

DISASTER-RESILIENT UNIVERSITIES

DRU Project

Project Updates Newsletter

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EDITOR'S NOTE

"This issue marks an important milestone in the DRU Project's journey toward building disaster-resilient university communities across Europe. Inside, you'll find updates on our latest research findings, new partnerships, and upcoming training activities. As we move into the second phase of the project, collaboration and knowledge exchange remain at the heart of everything we do. We hope this newsletter keeps you informed and inspired."



PUBLICATION

Cognitive and psychological resilience

Facing the Fire Risk

The sample consisted of 86 participants, primarily residents of Constanța County. Data were collected using the "Natural Disaster Resilience" questionnaire and analysed with SPSS 28, applying multiple regressions, mediation models (PROCESS Model 4), and moderation analyses (PROCESS Model 1).

Analyses revealed that risk perception significantly predicted all resilience dimensions. The relationship between risk perception and psychological resilience was inversely mediated by cognitive resilience. Knowledge of intervention procedures mediated the relationship between adaptive resilience and expertise, while institutional resilience significantly moderated the link between risk perception and overall individual resilience.

The study confirms an integrative model of resilience, in which risk perceptions, cognitive and emotional resources, operational preparedness, and institutional support interact to foster mental health and effective adaptation in the face of critical situations.



PUBLICATION

Cognitive and emotional mechanisms

Psychological resilience in post-disaster contexts

In the context of the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related natural disasters, identifying the psychological mechanisms that support adaptive functioning has become a critical research priority. Psychological resilience is conceptualized as a dynamic, context-dependent adaptive process shaped by cognitive appraisals of risk, regulatory cognitive mechanisms, and prior disaster experience. The present study examined the relationship between risk perception and psychological resilience by testing the mediating role of cognitive resilience and the conditional influence of prior disaster experience and hazard type.

Cognitive resilience significantly mediated the relationship between risk perception and psychological resilience, with the magnitude of the indirect effect varying as a function of hazard type. The indirect effect of prior disaster experience through cognitive resilience remained consistent across hazard contexts. Cognitive mediation was stronger in contexts characterized by higher unpredictability (fires) than in more controllable situations (floods). Heightened cognitive activation was associated with lower levels of psychological resilience, suggesting a compensatory mechanism under conditions of elevated threat. Prior

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PUBLICATION

University Resilience to Natural Disasters

Higher education institutions

In the context of the intensification and diversification of natural risks worldwide, higher education institutions are increasingly consciously developing an institutional culture of safety and resilience. Universities can no longer be viewed simply as academic spaces isolated from social and climatic realities, but as exposed entities, responsible for protecting a significant number of people – students, teaching staff, auxiliary staff – from potentially catastrophic events, such as earthquakes, floods or fires.

Over the past two decades, the literature has devoted increasing interest to the concepts of institutional resilience and procedural literacy in the field of emergency management. Recent studies highlight the importance of integrating the educational, organisational and behavioural dimensions in efforts to reduce collective vulnerability¹. In this sense, universities are not only beneficiaries but also vectors of security culture, with the role of forming informed, responsible citizens capable of reacting effectively in critical situations.

Disaster Resilience Toolkit

Three integrated digital solutions for fact-checking, disaster monitoring, and humanitarian intelligence — empowering universities to verify information and respond to crises.

Fact Check
CLAIMREVIEW

ReliefWeb
HUMANITARIAN REPORTS

GDACS
DISASTER

DIGITAL SOLUTION

Introducing the Disaster Resilience Toolkit

Three integrated tools now live on druproject.eu

As part of Intellectual Output 3, the DRU Project has launched a dedicated Digital Tools page bringing together three powerful resources for universities and researchers.

The Fact Check Explorer draws on Google's ClaimReview database to surface verified fact-checks from accredited organizations across Europe and worldwide — searchable by language and publisher.

The Humanitarian Report Search provides access to over two decades of disaster situation reports and analyses curated by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs via ReliefWeb.

The Global Disaster Alerts panel delivers real-time monitoring from GDACS — the joint UN and European Commission framework — covering earthquakes, floods, cyclones, volcanoes, wildfires, and droughts.

All three tools are live and freely accessible. Visit the Digital Tools section at druproject.eu to explore them.

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