

PRESS RELEASE

C2IMPRESS 3rd General Assembly and 4th Periodic Meeting



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The Co-Creative Improved Understanding and Awareness of Multi-Hazard Risks for Disaster Resilient Society (<u>C2IMPRESS</u>) consortium, an international collaboration dedicated to developing innovative solutions for disaster risk reduction, recently concluded its fourth periodic meeting and third general assembly in Aveiro, Portugal.

This meeting, held on 9th October 2024, hosted in collaboration with the National Civil Engineering Laboratory (<u>LNEC</u>) and the Aveiro Port Authority, marks a critical point in the project's timeline as it enters its final year. With the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters across Europe, the C2IMPRESS project is crucial in enhancing community resilience.

The meeting, which had the strategic participation of the <u>Port of Aveiro</u> and the <u>Port of Figueira da</u> <u>Foz</u>, brought together experts and stakeholders to discuss the project's progress and plan for its impactful conclusion.

The collaborative project, involving sixteen diverse partners across various countries, seeks to enhance comprehension and raise awareness about natural disasters, encompassing floods, heatwaves, forest fires, landslides and earthquakes, and their multidimensional impacts on affected regions.

The opening session of the meeting was attended by Eduardo Feio, Chairman of the Boards of Directors of the Ports of Aveiro and Figueira da Foz. Mr. Feio emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts between the ports and the community, He underlined the positive impact of such projects on developing innovative solutions to enhance resilience to climate change.

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Over two days, attending partners had an informative discussion about the progress of the work carried out in the past two years. Partners also planned the remaining work to be done in the final year.

A key highlight of the meeting was a visit to the Port of Figueira da Foz and Montemor-o-Velho, two locations that are part of the Portuguese demonstrator project. The next phase of the project will focus on the Central region of Portugal, exploring the consequences and risks associated with natural hazards. This includes:

- **Investigating flood risks:** Researchers are analysing the potential risks of river and coastal floods, which pose significant threats to communities and infrastructure in the region.
- Analysing wildfire impacts: The project also examines the hazardous effects of forest fires on river flows and groundwater quality, crucial aspects of environmental sustainability and water resource management.

Developing a Forecasting and Warning System

Specifically for the Central region, the project aims to develop a forecasting and warning system to evaluate the risk of overtopping from coastal and river flooding. This system will also assess potential threats to navigation and port operations from such events, enabling authorities to proactively implement proper mitigation strategies. This system is expected to benefit people living and working in coastal communities.

The C2IMPRESS project, coordinated by <u>SAMPAS</u>, comprises 16 <u>partners</u> across Europe. By fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and community engagement, the project is making significant contributions to improving understanding and awareness of disaster risks and climate change adaptation. The project's innovative solutions are poised to have a lasting impact on disaster risk reduction and resilience-building across Europe.

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To know more about the project, please visit: <u>https://www.c2impress.com/</u>

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