



ICUR2022
2nd International Conference
on Urban Risks



Session on

Citizen engagement and risk communication

Traditional views held that risk was to be assessed by scientists, decisions were to be made by politicians and citizens were to be persuaded of that their safety was in good hands and all they had to do was to trust the technocratic assessments and decisions being made on their behalf. However, a succession of risk controversies, due to mounting complexity and uncertainty, and evidence that scientists and decision-makers were not always right, has led to more democratic approaches to risk reduction and management. Citizens are no longer seen as passive, emotional and irrational when facing risk, waiting to be enlightened, but rather as active agents that need to be involved in the decisions and the actions to address risk. Thus, communication and engagement are crucial steps to prevent, mitigate and respond to urban risks. Communication is indispensable for participating in informed decision-making, engagement is crucial for implementing suitable and fair solutions to the hazards society faces. The ways to achieve these two aims are multiple, as well as the challenges and difficulties along the way.

We welcome communications that address any aspect of risk communication and citizen engagement with environmental, natural and technological urban risk.

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