

## **8th International Conference on Building Resilience**

### **Risk and Resilience in practice: Vulnerabilities, Displaced People, Local Communities and Heritages**

Date: November 14-16, 2018 Location:

Lisbon, Portugal

Venue: ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa

The 8th International Conference on Building Resilience (ICBR) – Risk and Resilience in practice: Vulnerabilities, Displaced People, Local Communities and Heritages – is the result of a joint organization of the University of Lisbon, the University of Coimbra, Portugal and the Global Disaster Resilience Centre at the University of Huddersfield, UK, in association with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

Risk and Resilience are focal concepts in the international agenda. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the World Humanitarian Summit expressed global goals and priorities, providing key documents that set the pace and path of both risk and resilience research and practice for the years to come. The 8<sup>th</sup> ICBR aims to be a stimulating arena for sharing and discussion of risk and resilience theoretical and governance referential in the light of the ideas that are shaping our common future, developing innovative tools and best practices in reducing risk and building resilience.

The science community, the private sector, the NGOs, policy makers and practitioners from multi-level and multi-sector domains related to risk governance and action are invited to participate, bringing their knowledge, concerns and expectations in regard to the cross-application of social, financial, technological, design, engineer and nature-based approaches that try to address the higher-and-rising global priorities set in those referential. The 2018 edition of the ICBR invites to a special focus on strengthening the global knowledge base on vulnerability, forced displaced people, local communities, particularly those living in informal areas and disaster-prone rural environments, as well as heritages at risk, namely cultural landscapes, old settlements, vernacular architecture, monuments as well as intangible assets comprising the set of ideas,

practices, beliefs, traditions and values that create a group's cultural identity

The planned side events – doctoral school, pre-event seminars, thematic sessions, best paper, poster and projects competitions, as well as the technical visits and resilient tours – will gather the insight of prominent academics and practitioners along with the refreshing inputs of the youngest involved in cutting-edge research. Exceptional sessions will provide opportunity to discuss timely hazards and events (e.g. the displacement and relocation of Syrian refugees and so many other populations across the world involved in war conflicts or ethnic, political religious persecutions, the Portuguese bushfires, the floods in the Pacific area, hurricanes in the Caribe and the USA, earthquakes in Nepal, Italy, Mexico Iran and Iraq) that challenge the scientific

community to assist communities, local and national governments with new and perfected concepts, techniques and instruments.

Finally, the 8th ICBR is the opportunity to scale up successful local experiences in reducing risk and building resilience as well as learning from the failures, drawbacks and limitations of methods employed on multilevel interventions (eg. local community approaches, disaster preparedness, post-disaster rebuilding and assessment, temporary housing, resettlement processes and heritage conservation). In the end, by reviewing old and new issues, the meeting is supposed to step towards both the rise of different problematics and the answers to a set of questions, such as:

- Is the scientific community willing and able to have a real impact on societies in order to make them fully aware and prepared to take advantage of the opportunities made available by recent technological advances in the acquisition, monitoring, computing, and sharing of data?
- Risk and Resilience metrics and modeling are challenging domains, crucial for the intervention of both the public and private sector. How can those topics inform authorities and all the players involved in risk management and building resilience?
- Business continuity is vital for recovery process; in which ways the relationship between academia and business, community representatives and institutions should be deepen in order to make cross-links readily achievable and sustainable economic recovery succeed?
- What is the role of post-disaster assessments in regard to the pre-existing risk governance frameworks? How can they strengthen the global knowledge basis for the improvement of disaster risk reduction policies and practices?
- Past experiences related with earthquakes (e.g., Nepal) and forest fires (e.g., Portugal) raised the question of the need of implementing both Technological (for the traditional constructions system) and Nature-Based solutions (for the forest management and self-protection of rural areas). Which methods and models can academia provide to respond consistently and on time to these needs in order to gain stakeholders' recognition? And which framework (institutional or informal, instead?) should be built to ensure that academia will have the appropriate conditions to play this role efficiently?