the Italian National Research Council (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – CNR). I currently coordinate the Office for technical & scientific activities for risk prediction and prevention of the Italian National Civil Protection Department, of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. I have always been interested in natural hazards, geological and geo-hydrological in particular, for which I have developed innovative predictive models, including operational model for hazard forecasting and to assess the risk to the Italian population. I have worked on geo-hydrological risk perception, and on the design of mitigation and adaptation strategies to cope with the ongoing and the projected climate and environmental changes. My research

	interests have led me to reflect on ethical issues related to the research on natural hazards.
	Dr. Alex Altshuler is the Founding Director of Research and Development at Israel National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA). He has been leading the national strategic development of research in emergency management and disaster risk reduction. Alex was awarded Fulbright Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Harvard University and currently serves as a Senior Non-Resident Fellow with the Program on Crisis Leadership at Harvard Kennedy School. Alex was awarded dozens of academic prizes and fellowships and published dozens of academic papers dealing with individual, organizational, community, national and international aspects of emergency management and disaster risk reduction.
	Dr Nina Serdar, PhD in Civil Engineering Assistant professor at the Faculty of Civil Engineering University of Montenegro, scientific-research expert in Earthquake Engineering and Seismic risk assessment
	Dr. Elena Arefyeva is Chief researcher of the All-Russian Research Institute for Civil Defense and Emergencies of the Ministry of Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (Emercom of Russia). Dr. Arefyeva has background education in applied mathematics with a specialization in the prevention of emergency situations, floods, and built environment. She worked on the development of disaster related indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals and also participated in the recent intergovernmental consultations and regional conferences on DRR and implementation of the Sendai Framework.

	Dr. Blaz Komac is Head of the Department of Natural Hazards at the ZRC SAZU Anton Melik Geographical Institute. He is specialized in the geography of natural hazards and geographical information systems. Blaž serves as editor-in-chief of the journal Acta Geographica Slovenica and Ujma, a national journal on natural and other hazards. Recently, he has been involved in research in the fields of avalanches and paleoclimate. He co-organizes the National conference on natural hazards every three years.
	Prof. Urbano Fra. Paleo is Professor in Human Geography at the University of Extremadura in Spain. He is Visiting Professor at the University for Peace (UPEACE), Costa Rica. He is member of the DRR Thematic Group, Commission on Ecosystem Management, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Senior Research Fellow of the Earth System Governance Project, and Associate Member of the International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP) of ICOMOS. His research interests lie in risk governance, an on the analysis of strategies of mitigation and adaptation to risk from natural hazards.
	Dr Jörgen Sparf is an Associate Professor in sociology, a founding member of the Risk and Crisis Research Center at Mid Sweden University and director of the immersive environment RCR Simulation Lab. His research is based on relational aspects of institutions and organizations, which he applies in the empirical field of societal resilience and disaster risk reduction. Some of Jörgen's core topics are policy theory, science-policy relations, trust, and social network analysis.
	Prof. Mark Pelling is specialised in geography at the King's College of London, and member of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. Prof. Pelling holds a PhD in geography and background education in marine resource management. In 2015, he received the Burtoni Award for outstanding achievements in adaptation research, as a result of his work on climate change. He is an author of the UNISDR Global Assessment Reports since 2010 and a regular contributor to the World Bank's initiatives on climate change.

Prof. Dilanthi Amaratunga is Professor of Disaster Risk Management at the University of Huddersfield, UK. She leads the Global Disaster Resilience Center at the University of Huddersfield, UK. She is the Editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment. Her research interests include: Socio-economic measures for disaster risks; Built environment dimensions of climate change and sustainability; Gender and protection; and Public policy. She has project managed to successful completion a large number of international research projects, generating significant research outputs and outcomes. She is recognised for her career-long impact up until 2020, and is placed among the global top 2% of influential scientists, according to the report of "Composite Citation Metrics" by Elsevier BV Netherlands and Stanford University, USA, released in August 2021. Full details of Dilanthi's publications, projects, and national and international activities can be found at www.dilanthiamaratunga.net . Dilanthi can be contacted via d.amaratunga@hud.ac.uk.

