

UNESCO Chair on Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction



Slovenia - Ljubljana

University of Ljubljana

Chair was established in mid 2016 at the University of Ljubljana (UL), proposed by Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering (UL FGG). UL (est. 1919) is the oldest and largest tertiary academic institution in Slovenia. UL FGG has been involved in many EU, bilateral and national research projects related to floods, torrent and river erosion.



Prof. Matjaž Mikoš, Chairholder
Assoc. Prof. Mojca Šraj

Prof. of Hydrology & Prof. of Hydraulic Eng., UL FGG
Dean of the Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering, UL
Chair of the Research Inst. for Geo & Hydro Threats, UL FGG
Chairman of the Slovenian National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Vice-President of the ICL, Kyoto, Japan
Member of Slovenian Academy of Engineering

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INTEGRATED RISK REDUCTION OF WATER-RELATED DISASTERS



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIETY RESILIENCE FOR WATER-RELATED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The research activities undertaken by our UNESCO Chair are and will be an intricate part of joint worldwide efforts to achieve water-related (hereinafter WR) disaster risk reduction and to mitigate their unavoidable consequences. Today, we mostly encounter climate change impacts, anthropogenic reactions as a response to increasing risks, and the changed way of our life, subjected to cultural and developmental diversity related to the society's vulnerability, as well as to development of new technologies.



The specific objectives are defined according to the IHP VIII programme, where we will focus on: (1) improving the understanding and encouraging the approach to controlling flood risk, based on the idea of "living with floods", rather than on "implementing flood measures", (2) furthering research and developing early warning systems, including strengthened monitoring of capacities and hydrological modelling of socio-ecological systems, consisting of natural and anthropogenic water cycles for operational support of IWRM, (3) translating, comparing and analysing data on socio-economic damages due to WR hazards, while taking into account the scope of hydrological hazard and social vulnerability, (4) supporting member states to increase the resistance to WR disasters and promote risk management, (5) developing the knowledge on past natural disasters, with insight into the changing nature of hazards and vulnerability, (6) developing adjustment measures related to climate change, (7) adjusting hydrological models with remote sensing data for various water management uses, (8) supporting actions for increasing the availability of hydrological data in nearly real time



obtained in remote sensing and field monitoring, allowing for an integrated approach and continuous calibration and upgrading of the models, (9) studying how different environments understand the uncertainty of flood maps and other WR risks, (10) developing and performing systematic checks of existing natural systems with satisfactory performance in the urban environment, and finding new approaches, particularly those leading to the use of ecohydrological concepts, (11) developing platforms for cooperation

of several interested parties and the public related to the effective use of ecohydrological achievements, and (12) developing new solutions suitable for local natural and cultural conditions through an integrated approach to research and doctoral study programmes.

ACTIVITIES IN 2017

- Co-organising 4th World Landslide Forum (May 29–June 2, Ljubljana)
- Co-organising 3rd Adriatic-Balkan Regional Symposium on Landslides (October 11–13, Ljubljana)
- Supporting activities of the World Centre of Excellence in Landslide Risk Reduction at UL FGG
- Co-organising University of Ljubljana Natural Disasters summer school (May 21–June 10, Ljubljana)
- Attending the First Conference of UNESCO Chairs in Natural Sciences (July 5–7, Geneva, Switzerland)
- Fostering initiative "More room for water"
- Supporting activities of the Slovenian National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction
- Promoting and supporting Erasmus Mundus Master in Flood risk management