

The latest news from the **Human-Tech Nexus Project – Building a safe heaven to cope with climate extremes**

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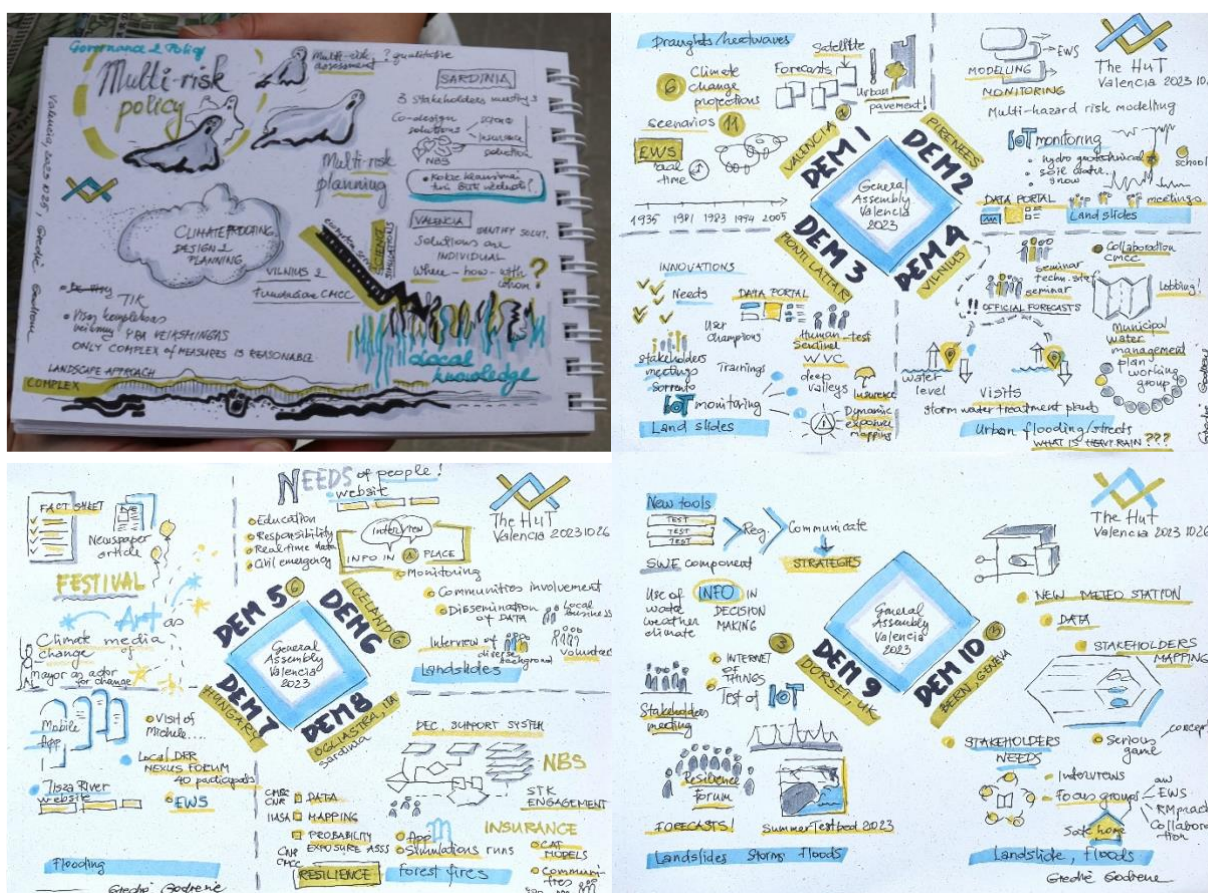


The HuT General Assembly 2023

The HuT project aims to integrate and leverage best practices and successful multi-disciplinary experiences in disaster risk reduction to deal with extreme climate events. The project's main ambition is to promote the "best set" of trans-disciplinary risk management tools and approaches that could be adopted and used extensively across Europe. The activities of the project are being developed considering the following critical dimensions: **trans-disciplinarity**, **co-production**, **cross-fertilization**, **transferability**, and **long-term legacy**.

The HuT project is structured across 7 work packages, which facilitate the delivery and cross-fertilization of outcomes achieved across 10 demonstrators. The demonstrators are characterized by different geomorphological features and socio-economic conditions and are affected by multiple extreme climate events. Learn more about our demonstrators on our project webpage (<https://thehut-nexus.eu/territories/>).

