

ANDROID

DISASTER  
RESILIENCE  
NETWORK

# Exchange

Volume 1 Issue 1

## Launch issue of ANDROID Exchange

The newsletter of the ANDROID  
Disaster Resilience Network

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## About ANDROID

ANDROID is an Erasmus academic network. It aims to promote co-operation and innovation among European Higher Education to increase society's resilience to disasters of human and natural origin. The network's teaching and research is concerned with what resilience is, what it means to society, and how societies might achieve greater resilience in the face of increasing threats from natural and human induced hazards. The network will create a European approach that will help us understand the attributes that enable physical, socio-cultural, politico-economic and natural systems to adapt, by resistance or changing, in order to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning. The network will also raise awareness and promote a common understanding among stakeholders of the importance of disaster resilience education and the essential role of European HEIs in improving society's ability to increase disaster resilience.

Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga  
Dr Richard Haigh  
Centre for Disaster Resilience  
University of Salford  
Salford  
Greater Manchester M5 4WT  
United Kingdom

Tel. +44 (0) 161 295 4600  
Fax. +44 (0) 161 295 5011  
e-mail: android@disaster-resilience.net  
website: www.disaster-resilience.net

University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

## Editorial

Welcome to the opening issue of ANDROID Exchange, a regular newsletter of the ANDROID Disaster Resilience Network, a new global inter-disciplinary consortium that seeks to promote co-operation and innovation, and increase society's resilience to disasters of human and natural origin. ANDROID is supported by a grant obtained from the EU Lifelong Learning Programme, under the Erasmus networks action.

ANDROID brings together inter-disciplinary scientists and inter-sectorial partners based at European higher education institutes, local and national government, and international organisations. The partners, sixty-seven at the network's inception, will work together to deliver a challenging programme of activities. The network has representatives from thirty-one countries, twenty-eight in the EU, as well as organisations from Australia, Canada and Sri Lanka.

ANDROID is concerned with what resilience is, what it means to society, and how society might achieve greater resilience in the face of increasing threats from natural and human induced hazards.

This opening issue of ANDROID Exchange begins with a more in-depth look into the ANDROID Network, including some of the planned studies, events and publications. A second article highlights the Network's links to a major United Nations campaign on Making Cities Resilient. In common with future issues, there is also a section on related news and events.

We very much hope you enjoy this opening issue. However, if the ANDROID Disaster Resilience Network is to achieve its goal and provide an opportunity for people to share knowledge and experience, it will be vital for its readers to contribute relevant articles. ANDROID Exchange is written by the ANDROID membership for the ANDROID membership, and also for other readers working with national and international NGOs, UN agencies, government and donor institutions, academics, and independent consultants.

We, the Editors of ANDROID Exchange, welcome contributions from ANDROID Members and Associate Members. We are also pleased to consider articles submitted by anyone involved in some way in increasing societal resilience to disasters. If you have knowledge and experience to share, please consider making a contribution. For further information on how to contribute to future issues, refer to the section Write for ANDROID Exchange at the end of this issue.



Dr Richard Haigh & Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga  
Centre for Disaster Resilience, University of Salford, UK

## ANDROID In-Depth

The term resilience has been widely adopted in research, policy and practice to describe the way in which they would like to reduce society's susceptibility to the threat posed by hazards. Resilience has also been used freely across a range of academic disciplines, including materials, ecology, economics and sociology. Increasingly people are aware that while change is sometimes gradual and that things can move forward in continuous and predictable ways, change can also be sudden, disorganising and turbulent. Resilience provides better understanding of how society should respond to disruptive events and accommodate change. The complex nature of disasters has led to recognition that risk reduction through increased resilience will require a strategy that is inter-disciplinary. True inter-disciplinarity only occurs where a number of separate disciplines surrender their own concepts and goals, and collectively define themselves by reference to a common set of strategic concepts and goals. The ANDROID Disaster Resilience network will help us understand the attributes that enable physical, socio-cultural, politico-economic and natural systems to adapt, by resistance or changing, in order to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning.

In order to achieve this aim, ANDROID will promote discourse among European applied, human, social and natural scientists to pool their results and findings, discuss methods and develop inter-disciplinary explanations that increase society's resilience to disasters. The partners will also seek to describe, analyse, and compare the capacity of European cities and higher education to address disaster risk, and thereby reinforce the link between education and society.

