

regard

rebuilding after displacement

Issue 5 – May 2021

Welcome to the fifth newsletter of the REGARD Project

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REGARD project's 4th steering committee meeting was held on 14th April 2021 online. The meeting was attended by representatives from each of the REGARD project consortium member institutions. The project coordinator presented the progress of the project and valued the partners' contribution to the achievement of project outputs during this challenging time due to the COVID-19 global pandemic situation.

During the meeting Dr. Emlyn Witt from Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia presented the progress of output 4, the competency framework and Output 5, Training Courses: MOOCs. Prof. Nishara Fernando from University of Colombo presented the progress of the development guide and the course handbook.



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A Competency Framework for Built Environment Professionals in Displacement Context

The REGARD (REbuilding AftER Displacement) project aims to develop competencies in rebuilding communities following disaster and conflict-induced mass displacements from the perspective of the built environment.

This report reflects Intellectual Output O4 of the REGARD project in which a competency framework for Built Environment (BE) professionals to address the needs of the host and displaced communities was derived. This competency framework forms the basis for developing a series of training courses for BE professionals as well as policy recommendations to BE professional bodies for upgrading professional competencies.

The competency framework was developed in a three-step process as follows:

1. Identifying and categorising relevant BE professionals.
2. Deriving an initial competency framework by reviewing the data collected through literature reviews and interview surveys in earlier REGARD project activities to identify competencies relevant to BE professionals.
3. Refining and validating the competency framework using a Delphi technique with an international panel of 19 experts and 3 rounds of questioning.

The emerging understanding of mass displacement from the perspective of BE professional competencies revealed several insights as follows:

- A significant proportion of the competencies identified were relevant to all professionals (not just BE professionals) and related to their need to understand the mass displacement context. Further competencies identified were particularly relevant to BE professionals and some were even occupation-specific in their relevance.
- Country contexts differed considerably in terms of BE professionals' involvement in mass displacement-related activities.
- BE professionals are hardly mentioned in some countries' data, but they have an important role in mitigating the effects of mass displacement and promoting social cohesion.
- That role relates to enabling displaced people's access to services through the provision of the necessary infrastructure to deliver services (e.g. housing, transport, schools, etc.) and also through the appreciation of the interrelationships that exist between these accesses (e.g. language, transport, health and employment).

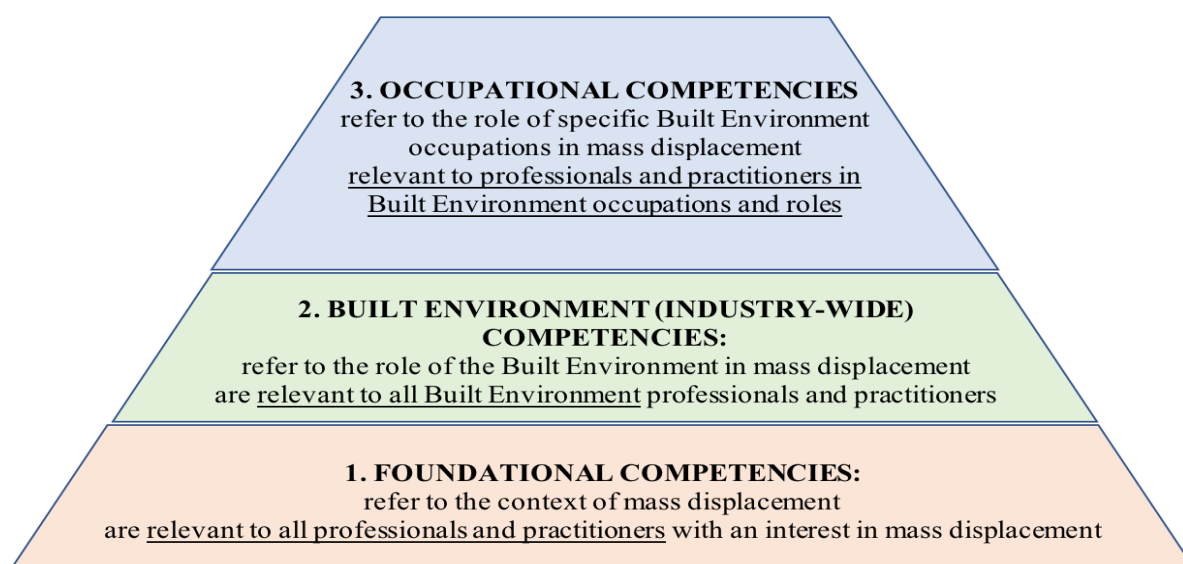


Figure 1: REGARD Competency Framework for BE professionals



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Based on the findings of the desk study, an initial competency framework was derived comprising 3-tiers of competencies as follows;