In October 2023, The HuT project consortium met at the Universitat Politècnica de València (Spain) for the 'end-of-year-one' [annual meeting](#). This was an opportunity to discuss the progress and re-affirm the shared vision for the project's outcomes.



The work of the different demonstrators was illustratively outlined by Giedre Godiene (phD, Landscape geographer, Assistant Professor at Vilnius University, Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences), providing a useful [overview of the diverse research topics](#) and hazards being addressed across the consortium. It also enabled partners from different demonstrators to identify alignments and points of expertise, supporting the projects aims at enhancing knowledge transferability.

Under **Work Package 2 (Human Behaviours)** an interactive activity was conducted where participants brainstormed how warning systems can be used as a tool in disaster risk reduction to integrate short-to-long term preparedness, responses, recovery and mitigation. This linked closely with sessions within **Work Package 3 (Governance and Policy)**, which drew out the enablers and barriers to multi-hazard/systemic risk reduction, as well as **Work Package 4 (Science and Technology)**, outlining the monitoring and modelling work being undertaken across the demonstrators.

Another important event organized during this gathering, was the first edition of the **International DRR Nexus Forum (I-DRRnF) Workshop** entitled “Co-creating inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies”. The I-DRRnF, which is a **Work Package 5 (Transferability and Scalability)** activity, aims at fostering reciprocal learning across hazards, the project demonstration cases (WP1) and domains of expertise (WP2, WP3, WP4), and at improving the transferability of DRR solutions.

The first HuT I-DRRnF workshop focused on how to overcome the barriers that make people-centered approaches very challenging, as well as on how enablers of effective stakeholder engagement increase the chances of effectively co-creating DRR solutions.

The HuT Newsletter





Science-Art-Society

Art is now a recognized linkage between science and society. Art and culture are at the heart of climate action, as stated at COP28 by the newly established high-level “Group of Friends of Culture-Based Climate Action”. In The HuT project, we are using the potential of art to engage with local communities about their experiences of extreme weather.

The HuT project has undertaken two exciting science-art interventions within its first year:

1. **"Staging EWS Stories"** - how Playback Theatre and The HuT scientist elicit co-production of knowledge

The HuT initiated a unique cooperation. Artists from Full Circle Playback Theatre and The HuT partners designed a performance called “Staging EWS Stories” at the [European Climate Change Adaptation \(ECCA\) Conference in Dublin 2023](#). The performance was framed in a session providing background on scientific concepts for early warning systems (EWS). The Playback Theatre elicited personal stories from the audience that were improvised and enacted by actors and musicians on the spot. Stories related to the EWS and our non-/preparedness for disasters were performed, enabling the participants and scientists to reflect on inter- and intra-personal aspects of the human responses to EWS.

The ECCA performance was followed by three online performances by The Full Circle Playback Theatre. They were open to broader international audiences, including climate change activists, citizens, scientists and artists. Diverse stories were shared, including those of fear, despair and frustration which were balanced with stories of personal responsibility, personal transformation and stories calling for common action.

Stories held implicit knowledge, which was uncovered by sharing personal stories in public spaces and by the artistic enactments. [Both scientists and artists learned a lot in this transdisciplinary process](#). Artists felt empowered to use their art to support communities in societal transformation which is needed for better disaster preparedness. Follow up online shows available to wide audiences are now being considered. All readers are warmly welcomed!



2. “Welcome to 2050” at the HuT General Assembly in Valencia (2023)

During The HuT Projects [General Assembly in Valencia](#), we connected its demonstrator and partner (University of Valencia, UPV) with its industrial design and product development department and co-curated together with senior lecturer and professor Chele Esteve an art-science project. The result, a walk-in greenhouse created by local artist [Salva Mascarell](#) with scientific findings pinned like street art and a huge watercolour inside, was installed in the Valencian Botanical Garden and open to the public until the end of January 2024.



“Welcome to 2050” leads the visitor into a landscape reminiscent of drought. With the feeling of being suffocated by humidity and heat, the viewer is presented with a canvas of a liquid blue landscape, symbolising water. It is painted on a very light-sensitive fabric that discolours when exposed to sunlight - the colour fades, “water is increasingly disappearing”.