Dr Jaroslav Mysiak is the director of the Risk Assessment and Adaptation Strategies division of the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change. He is a member of the Scientific Committee of the European Environmental Agency (EEA), a member of the UNFCCC Expert Group on slow-onset event (SOE), and a former member and rapporteur of the EC Horizon Europe's Mission Board on Climate adaptation and Societal Transformation (2019-2021). He is also a member of the Technical Expert Network on Catastrophe Risks of the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA), the INFORM Global Risk consortium, the Ecosystems for Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction network, and the EEA's Topic Centre on Climate Change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. His research focuses on risk assessment and governance, including behavioural responses to risks and risk-reduction measures, risk perception and transformational social change, environmental economics, sustainable finance, climate adaptation and services

Dr. Jean Louis Rossi teaches at the University of Corte (France), where he worked on the project "wild fires". Prof. Rossi is specialized in risk modeling and decision-making tools. He was previously member of the scientific committee of the Regional Park of Corsica. He holds a PhD in physical sciences, focusing on underwater acoustics. Prof. Rossi led several projects in collaboration with the European Commission, as well as US, Portuguese and French local authorities about fire risk modeling. He is the author of "Le risque incendie", 2012.

	Mr. Massimo Migliorini is a data management expert working since 2005 in disaster management field, focusing on risk and impact assessments & methodologies for strategic infrastructures (including cross-border contexts). He coordinated a European project about new approaches of data management and sharing to support emergency operators in disaster risks understanding, with particular attention on cultural heritage protection. He participated in several international projects in defining innovative intervention protocols, focusing on data management, digitalization and transboundary data sharing.
	Prof. Dr. Alexander Siegmund is professor of Physical Geography and chair holder of the UNESCO Chair on Observation and Education of World Heritage and Biosphere Reserve at the Heidelberg University of Education. There he is managing director of the Heidelberg Center Education for Sustainable Development (ESF). In addition he is honoray professor and founding member of the Heidelberg Center for the Environment (HCE) at the University of Heidelberg. He fosters the use of modern geo-technologies in environmental and sustainability research and ESD. His research focuses on regional climate and climate change, geo1ecology, environmental monitoring & modelling, applied remote sensing & GIS, and environmental & geo-education.
	Ian Clark worked on disaster risk management for the European Commission between 2010 and 2018 both on the policy side (Civil Protection) and on the research/policy interface (JRC). In October 2018 he retired from the European Commission and signed an agreement to be an Active Senior supporting the work of the JRC on Disaster Risk Management.
	Cecilia Louise Skarne grew up on the Canary Islands (Spain), and is fluent in German, English and Spanish. After graduating from the University of York with a BSc Environment, Ecology and Economics, she attended University College London for a MSc Risk, Disaster and Resilience. Much of her experience is research-based and builds upon integrating several knowledge types (e.g., western with local and indigenous knowledge) across disciplines to inform policy design. Key areas of expertise include: natural and

	anthropogenic hazards, community vulnerability, climate change adaptation (incl. eco-DRR) and environmental displacement.
	Dr. Signe Mikulane: Research associate at the BIM Institute at Bochum University of Applied Sciences, Germany. Previously, Research associate, Department of Geography, University of Education, Heidelberg, Germany. Through my position as a research associate at the research group of earth observation at the department of geography of the Heidelberg University of Education, I have also a background in climate change adaption research. PhD thesis (2019): Degradation risks of tropical forest ecosystems - Multifactorial remote sensing and GIS-based modeling of landscape vulnerability. Implemented using the case study of São Tomé. Diploma thesis: Soil investigations on Fogo (Cape Verde) with regard to pedological vulnerability. Diploma studies at Heidelberg University (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg): Geography (major subject) with secondary subjects Geosciences (specialization Geology-Paleontology) and Ethnology.