



## SESSION DESCRIPTION



# C1 Multicultural approaches to resilience of urban areas

## Panel discussion

**Date:** Thursday, 27 June, 2019

**Time:** 9:00-10:30

**Rooms:** S29-31

**Language:** English

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**Organized by:** ICLEI

## OBJECTIVE

During the last decades, cities were characterized by migrant flows that resulted in the growth of multicultural societies and the enlargement of non-native communities. At the same time, cities are increasingly investing in augmenting their adaptation levels to climate change, learning how to co-live with natural disasters, building in places and ways which consider the possibility of disasters happening, developing and approving policies, regulations and plans for resilience enhancement in the short, medium and long run. In this new context, one of the most important things is to involve all the citizens in the new challenging aspects that are rising in these years.

When speaking of natural disasters, not being aware, not knowing who to call, how to act, where to look for updated info, is a key reason of exposure to severe risk, and this is particularly true for non-native inhabitants. Cities are made of and by citizens, which need to be seen as key actors to effectively gain results out of policies and investments. It is obvious that a key point to strengthen the resilience of cities is to engage and include as many citizens as possible, but at the same time it shows that in several parts of the world the percentage of citizens engaged, included and aware of emergency management systems is decreasing.

The European Project AMARE-EU is focusing specifically on *developing concrete, low cost and easy to be applied solutions to involve and engage those who, due to linguistic, social, economic, cultural factors, are at severe risk in case of disaster*. This will, together with developed guidelines and good practices, constitute a toolkit supporting city administrators in ensuring most effective involvement of non-native citizens in prevention and preparedness strategies, for creating safer and more resilient communities.

This panel discussed experiences from several cities and experts on how to best integrate non-native population into resilience building and response preparedness. In addition, it provided strategy on how other parts of the world can make use of the project results.



## OUTCOMES

Participants gained a better understanding of:

- experiences and best practices made by different strategies for the integration of non-native communities into resilience building;
- key problems and existing gaps with the integration of non-native communities in resilience building;
- current status of AMARE-EU project in regard to toolkit development and how cities can use the toolkit.

## METHODOLOGY

- Facilitator briefly introduced the topic. **(5 minutes)**
- First panelist introduced the AMARE-EU project and the first results produced. **(10 minutes)**
- The next panellists answered a specific question from the facilitator to provide an overall picture on the situation in this field of urban resilience building. **(each about 5 min)**
- The facilitator managed questions and answers from the audience. **(25 minutes)**
- The facilitator concluded with closing remarks. **(5 minutes)**

## CONTRIBUTORS

- |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Facilitator | <p><i>Albrecht A. Beck, Managing Director, Prepared International (PPI), Samerberg, Germany</i></p> <p>Resilience, Urban Response and Inclusion</p>                                                        |
| Panelist    | <p><i>Francesca Borga, Senior Project Manager, EPC srl, Vincenza, Italy</i></p> <p>Presentation of AMARE-EU Project and the preliminary results</p>                                                        |
| Panelist    | <p><i>Georgios Stratigis, Executive Civil Protection Officer, Municipality of Heraklion, Heraklion, Crete</i></p> <p>Why introducing a Multi-cultural approach to Resilience building for Urban Areas?</p> |
| Panelist    | <p><i>Ratko Dimovski, Associate for Disaster Management, City of Skopje, Skopje, Macedonia</i></p> <p>The Migrant Situation as a challenge for urban administration</p>                                    |
| Panelist    | <p><i>Ib Jestergaard, Center Manager, Videnscenter for Integration, City of Vejle, Denmark</i></p> <p>Experiences from Vejle's Center for Integration</p>                                                  |
| Panelist    | <p><i>Sandra Frederici, Communication Manager, Lai Momo NGO, Bologna, Italy</i></p> <p>How important was the implementation of a multicultural approach in dealing with the</p>                            |



post-earthquake emergency in the Emilia Region in 2012?

Panelist *Marco Polimeni, City Council President and Regional Councilor, Catanzaro Municipality, Catanzaro, Italy*

On-site experiences in integrative resilience building in Calabria

Panelist *Saida Choug, Project Manager and Head of Delegation, ASSFAM – Groupe SOS, Lyon, France*

How can civil society contribute to urban resilience building by integration?