



Summary of Session

Session title: Learning Lab on Making Cities Resilient 2030: Local level DRR actions

Date: 7 November 2024

Time: 16:30-17:15 CET

1. Executive summary

Cities and urban areas are increasingly confronting a range of challenges driven by climate change, natural hazards, and other risks posed by rapid urbanization and environmental degradation. Despite progress, cities and urban areas still face financial constraints, varying levels of preparedness, and regional disparities - including between Western Europe and Central Asia - which emphasize the need for tailored, localized strategies. This Learning Lab focused on showcasing how MCR2030 is being operationalized at the local level and explores how risk reduction can be effectively institutionalized, addressing both financial and institutional barriers across regions.

2. Key topics addressed

- Urban resilience is becoming increasingly critical, with over 60% of the world's population now living in cities and 70% of work related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) being implemented at the local level. Cities face a range of evolving risks, including climate-related, seismic, and technological hazards. These challenges require tailored solutions informed by scientific knowledge and technological innovation.
- Local governments play a pivotal role in DRR efforts. They lead the implementation of policies, manage local resources, and coordinate disaster prevention and response. This Learning Lab aimed to identify practical solutions for building resilience at the local level by fostering cross-sectoral partnerships and collaboration.

3. Solutions presented

- The city of Cascais in Portugal highlights the importance of empowering cities through knowledge sharing and multi-level partnerships, including national and local governments, the EU, NGOs, and the private sector. This collaboration brought in expertise to build a smart and innovative city and to tackle local challenges, such as efficient waste management, expanding green spaces, and decentralizing solar energy.
- CESDRR's high-level dialogue platform for DRR in Central Asia serves as an important mechanism for identifying regional challenges and sharing solutions. By promoting good practices and facilitating idea exchange, it empowers governments to develop coordinated informed disaster resilience strategies across the region.
- With support from the Government of Japan, UNDP has launched a three-year urban resilience project across five Central Asian countries. This project will conduct city-level assessments and plans to co-creating resilient spaces with the community; as well as integrating AI/technology into piloted solutions.
- The city of Skopje in North Macedonia adopted the Resilient Skopje Climate Change Strategy, which addresses urban vulnerabilities such as flooding, urban heat islands, water management, erosion, and air pollution. Key climate adaptation measures include the development of urban heat island maps, creating green roofs and green corridors, enhancing water management to strengthen climate resilience and promote sustainable urban development.

4. Way forward

- Collaborative efforts to exchange ideas and share lessons on urban resilience strategies are essential to empower local governments.

- Financial structures at the local level significantly influence the ability of local governments to address institutional and capacity constraints. Establishing partnerships and securing funding for sustainable programs is crucial.
- Urban resilience must be approached holistically, addressing interconnected challenges such as energy, transportation, and public health to meet the evolving needs and priorities of citizens.