The network has an ambitious work programme set out over three years. At its heart, a virtual network platform will be developed to help manage and coordinate partners. The network will undertake a number of survey exercises aimed at capturing and sharing innovative approaches to inter-disciplinary working, surveying European education to map programmes in disaster resilience, and analyse the capacity of European public administrators to address disaster risk. Special interest groups will be established to address emerging concerns, while an inter-disciplinary doctoral school will help to develop the long-term capacity of society to address them. Research and teaching resources that are developed through such activities will be hosted as open educational resources, making them freely available both inside and outside the network.

Although the network is Euro-centric in its partnership, including sixty four partners from twenty eight EU states, the network also includes three 'third country' partners: RMIT University Australia, University of Moratuwa Sri Lanka and University of Calgary Canada. This will enable the network to develop strategic linkages outside the EU and promote mutually beneficial exchanges.

Major network meetings that bring all the partners together will be held annually, with the first due to be held in Tallinn, Estonia later this year. Look out for future issues of ANDROID Exchange that will include further news about this and other events linked to the network.



**Above:** People displaced by the 2005 Kashmir earthquake, Pakistan. The earthquake registered a magnitude of 7.6 and the government of Pakistan's official death toll was 75,000.

# ANDROID partnership

## European partners

### Austria

University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences

### Bulgaria

Mining and Geology University

### Republic of Croatia

University of Split  
Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts

### Cyprus

Fredrick University  
Cyprus Meteorological Service

### Czech Republic

VSB-Technical University of Ostrava  
Czech Technical University

### Denmark

IT University of Copenhagen  
Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland  
Technical University of Denmark

### Estonia

Tallinn University of Technology

### Finland

Tampere University of Technology

### France

Grenoble Institute of Technology

### Germany

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  
Freie University of Berlin  
United Nations University  
Institute of Socioeconomic and Cultural International Analysis

### Greece

University of Thessaly  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

### Iceland

University of Iceland

### Ireland

National University of Ireland

### Italy

Catholic University of Sacred Heart Milan  
University of Tuscia  
Global Risk Forum GRF Davos  
Politecnico di Milano University  
Italian National Agency for New Technologies  
University of Ferrara

### Latvia

Riga Technical University

### Lithuania

Vilnius Gediminas Technical University

### Malta

University of Malta

### The Netherlands

Deltares  
Radboud University Nijmegen  
Utrecht University

### Norway

Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research  
Norwegian Geotechnical Institute

### Poland

Rzeszow University of Technology  
Adam Mickiewicz University

### Portugal

University of Aveiro  
Technical University of Lisbon  
University of Coimbra  
National Laboratory for Civil Engineering

### Romania

Technical University of Civil Engineering of Romania  
University of Architecture and Urban Planning

### Slovenia

University of Ljubljana  
City of Ljubljana, Municipal Administration

### Spain

Polytechnic University of Catalonia  
Institute of Geomatics

### Sweden

Lund University  
Mid Sweden University

### Switzerland

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction  
WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

### Turkey

Bosphorus University  
Firat University

### United Kingdom

Northumbria University  
Queen's University Belfast  
Heriot Watt University  
Oxford Brookes University  
University of Brighton  
Kingston University  
Liverpool John Moores University  
University of Salford

## Global partners

Australia  
RMIT University

Canada  
University of Calgary

Sri Lanka  
University of Moratuwa



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## ANDROID work programme

- The **ANDROID virtual network** will form a virtual hub for the project. Using Joomla, a free and open-source content management platform, the virtual network will provide a broad range of functionality that will facilitate administration and coordination across partner institutions: collaboration and communication tools; information handling and exchange; project management tools; data collection tools; and, intra-network dissemination.
- The **Doctoral School** will be a fully coordinated, innovative, and international interdisciplinary doctoral teaching and research programme focused on the most salient issues and features shaping society's ability to tackle the challenges posed by natural and human induced hazards. The Doctoral School will provide complementary and innovative research training programmes aimed at honing the students' skill set, and will draw on the wide disciplinary base of the network's partners to promote inter-disciplinary working for doctoral students.
- A pan-European survey will identify, collate and disseminate **good practices for inter-disciplinary working in research and teaching** that explores what resilience is, what it means to society, and how societies might achieve greater resilience in the face of increasing threats from natural and human induced hazards.
- The **inventory of European disaster resilience education** will describe, analyse, and compare disaster resilience related education programmes in order to establish existing capacity among European HEIs to address the threat posed by hazards of natural and human origin.
- A survey will assess the **capacity of local government's public administrators in European urban areas** to address disaster risk.
- The network's **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**, which represent the particular research and teaching concerns of groups of members, will define a scope and work plan, organise seminars, contribute to the network newsletter, and communicate regularly through the Virtual Network. Each SIG will be expected to contribute to a report on future research directions in disaster resilience research, and the implications for education.
- An **Open Educational Resources (OER) platform** will host digitised materials offered freely and openly for educators, students and self-learners to use and reuse for teaching, learning and research.
- A series of **annual conferences** across Europe will bring together Network members, lecturers and researchers in universities and other higher education institutions with an interest in disaster resilience, as well as those in NGOs and policy fields.



