

RISKNET

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Erasmus+ project "**Risk and Security Governance Studies within Baltic-Nordic Academic Community of Practice**" is aiming at enhancing risk and security governance capacities in the Baltic-Nordic region via the development of the Academic Community of Practices (network) in Risk and Security Governance and the interdisciplinary educational methodology based on digitalization of learning, teaching and training.

PARTNERS

Kaunas University of Technology (project leader)
The General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania
Mid Sweden University
University of Jyväskylä
University of Stavanger
Tallinn University of Technology



International project team works devotedly to reach the following objectives:

- to exchange know-how and expertise in Risk and Security Governance via strategic partnerships of Baltic-Nordic academic communities;
- to develop interdisciplinary curriculum on risk and security studies that will be integrated in the study and training programmes of the Baltic-Nordic academic institutions;
- to establish learning infrastructure using advanced and innovative learning and teaching technologies;
- to enhance awareness and competences in risk and security governance of various stakeholders and professional groups to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the potential effects of all types of disasters and emergencies.



Transnational project meeting in Kaunas University of Technology, 15-16 June 2017

Various activities are being implemented throughout the project: three short- and long-term Learning/Teaching/Training events, three Multiplier events, five Transnational Partner Meetings took place so far.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Project Panel Discussion at the International Conference in Espoo



Risk-net project organized a panel discussion at the Society for Risk Analysis Nordic chapter (SRA-N) conference “Risk and Security” in Espoo, Finland, on **3rd November 2017**. The title of the panel was **“Challenges and Opportunities of Interdisciplinarity in Risk studies and Risk Research”**. The panel ensemble was interdisciplinary and international: Mark Burgman (Professor and Head of Department, Centre for Environmental

Policy, Imperial College London, UK), Sissel Haugdal Jore (Centre leader and Associate Professor, SEROS – Centre for risk management and societal safety, University of Stavanger, Norway), Aušrius Juozapavičius (Associate professor, Military Academy of Lithuania (LKA), Vilnius, Lithuania), Marja Järvelä (Professor Emerita (Social and Public Policy), University of Jyväskylä, Member of FCCP, Finland), Tapio Litmanen (Professor (Sociology), University of Jyväskylä, Finland), and Ullrika Sahlin (Centre for Environmental and Climate Research, Lund University, Sweden). Senior researcher in Sociology Aiste Balzekiene from Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania, moderated the panel. The audience of about 50 people had the opportunity to comment and ask questions.

The discussion was formed around four themes: Interdisciplinarity in research and/or field of expertise; Interdisciplinary risk studies; Integration of practice into research and studies; Risk studies as a field in research and studies.

Interdisciplinarity in research was viewed as challenging for various reasons. It was suggested that interdisciplinary research may take more time and that quality aspects need special attention. In addition, domination of one research field/methodology might become an issue in collaborating with people possibly promoting their individual approaches. Interdisciplinary groups and research may find it difficult to set up a place within organization (universities are not ready for this). Publishing may be a challenge as well for instance in journals focused on specific fields/disciplines. The panel suggests that interdisciplinary work requires dealing with philosophy of science.

While it was maintained that it is important to respect research traditions, and that in traditional disciplinary fields it may be easier to publish work as well as to operate in the university system, risks as complex phenomena may require interdisciplinary, multi-disciplinary, and/or trans-disciplinary knowledge. Interdisciplinarity is also strived for by EU and pushed forward by funding institutions. It may be seen as having the target of making an impact on society and to solve complex societal problems. Despite difficulties in publishing, interdisciplinary approaches may give a bigger arena to present results.

The panel also posed and discussed some further questions: Can interdisciplinarity develop new disciplines? Is risk analysis a new discipline? Does it lack unique methodology?

In the end, although Interdisciplinarity is promoted by various actors and popular in research and in studies as well, for a post-disciplinary era to be realized still seems a long way ahead.



Massive Open Online Course “RISK COMMUNICATION”



RISK-NET project team launched MOOC “Risk communication”, based on the project materials and aimed at broader audience of students, practitioners and general public. The course provided with practical tips, hands-on tools and the most recent examples for the effective risk communication. MOOC included these topics:

- Identifying different types of risks in contemporary world;
- Understanding cross-cultural differences in risk communication;
- Using different design strategies for risk messages;
- Using infographics and maps for visualizing risks;
- Using social media for risk communication

Course lasted for 8 weeks, **from October to December 2017** and was taught by The RISK-NET team members from Kaunas University of Technology and Military Academy of Lithuania. It was a self-paced course, which gave the chance for all the participants to create their own schedule and receive a certificate. The course was listed in such portals as OpenEducationEuropa.eu and Mooc-List.com. During this period, many people showed their interest in risk communication. 439 users from countries like Germany, Finland, Romania, Nigeria, Ethiopia, United States, Kenya, Norway etc. were enrolled in this course.

During the course participants were provided with video lectures, study materials, quizzes, practical assignments, discussion forums. The feedback from the participants was very positive, they found the course materials valuable, the platform well managed and the teachers well qualified.

After such an exciting time and valuable experience in creating MOOC for “RISK COMMUNICATION”, the RISK-NET team members are considering future improvements towards the course.

Risk-Net Final Conference

Regional Risks and Risks to the Regions

30-31 January 2018

Vilnius, Lithuania

The Baltic-Nordic Academic Community of Practice (RISK-NET) is organizing an international event for practitioners and researchers on risk assessment, management, communication and other relevant topics related to specific risks to the regions. The focus of the conference is to stimulate a discussion and share the ideas on the diversity and complexity of contemporary risks and their impact on the development and prosperity of the regions.

By drawing a historical parallel between the years 1917 and 2017, researchers call them the “years of crisis”. Regional risks were mainly created by dramatic changes associated with rapid urbanization, environmental destruction, regional conflicts and displacement, and new technology developments. Stepping into the year 2018, we may open a new era of opportunities in managing risks in the regions.

Full papers submitted after the conference (submission deadline: 28 February 2018) will be considered for publication in the following peer-reviewed journals cited in SCOPUS and other databases:

Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues <http://jssidoi.org/jssi/>

Public Policy And Administration <http://www.vpa.ktu.lt/index.php/PPA>

<https://risk-net.org/conference>



RELATED EVENTS

Call for Society for Risk Analysis Europe Conference 2018



The 27th Annual Conference of the Society for Risk Analysis Europe will be held in Östersund, Sweden, June 18–20 2018.

Theme: Risk & Uncertainty – From Critical Thinking to Practical Impact

The special theme of the conference reflects the current need to persist the phenomenon of knowledge resistance and alternative facts, as well as to develop applied research for risk analysis in open and democratic contexts.

This conference gathers academics, policy makers, and practitioners interested in risk research, policy, and practice, including members of the SRA-E, SRA International and other regional SRA organizations. The conference will be held at Mid Sweden University in Östersund, a small town close to the mountains in the north of Sweden. During the conference you will experience the longest day of the year when the sun rises at 2.50 a.m., only a few hours after it sets.

Important dates:

February 7: Deadline for submission of abstracts & deadline for student scholarship applications

April 16: Early Bird registration deadline

More information at: <https://www.miun.se/en/sra-europe-2018/>

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