



## Building Resilient Universities: The DRU Project and the Strategy for Safer Academic Institutions

In a world increasingly affected by natural disasters and emergency situations, universities play a crucial role in promoting preparedness and resilience. Carolina Albasio University is proud to be a partner in the **Disaster-Resilient Universities (DRU) project**, co-funded by the Erasmus+ program, with the goal of strengthening the capacity of higher education institutions (HEIs) to address the challenges posed by emergencies through innovative tools, strategic collaboration and effective communication.



### Institutions involved

The DRU project brings together five European academic institutions, working together to share knowledge and best practices. The partners involved are the University of Ioannina in Greece as coordinator, Ovidius University of Constanta in Romania, the Mediterranean University of Albania, the Carolina Albasio University in Italy, and the University of Zenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These universities, spread across southern and southeastern Europe, are working together to promote a common approach to academic resilience.



### DRU Project

The two-year project, which has just begun, is divided into five work segments. Project management and coordination ensure that activities are carried out properly and deadlines are met.

The development of a **Resilience Roadmap** focuses on analyzing the needs of partner universities and creating a compendium of best practices.

**Disaster prevention through AI** involves the development of educational materials, such as information boards, short videos, and podcasts.

Information verification education (**fact-checking**) aims to counter misinformation during emergencies, while activities to support **resilience through community** foster networking and exchange platforms that will continue after the project ends.

Identifying the real needs of partner universities is at the heart of the DRU project and is done through direct and active involvement of academic communities. Students, faculty, and administrative staff participate in surveys, interviews, and focus groups that enable them to gather factual evidence and diverse perspectives on emergency-related risks and challenges.

These interactions result in practical and accessible training materials designed to meet the daily needs of those living in the university setting. Prominent among the resources produced are video pills and a series of podcasts that, through clear and direct language, offer useful guidance on how to deal with crisis situations in a safe and informed manner. The content, enriched with digital tools such as QR codes and animated avatars created with AI, is designed to be usable on the go, facilitating learning at any time.



## Fight against misinformation

Special attention is paid to combating misinformation, a phenomenon that during emergencies can exacerbate difficulties and generate panic. Through interactive modules and hands-on simulations, participants learn how to recognize and counter fake news and digital scams, developing a critical sense that is essential in times of uncertainty. Rounding out the journey, local events and awareness campaigns transform individual awareness into a collective value, strengthening the link between universities and their target communities. The project thus not only informs, but aims to create a culture of resilience that can be transmitted and shared far beyond academic boundaries.

## Our role

Carolina Albasio University plays a key role in the development of activities related to disaster prevention through information and AI. With its expertise in digital communication and education, the Institute leads the creation of educational content designed to be accessible and engaging. The commitment also extends to promoting inclusiveness, with the design of materials tailored to meet the needs of vulnerable groups and people with disabilities.



The DRU project embodies the values of European cooperation, demonstrating the importance of addressing global challenges with shared responses. Collaboration among partner universities not only strengthens their ability to respond to emergencies, but also creates the basis for a culture of prevention and solidarity that can be adopted by other institutions and communities. Our Institute is proud to contribute to this initiative, knowing the importance of ensuring safer and more resilient learning environments for all.

