



EUROPEAN FORUM FOR  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



PORTUGAL  
MATOSINHOS 2021

## Speakers

## Resilient Infrastructure

26 November 2021, 14:00h to 15:15h CET



### MODERATOR

**Olaf Bruns** is a Brussels-based journalist. A former Deputy Head of the Brussels office of the international TV news broadcaster Euronews, he now works as a freelancer. Amongst others, he writes for the European Green Journal and is the deputy editor-in-chief of the quarterly magazine Progressive Post. He provides Media Training via Crown Media and teaches journalism at the Brussels-based media school IHECS. He holds a master's degree in Social Anthropology from Paris XIII University with several years of social science research work in various African countries.



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Kamal Kishore** is the Member Secretary of India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Indian co-chair of Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)'s Executive Committee. He has worked on disaster risk reduction and recovery issues for over 22 years at the local, national, regional and global levels. Prior to joining NDMA he worked with the UNDP for nearly 13 years in New Delhi, Geneva and New York. At the UNDP headquarters he led global advocacy campaigns to address disaster risk reduction concerns in the UN's SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda. He holds a bachelor's degree in Architecture from the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, and a master's degree in Urban Planning, Land and Housing Development from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok.



### PANELISTS

**Professor Liz Varga** is Chair in Complex Systems in the Civil, Environmental, and Geomatics Engineering Department, University College London. She leads the Infrastructure Systems Institute and is the principal investigator for the coordination node of the UK Collaboratorium for Research in Infrastructure and Cities. She publishes and advises globally on energy, transport, telecommunications, water and waste. Her key research themes are: resilience; sustainable innovation and circularity; decarbonisation; digital twins; and self-healing systems. She is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Building Engineers and the Academy of Social Sciences. She is a commissioner with the National Preparedness Commission.



**Françoise Jacob** is the UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia. She brings 24 years of experience in humanitarian and development work, including 10 years of service to the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Asia/Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa. From 2017 to 2019, she served as UNOPS representative to the EU institutions in Brussels. Prior to that, she was the UNOPS director for South Asia (2011-2017). She held management positions with UNOPS, UNRWA, ECHO(EU), NGOs and the private sector in Afghanistan, the Middle East, East Timor, Sudan, Montenegro, Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. She holds a Master of Business Administration from ESSEC, in Paris.



**Eva Stock** is Desk Officer for Critical Infrastructure Protection at the German Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK). Her work focuses on integrated approaches to disaster risk management, especially on cooperation between government authorities and critical infrastructure operators. She deals with basic concepts of critical infrastructure protection such as identification and prioritisation of critical infrastructures. She previously worked in the field of international development cooperation, dealing with risk and crisis management in Mongolia. She holds an MSc in International Development from Edinburgh University and a BA degree in European Studies from Maastricht University.



**Dilanthy Amaratunga** is the Professor of Disaster Risk Management at the University of Huddersfield, UK, where she leads its Global Disaster Resilience Centre. She is a leading international expert in disaster resilience with an extensive academic and research career, with specific emphasis on the built environment, and to champion the under representation of women in this key research area. She is a member of the UNDRR's European Science & Technology Advisory Group (ESTAG) representing the UK, and a Steering Committee member of the UK Alliance for Disaster Research, motivation of which is to bring together the UK's rich and diverse disaster research community to facilitate collaboration and partnership in order to aid representation of the research

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