

Press Release: 2nd General Assembly Meeting and 3rd Periodic Meeting



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The Co-Creative Improved Understanding and Awareness of Multi-Hazard Risks for Disaster Resilient Society (C2IMPRESS) consortium organized their 2nd General Assembly and 3rd Periodic Meeting on 25-27 October 2023 in Mallorca, Spain.

Collaboratively carried out by sixteen partners from different backgrounds and countries, the EU-funded C2IMPRESS project aims for improvement of the understanding and awareness about natural disasters (floods, heatwaves, forest fires, landslides, and earthquakes) and the multidimensional impacts they generate on a given territory.

The C2IMPRESS project increases public awareness on multi-hazard risks. It aims to move the discussion away from the traditional 'hazard-centric' approach to a novel 'place and people'-centred integrated multi-hazard risk and resilient assessment framework. The project develops several breakthrough innovations, such as a multi-hazard risk intelligence network platform supported by the robust Earth System Dynamic Intelligence (ESDI) and a suite of technologies to empower citizens and society with climate actions.

University of the Balearic Islands—(UIB) and Government of the Balearic Islands(GOIB)— hosted the 2nd General Assembly Meeting in Mallorca (Spain) from 25th to 27th October 2023. During these three days, 33 representatives from 14 partners of the project explained their advances and discussed their development and future tasks. Moreover, there was time for cultural visits and an official dinner on the second day.

The meeting was held in Ca'n Oleo, a Middle Age stately home in Palma's old town, recently reformed and is the headquarters of the UIB Social Council.

During the first day, the works package leaders including the task leaders presented their work and advances done so far, and during the afternoon there was a cooperative Work Package clusters interaction workshop, to multilaterally discuss the relationship between clusters, and their needs from each other.

A field trip was carried out during the second day, consisting of a visit to 112 Emergency Centre, and different hotspots for flood risk in the metropolitan area of Palma, the capital town of Balearics where flood hazards can directly affect ca. 27,000 inhabitants. In addition, a visit to Coll de Sa Gramola, in the southwest corner of the Tramuntana Range, historically affected by two wildfires, in 1994 and 2013, being the last one of the largest in the recent history of the Balearic Islands with ca. 2,400 hectares. Coming back to Palma town, the official dinner was celebrated in a restaurant in the old town, characterized by an ancient urban fabric modelled by Roman, Arabic, and Catalan cultures.

The third day was focused on developing three activities: i) Risk Framework workshop was organized by NCSRD to define a risk framework for each case study area (CSA) and building a set of resilience indicators, scalable to different study areas. ii) State of the Art (SoA) models Workshop was convened by LNEC, discussing modelling software used by each partner, their current situation, next tasks to be addressed, current/future results, as well as potential collaborations. iii) The PPCP workshop, conducted by ARTELIA, where CSA partners explained their experiences during the 1st PPCP-Living Lab (LL) and ended with an open discussion on the experience of the 1st PPCP-LL and the expectations from next LLs.

Finally, during the afternoon a visit to Palma's old town was organised by UIB members accompanied by a professional tourist guide, explained the historical coexistence of urban evolution with natural hazards such as flash-floods and earthquakes, reaching a general overview of Palma; followed by a visit to the terraces at the top of the Cathedral, one of the most impressive examples of Gothic style around Europe.

These three days of assembly and meeting, hosted by the UIB and the GOIB, allowed the consortium members to connect, collaborate, and make a lasting impact in raising awareness, empowering citizens, and exchanging knowledge for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) in the project pilot sites and in Europe in the near future.