1. Foundational competencies (of relevance to all professionals with an interest in mass displacement).
2. Industry-wide competencies (applicable to all BE professionals)
3. Occupational competencies (applicable to a subset of BE professionals)

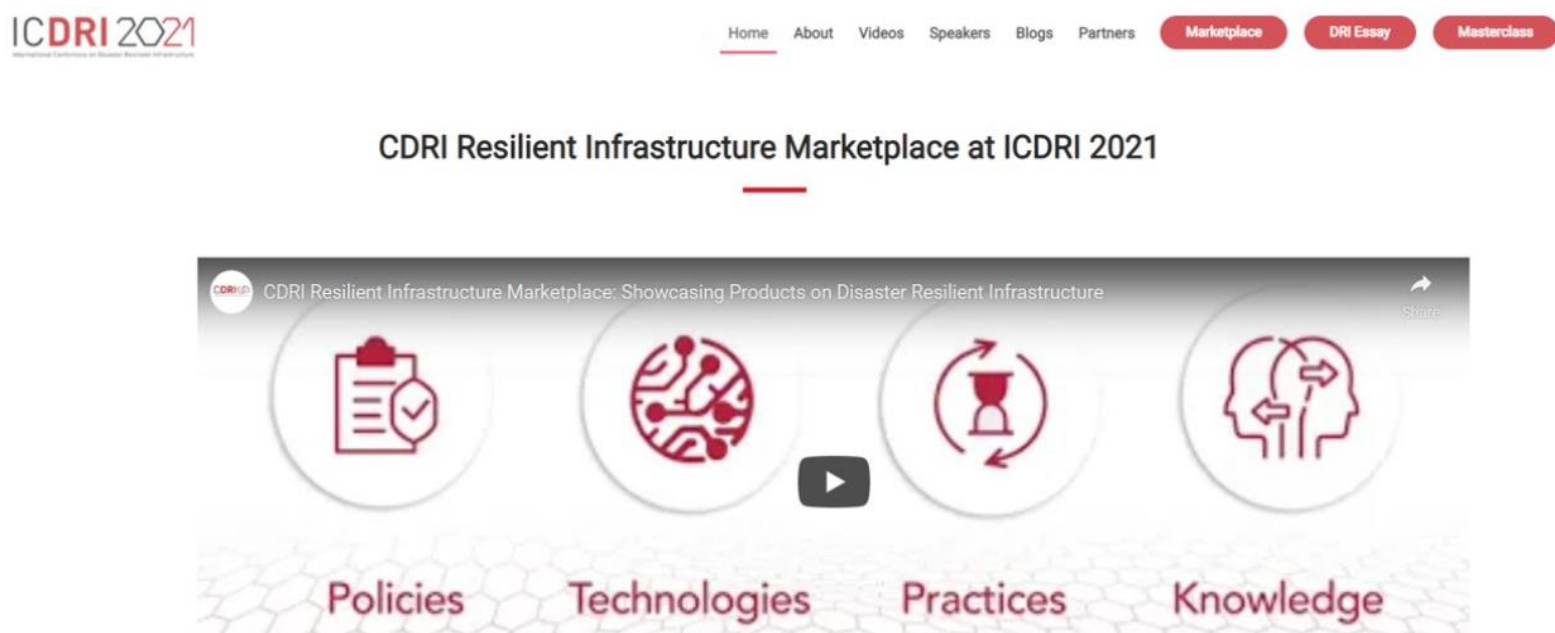
The initial competency framework was then subjected to a Delphi process in which an international panel of 19 experts was questioned in 3 rounds in order to refine and validate it.

The resulting, final competency framework is shown in the figure 1.

The complete list of competencies identified can be found in the output report.

The REGARD project team would like to thank all the members of the international panel of experts for their insights, efforts and patience in participating in the

REGARD presented at the CDRI Resilient Infrastructure Virtual Marketplace



To strengthen the market for disaster and climate resilient infrastructure systems, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) developed an online CDRI Resilient Infrastructure Marketplace to match demand from CDRI Member Countries requiring technical services and assistance with companies, universities and organizations that can provide services to meet this demand. Beyond being a transactional facility, the Marketplace will help promote and structure the market for disaster and climate resilient infrastructure systems and products.

The CDRI Resilient Infrastructure Marketplace featured as a virtual exhibition and networking space at ICDRI (17 to 19 March 2021) where conference participants were able to learn about new solutions offered by public and private sector agencies. REGARD virtual exhibition stall: E-poster, E-flyer and project Description were featured at the CDRI Resilient Infrastructure Marketplace at CDRI 2021, Virtual Exhibition, 17- 19/03/ 2021.



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Project Milestones and Future Activities

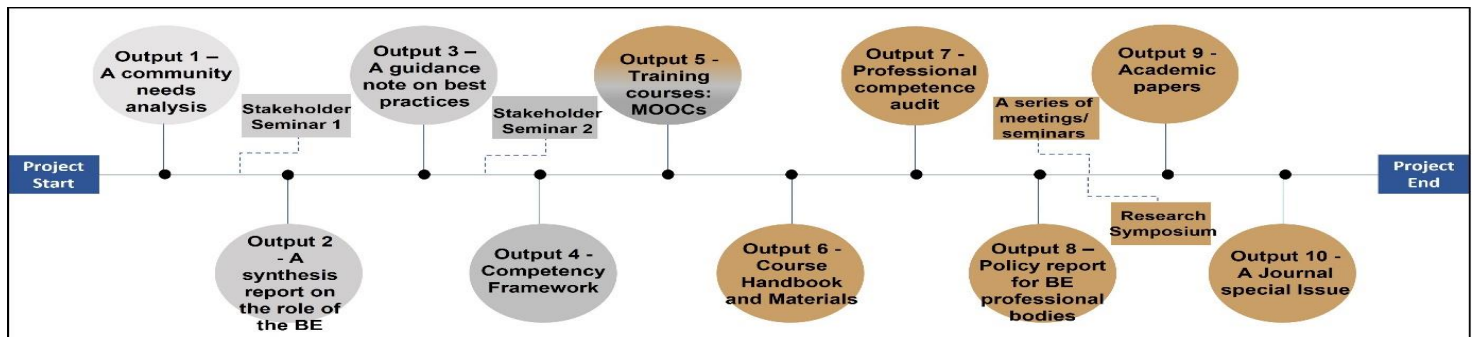


Figure 2: REGARD milestones

Figure 2 illustrates the project milestones of the REGARD project from start to end. The grey-coloured milestones are the milestones which have already been achieved and the brown-coloured milestones will be achieved in the future as the project processes. Accordingly, the project is designed around 10 intellectual outputs and 4 multiplier events.

Out of 10 outputs, 4 outputs have been achieved and project is now in the process of achieving 5th and 6th outputs. Accordingly, Intellectual output 1 investigated the needs of the communities following a disaster and conflict-induced mass displacements in the perspective of built environment.

The finding of output 1 was disseminated at the stakeholder seminar which was held in Estonia on the 13th September 2019. The Output 2 developed a synthesis report on the role of the built environment in enhancing social cohesion between host and displaced communities and Output 3 focused on developing a guidance notes with recommendations on best practices of rebuilding host and displaced communities following disaster and conflict-induced mass displacements from the standpoint of the built environment.

The finding of output 2 was disseminated and validated at the stakeholder workshop which was held online on 12th May 2020.

Output 4 was completed in April 2021. As part of output 4, a competency framework was developed for Built Environment professionals to address the needs of the host and displaced communities.

As the next two milestones output 5 will develop Training courses (MOOCs) in catering the needs of the host and displaced communities and the virtual training environment and Output 6 will develop Course Handbook and training materials (OERs) for the training course in catering the needs of the host and displaced communities. The work plan for these two outputs were discussed and agreed at the virtual steering committee meeting which was held on 14th April 2021 online.



Write for REGARD Newsletter

The REGARD project provides an opportunity for people to share knowledge and experience. This newsletter is written by the REGARD membership for the REGARD membership, and also for other readers working with built environment professional bodies, national and international NGOs, UN agencies, government and donor institutions, academics, and independent consultants.

We, the Editors of REGARD newsletter, welcome contributions from REGARD partners and associate partners. We are also pleased to consider articles submitted by anyone involved in research rebuilding communities after disaster –induced and conflict-induced displacement. If you have knowledge and experience to share, please consider making a contribution.

The scope of contributions should be consistent with the aims of REGARD. Typically, we welcome contributions in the following categories (word counts are advisory):

- News and reports from activities and events linked to the project (100 - 500 words)
- Reports on developments in the field / projects that are being investigated by partners – these do not have to be activities directly linked to the project, but should be relevant to project partner institutions (100 - 500 words)
- Useful Resources – relevant publications, websites (up to 20 - 40 words)
- Upcoming events (20 words)

We welcome suggestions for alternative types / styles of contribution. If you have an idea for an article that you would like to develop, the Editors would be pleased to discuss it with you - send an email to Dr Chathurangnee Jayakody (C.Jayakody2@hud.ac.uk)

The Editors reserve the right to edit any contribution.

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