The aim was to get a very important message across to the citizens of Valencia: **droughts and heatwaves will be the future of this city if they are not tackled.**

This exhibition triggered a follow-up art installation called "[Minimal Ecologies + Welcome to 2050. Adapt or succumb](#)" produced by the [Art and Environment Research Centre](#) at UPV. This was provoked by storm Ciarán in November 2023, an atypical extreme weather event for the region resulting in the destruction of the original installation, Salva Mascarell together with artists from around the world and professors of the Art and Environment Research Centre, created a ready-made of "Welcome at 2050". The exhibition was covered in three local newspapers, each with a reference to The HuT, see [El periodic, Las Provincias](#) - [Agenda365](#). Actually, a good model example of how art with scientific content can have a wider impact.



Creating Effective Warnings for All

The conference "[Creating Effective Warnings for All](#)" was organised in London, UK in September 2023 by the Warning Research Centre at University College London. It sought to summarise what we know about and what we ought to be doing regarding warnings, especially to assist with the United Nations' ambition to reach everyone with early warning systems by 2027.

Notable overall aspects highlighted for achieving effective warnings for all are:

- Personalisation, contextualisation, and localisation.
- Initiative and imagination: being creative to prepare for the unknown.
- When messaging, do not assume a generic human being.
- When messaging, do not assume people are at home with adequate resources.
- Account for inequities, such as fear of leaving home or being fired for leaving work.
- Metrics are needed to assist with monitoring and evaluating warning effectiveness, but metrics cannot give the full story.

Notable aspects requiring more emphasis are:

- Engaging with warnings as a process when people cannot afford to do so, either financially or socially.
- Hazards happen simultaneously, sequentially, or requiring different responses. How useful and useable are hazard-focused warnings in such contexts?
- 'Early' is subjective with some evidence indicates detriments to warning too early, whereas warnings should cover all time scales.
- Vulnerabilities make people experience similar difficulties to different hazards.
- Emphasising vulnerabilities engages with warnings as long-term processes and actions, supporting the 'first mile', beginning with people using warnings, rather than the 'last mile', which connects with people last.
- Emphasising vulnerabilities engages with warnings as a continual process with never-ending feedback loops, and lacking start and end points, rather than the usual phrase of 'end-to-end', implying a fixed, linear package.

The HuT supports and contributes to all these areas. The 10 demonstrators of the HuT project will enable better understanding of specific, local needs in the development of early warning systems. This applies particularly to vulnerabilities. **Each place has its own contextual livelihoods, economics, politics, and exclusion issues.** Demonstrators can best indicate the people and populations who might be most difficult to be involved in warnings, as well as the timeframes required to involve them and what actions might be the most effective in improving the situation.

Our job within the HuT is to ensure **cross-fertilization and transferability**. What from Iceland's experience could work in Spain and vice versa? Where has Italy succeeded that could overcome barriers in Germany and vice versa? How might these answers evolve as the specific hazards studied are modified by climate change? In The HuT's study area of Sardinia, heat waves might be accompanied by vegetation fires, indicating lessons for the UK as the climate warms. In the UK, floods frequently lead to landslips across transportation and walking routes, with warnings averting casualties. This experience can assist Sardinia in adjusting to increasingly intense precipitation.



Recent & Upcoming events

- [Enhancing collaboration and transfer from research to policymakers in the DRR context](#) [September 2023]
- [CERIS' Disaster Resilient Societies Annual Event](#) [December 2023]
- **European Geosciences Union (EGU) 2024** [April 2024] – The HuT is organising a short course on Transdisciplinary research called 'How to learn from each other while fostering specific expertise'. More info [here](#). The HuT members are also co-convening a session on [Tools and challenges in assessing compounding and multi-hazards risk in the evolving technological landscape](#)
- [3rd International Conference on Natural hazards and Risks in a Changing World](#) [June 2024]
- [ARS Electronic 2024](#) [September 2024]

The HuT Project Outputs

All project deliverables are made available via the [Project Deliverables](#) webpage.

The HuT project is currently setting up 2 knowledge exchange Working Groups to further promote cross-fertilization and transferability of expertise. These are:

- **Weather and Climate Working Group.** The first meeting of this group took place in February 2024
- **Monitoring Working Group**

We just published [our first journalistic article about the science-art cooperation](#) to tackle disaster risk reduction. Read more about this **innovative approach that combines science and art directly from the words of the artists involved!**

As the project grows and evolves, we will share publications and demonstrator-specific outputs and experiences through this regular newsletter. In the meanwhile, watch [our presentation video](#) to find out more!



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