# Network News

## Inaugural meeting of the Network Board

In May members of the Network Board met in Brussels, Belgium to make detailed plans for the implementation of the planned work packages. The Network Board comprises all work package leaders, as well as the network secretariat. The Board will meet periodically during the initial 3 year programme of activities.

The network board is responsible for ensuring that the network will deliver its planned outputs and achieve its intended outcomes. It will plan and monitor the activities associated with each work package, define and enforce quality standards, and report to other partners through ANDROID Exchange and the virtual network.

In future issues of ANDROID Exchange, work package leaders will provide updates on the surveys, conferences, events, publications, and special interest groups that will be implemented through the network. Leaders will be encouraging the membership to engage in these activities.



# Upcoming Events

## ANDROID Conference Tallinn, Estonia

The first annual ANDROID network conference will be held in Tallinn, Estonia and include a varied programme of workshops, round tables, special interest group meetings, WP working group meetings, and plenary addresses. As the first major network conference, the programme will encourage WP Leaders and their working groups to refine objectives and prepare detailed delivery plans. Further information will be included in the next issue of ANDROID Exchange.

## 4th International Disaster and Risk Conference Davos, Switzerland

The 4th International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2012, "Integrative Risk Management in a Changing World - Pathways to a Resilient Society" will be held in Davos, Switzerland on 26 -30 August. For further details see: [www.idrc.info](http://www.idrc.info).

## Southern Africa Society for Disaster Reduction Potchefstroom, South Africa

The Southern Africa Society for Disaster Reduction 1st Biennial Conference will be held at North-West University Potchefstroom, South Africa from 10 - 12 October. For further information see: [www.acds.co.za](http://www.acds.co.za).

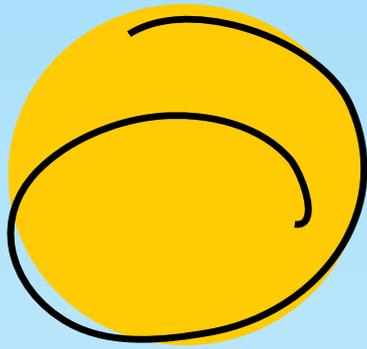




International Strategy for Disaster Reduction



United Nations



# Making Cities Resilient

My City is Getting Ready

2010-2011 World Disaster Reduction Campaign

# ANDROID and the UNISDR 'Making Cities Resilient' campaign

The ANDROID Disaster Resilience Network has strong links to a global campaign that aims to make cities more resilient to disasters. UNISDR, coordinator of the 'Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready' campaign, is a partner organisation of ANDROID and helped to develop the original proposal to establish the network. In the years ahead, the ANDROID network will work closely with the campaign to ensure that it engages with relevant stakeholders.

In a bid to strengthen our readiness to reduce disaster impacts, on 30 May 2010 in Bonn, Germany, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) launched a campaign to raise awareness and boost commitment for sustainable development practices that will increase a city's well-being and safety. With an initial two-year campaign, 'Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready', urged leaders and local governments to commit to a checklist of Ten Essentials that would make their cities more resilient.

UNISDR, the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), was identified as the overall coordinator of the campaign. However, local, regional and international partners, as well as participating cities and local governments, were seen as the main drivers of the initiative. "Cities all over the world are looking for the best possible options for the future of their citizens and economies," said Mayor Jürgen Nimptsch of Bonn, Germany. "The way to secure this future is through resilience. The more cities and citizens that are prepared, the greater the chances are for disaster reduction."

