



Special Session Proposal

Community resilience and social vulnerability

András Molnár, molnar.andras@ktk.pte.hu, PhD School of Regional Policy and Economics, University of Pécs; Disaster Preparedness Focal Point, Hungarian Red Cross

Abstract

Damages caused by natural disasters are rising all over the world. This tendency is expected to remain in the future: urban development affects areas near rivers and seashores, while weather extremes are becoming more severe and frequent. Deprived communities are often unable to mitigate the emerging risks, socioeconomic inequalities, and the geographical distribution of natural hazards highlight the need for spatial investigations and regional policy approaches.

Social vulnerability provides a paradigm that observes and addresses disaster risks with an interdisciplinary toolkit to enhance the resilience of communities. This emerging paradigm already influenced policies in the Central-Eastern European region, which might be seen in the shift towards voluntary actors and civil society organizations engaged in response activities.

The Special Session on community resilience and social vulnerability will discuss the results of contemporary research in this field, both theoretical and empirical, with an additional focus on implications for regional policies.