UNESCO Chair on Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction (WRDRR)

Authors: Matjaž MIKOŠ¹, Mitja BRILLY²

¹ University of Ljubljana, matjaz.mikos@fgg.uni-lj.si; ² University of Ljubljana, mitja.brilly@fgg.uni-lj.si

Abstract: (Up to 500 words: for each heading use the bullet points or narrative - the submission including graphics should not exceed one page)

Problems - Issues / Challenges-Needs
• Water is at the heart of recent milestone agreements such as the UNESCO 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the 2015 Paris Agreement.
• The 2030 Agenda introduced 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – among targets: by 2030, reduce by half the loss of human life and property from water-related disasters, by improving the resilience of nations.
• The UN General Assembly proclaims the period 2018-2028 the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", to further improve cooperation, partnership and capacity development in response to the ambitious 2030 Agenda.
• There is an urgent need to a better understanding of the hydrological cycle, of all of its components as well as its changes and variability under fast climate change in the next decades.

Solutions - Methods / Results - Findings
• The International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) Scientific Decade 2013-2022 “Panta Rhei” is a fundamental contribution to new science of integrated hydrological and societal processes.
• Launched in 1992, the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme promotes international inter-university cooperation and networking to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative work. In Slovenia, there are 3 out of 736 UNESCO Chairs – also Chair of Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction (WRDRR) at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering (UL FGG).
• UNESCO Chair WRDRR co-organized the 4th World Landslide Forum (2017), the 3rd Regional Symposium on Landslides of the Adriatic-Balkan Region (2017), is supporting landslide research through the World Centre of Excellence in Landslide Risk Reduction at UL FGG (since 2008) and capacity building in flood risk management through contributing to the ERASMUS Master Programme on Flood Risk Management.

Novelty - Value / Relevance to …
• UNESCO Chair WRDRR is strengthening society resilience in its field of expertise – through international research and higher education.
• In higher education, study programmes in civil engineering need to be international and give competencies to master & doctoral students in water & risk management for their higher competitiveness on the labor market – UNESCO Chair WRDRR is supporting that.

Forum statement
• UNESCO UNITWIN Networks and UNESCO Chairs as part of the internationalization of higher education can effectively contribute to a higher impact of civil engineering disciplines to the joint worldwide efforts to fulfillment of the UNESCO 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Keywords: Agenda 2030; Droughts; Floods; International Hydrological Programme; Landslides; Sustainable Development Goals

Graphics: (please use the gray area bellow for representative graphics or graphical summary: select the gray area bellow and paste your graphics)