Nimptsch, as well as leaders from five other cities – Mexico City, Mexico; Saint Louis, Senegal; Karlstad, Sweden; Larreynaga-Malpaisillo, Nicaragua; and Albay, the Philippines – were the first to sign up and commit to one or more of the Ten Essentials at the campaign launch. At the time, the stated aim of the campaign – to enlist over 1,000 local government leaders worldwide to invest more in disaster risk reduction – seemed remote.

However, by April 2012, nearly two years after the launch, 1019 cities had signed up to the campaign. The campaign website (see: [www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/cities](http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/cities)) provides details of those cities. It has also been announced that with the support and recommendation of many partners and participants, and a Mayors Statement made during the 2011 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Making Cities Resilient campaign will carry on beyond 2015. The required investment in disaster risk reduction will take time, even for those cities that have committed to the campaign, and in doing so to improving urban planning, infrastructure and building safety; reinforcing drainage systems to reduce flood, storm and health threats; installing early warning systems; conducting public preparedness drills; and taking measures to adapt to the increasing impacts of climate change.

Based on the success and stock-taking by partners and participating cities in the first phase, the campaign will continue and shift its focus to more implementation support, city-to-city learning and cooperation, local action planning and monitoring of progress in cities. In addition, the campaign will continue to

advocate widespread commitment by local governments to build resilience to disasters and increased support by national governments to cities for the purpose of strengthening local capacities.

This need for on-going capacity building and implementation support closely aligns with the aim of ANDROID: to promote co-operation and innovation to increase society's resilience to disasters of human and natural origin. The network's teaching and research is concerned with what resilience is, what it means to society, and how societies might achieve greater resilience in the face of increasing threats from natural and human induced hazards.

The ANDROID partners will work closely with UNISDR to ensure that the activities of the network have a sustained impact on the target groups and achieve the intended outcomes. These target groups include policy makers, local authorities and other linked stakeholders. A Stakeholder Board will be appointed to assist the network in realising this objective. The team will attempt to identify and exploit the network partners' and stakeholder board's relationship capital to extend ANDROID's reach and impact, and ensure that the network's activities and outputs are accessible to relevant target groups. For example, a dedicated seminar series to disseminate the European Roadmap for disaster resilience education in disaster resilience, targeted at public administrators and other stakeholders engaged in increased societal resilience, is to be organised in conjunction with UNISDR, with a view to transferring knowledge and impacting policy. The ANDROID partners will also be engaged to support cities in implementing the checklist of Ten Essentials that will make their cities more resilient.

Future issues of ANDROID Exchange will contain updates on how the network is engaging with the campaign.

## Interested in knowing more about the 2010-15 World Disaster Reduction Campaign?

Find all the relevant info at:  
[www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/](http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/)

As you read through the website, you will get to know what the campaign is about, what the aims and goals are and how to get involved.

# Write for ANDROID Exchange

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We, the Editors of ANDROID Exchange, welcome contributions from ANDROID Members and Associate Members. We are also pleased to consider articles submitted by anyone involved in some way in increasing societal resilience to disasters. If you have knowledge and experience to share, please consider making a contribution.

The scope of contributions should be consistent with the aims of ANDROID. The network's teaching and research is concerned with what resilience is, what it means to society, and how societies might achieve greater resilience in the face of increasing threats from natural and human induced hazards. Typically, we welcome contributions in the following categories (word counts are advisory):

- News and reports from activities and events linked to the Network (100 - 500 words)
- Reports on developments in the field / projects that are being investigated by partners – these do not have to be activities directly linked to the Network, but should be relevant to Network members (100 - 500 words)
- Useful Resources – relevant publications, websites (up to 20 - 40 words)
- Upcoming events (20 words)

We welcome suggestions for alternative types / styles of contribution. If you have an idea for an article that you would like to develop, the Editors would be pleased to discuss it with you - send an email to [android@disaster-resilience.net](mailto:android@disaster-resilience.net).

The Editors reserve the right to edit any contribution.

This edition of ANDROID exchange was edited by Dr Richard Haigh.

ANDROID Disaster Resilience Network  
Centre for Disaster Resilience  
University of Salford  
Salford  
Greater Manchester M5 4WT  
United Kingdom

Tel. +44 (0) 161 295 4600  
Fax. +44 (0) 161 295 5011  
e-mail: [android@disaster-resilience.net](mailto:android@disaster-resilience.net)  
website: [www.disaster-resilience.net](http://www.disaster-resilience.net)