

NEXT-GEN Spring School - Tackling Climate Change and Natural Hazard Risk for Next-Generation Communities

Summary

The Spring School on “Tackling Climate Change and Natural Hazard Risk for Next-Generation Communities” is a multidisciplinary training initiative designed for university undergraduate, master and PhD students, as well as researchers and practitioners interested in understanding the growing impact of extreme events on structures, infrastructures and populations in the context of climate change. The School will provide practical skills, scientific updates, and networking opportunities to address the challenges posed by an increasingly unstable climate. The event offers a total of 10 travel grants for PhD students: 6 grants of €400 for students travelling from Italy and 4 grants of €650 for students travelling from abroad.

Objectives

- Deepen the understanding of the effects of extreme events (e.g., earthquakes, floods, droughts) on communities.
- Analyse the interconnections between climate change and community resilience.
- Discuss mitigation and adaptation strategies, including both structural and socioeconomic approaches, through concrete examples and best practices.
- Foster collaboration between science, policy, and civil society.

Location

Sala del Camino, Palazzo del Broletto, Piazza della Vittoria, n.15, 27100, Pavia (PV)

The event in brief

Day 1 – April 28th: Insights from Policy Making, Industry, and Research

- Opening ceremony: welcome addresses by authorities and official opening of the programme.
- Industry perspectives: presentations on strategies, challenges, and approaches in industry and finance.
- Research insights: experts share recent studies and findings on natural hazards and climate adaptation.
- Roundtable 1: discussion on natural hazard risk management for sustainable and equitable communities.

Day 2 – April 29th: Understanding Extreme Events

- Extreme events and risk assessment: overview of climate-related and natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods, droughts, wildfires, hail, rainfall, and heatwaves, with analysis of impacts and strategies for adaptation and resilience
- Evening event: networking aperitivo

Day 3 – April 30th: Companies and Innovative Tools

- Company presentations: demonstration of corporate approaches and strategies for natural hazard and climate risk management.
- Innovative risk assessment tools: introduction to advanced tools and models for evaluating and mitigating risks.
- Roundtable 2: dialogue on turning natural hazard and climate risks into opportunities for resilience and sustainability.
- PhD Student sessions: travel grant awardees will deliver a maximum 15-minute oral presentation regarding their PhD research.
- Closing ceremony



The programme is preliminary and subject to change. The final version will be published in due course.

Date	Session	Time	Topic
28/04/2026	Opening ceremony	14:30–15:00	Institutional greetings
	Industry, banking and insurance associations	15:00–16:00	Insurance policies against natural catastrophe risk: the case of Italy
	Research Foundations	16:30–18:00	Italian research foundations supporting national and international authorities
	Roundtable 1	18:00–19:00	Next-generation risk management for resilient communities
29/04/2026	Introduction	9:15–9:30	Programme opening
	Lecture 1	9:30–10:30	Impacts of climate change on economy, society and sustainable development
	Lecture 2	11:00–12:00	Seismic risk
	Lecture 3	12:00–13:00	Flood risk
	Lecture 4	14:00–15:00	Drought risk
	Lecture 5	15:00–16:00	Windstorm risk
	Lecture 6	16:30–17:30	Hail risk
30/04/2026	Lecture 7	17:30–18:30	Multi-risk assessment methodologies
	(Re)Insurance	9:00–10:30	Catastrophe modelling, underwriting and broking
	Industry	11:00–12:30	Digital platforms for climate and disaster risk analytics
	Roundtable 2	12:30–13:30	Tools and strategies to turn natural hazards and climate-related risks into opportunities