Understanding risk information is the foundation of effective disaster risk reduction. Trusted, accurate and widely used risk information saves lives, particularly when it reaches ‘the last mile’ and is put into practice to protect vulnerable communities, goods and systems. It is crucial that risk information is understandable and accessible to anyone who would use it, and addresses the systemic, cascading, and compounding, nature of risk – so that it may build societal resilience. Recent disasters including COVID-19 and climate change have demonstrated the massive scale at which mis- and disinformation can spread through different online and physical channels, undermining the global response and measures to control the pandemic, and fostering mistrust towards public health measures, authorities, and democratic institutions.

The focus of the Action-oriented dialogue will be on the importance of strong foundations of trust and clear communication in risk reduction. Risk communication is well understood to be an essential process in the endeavor of risk reduction. Good risk assessment and analysis is ineffective unless it is clearly communicated with those people who have the authority, legitimacy and capacity to act on it. The meeting will begin on the first day with two technical sessions and youth roundtable that will make recommendations and offer support to the Ministerial Roundtable on the second day. The outcomes of the dialogue will contribute to the regional efforts for better understanding of risks and will support the implementation of the EFDRR Roadmap 2021-2030.

**Agenda**

**OPENING CEREMONY**

09.00-09.30 (CEST)
The event will be officially open by Mr. Nicolae-Ionel Ciuca, Prime Minister of Romania, Mr. Ion-Marcel Ciolacu, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Mr. Raed Arafat, Secretary of State Ministry of Interior of Romania and Head of the Department for Emergency Situations and Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction.

09.30-11.15 (CEST)

10.00-10.30 (EEST)

**Building public trust through effective risk communication**

The focus of the first technical session will be on the lessons from COVID-19, the ways that communication and trust can be used or abused for purposes that have nothing to do with the objective of the message. Participants will explore social drivers, discussing best practices and lessons learnt from - but not limited to - COVID-19 and managing mis- and disinformation, with an aim to recommend systems and structures needed to make risk communication inclusive and that can result in concrete changes that build societal resilience. It will feature inputs from the Romanian government, the World Health Organization, Ministries of Education and Health from the region as well as media and children and youth.

**Speakers**

**Moderator:** Fanny Langella
Head of Content and Channels
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

**Raed Arafat**
Secretary of State
Ministry of Interior of Romania

**Adrian Tudose**
Cooperation Department Director
Euro Atlantic Resilience Center

**Lisa Robinson**
Senior Advisor
BBC Media Action

**Cristiana Salvi**
Risk Communication Advisor
World Health Organization

**Ana Sabancevaite**
United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth representative

**Miguel Arriaga**
Head of the Division of Literacy, Health and Well-being
Ministry of Health of Portugal

**Minna Harmanen**
Senior Adviser
National Agency for Education Finland
Using science to inform risk communication

This session will focus on risk science in disaster risk reduction and the institutional, behavioural and political changes that have been provoked by changes in the way we understand risk. The session aims to highlight successful practice in institutionalizing science, fostering inclusive decision making and connecting with social values to build resilience. Participants will explore the role of the science-policy-interface and will share their experiences and recommendations for improving risk communication with policymakers, national authorities and development partners, as well as journalists and other stakeholders. It will feature an author from UNDRR's Global Assessment Report 2022 to focus on the behavioural science elements of communicating in governance, representatives of Romania, Sweden and the European Commission, as well as UNICEF.

Speakers

Moderator: Lisa Robinson
Senior Adviser
BBC Media Action

Marco Massabo
Programme Director
CIMA Research Foundation

Iulian Chifu
Councilor of State
Prime Minister of Romania Cabinet

Jeana Cîmpineanu
Head of the Research and Training Department
Euro Atlantic Resilience Center

Hulda þórisdóttir
Associate Professor
University of Iceland

Karl Torring
National Coordinator Sendai Framework
Sweden

Raluca Zaharia
Social and Behaviour Change Specialist
UNICEF

Leonor Nieto
Head of Prevention and Disaster Risk Management Unit, DG ECHO
European Commission

Youth Disaster Risk Reduction Advocates Roundtable

Effective reduction of disaster risks can only be achieved through an all-of-society approach. In 2018, the United Nations launched the 2030 Youth Strategy that recognises young people's agency and their positive contributions to accelerate change. Youth groups must be included as key stakeholders to help build resilience. The Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 explicitly says that "Youth leadership should be promoted" and calls on governments to engage with youth in the "design and implementation of policies, plans and standards." This session will gather UNDRR Youth Focal Points and Young Sustainable Development Advocates from Romania to discuss how young people may help efforts in building trust and societal resilience. The youth representatives will share their ideas and exchange with high-level representatives from UNDRR and the Government of Romania.

"Only by investing today in youth education and preparedness, we can ensure the societal resilience of tomorrow"

Raed Arafat
Secretary of State
Ministry of Interior of Romania

"Youth should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, as called for in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction"

Mami Mizutori
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction