

# regard

rebuilding after displacement

Issue 6 – December 2021

Welcome to the Sixth newsletter of the REGARD Project

In this Issue You will find:

1. International Symposium on Rebuilding Communities After Displacement
2. Project's 5<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting
3. REGARD presented at the 2nd International Symposium on Disaster Resilience and Sustainable Development (DRSD).
4. New virtual training Platform for Built Environment Professionals in the Displacement Context.
5. Project Milestones and End of the Projects.



## International Symposium on Rebuilding Communities After Displacement

### Keynote Speakers



**Dr Dalia Abdelhady**  
Associate Professor  
Lund University, Sweden



**Mr Sebastien Penzini**  
Deputy Chief, Regional Office for Europe,  
the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk  
Reduction (UNDRR)



**Mr Ricardo Fal-Dutra Santos**  
Regional Coordinator - Americas, Europe and  
Central Asia, Internal Displacement Monitoring  
Centre (IDMC), Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

The two keynote sessions, panel discussion, 48 presentations and the question-and-answer sessions conducted during the event will help drive lateral thinking and radical approaches to address issues around rebuilding communities following a disaster and conflict-induced mass displacements, whether related to policy, research or education.

The 3rd and 4th multiplier events were jointly held under the research symposium held on 13th – 14th December 2021. This symposium on ‘Rebuilding communities after displacement’ aimed to disseminate the findings of Output 1 to 4 and to share knowledge among international academics and researchers. In this symposium, there were 107 international attendees from a highly multidisciplinary background, including users of potential REGARD outcomes, representatives of built environment professional bodies, practitioners and researchers in the field.

### Special Session

## Panel Discussion on Cultural Complexities and Displacement



Susanna Hoffman



Roberto Barrios



Marcia Hale



Qiacyun Zhang



Alicia Sliwinski



Anthony Oliver Smith



Fiona Murphy

13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021 - 15:00-17:00 (CET)

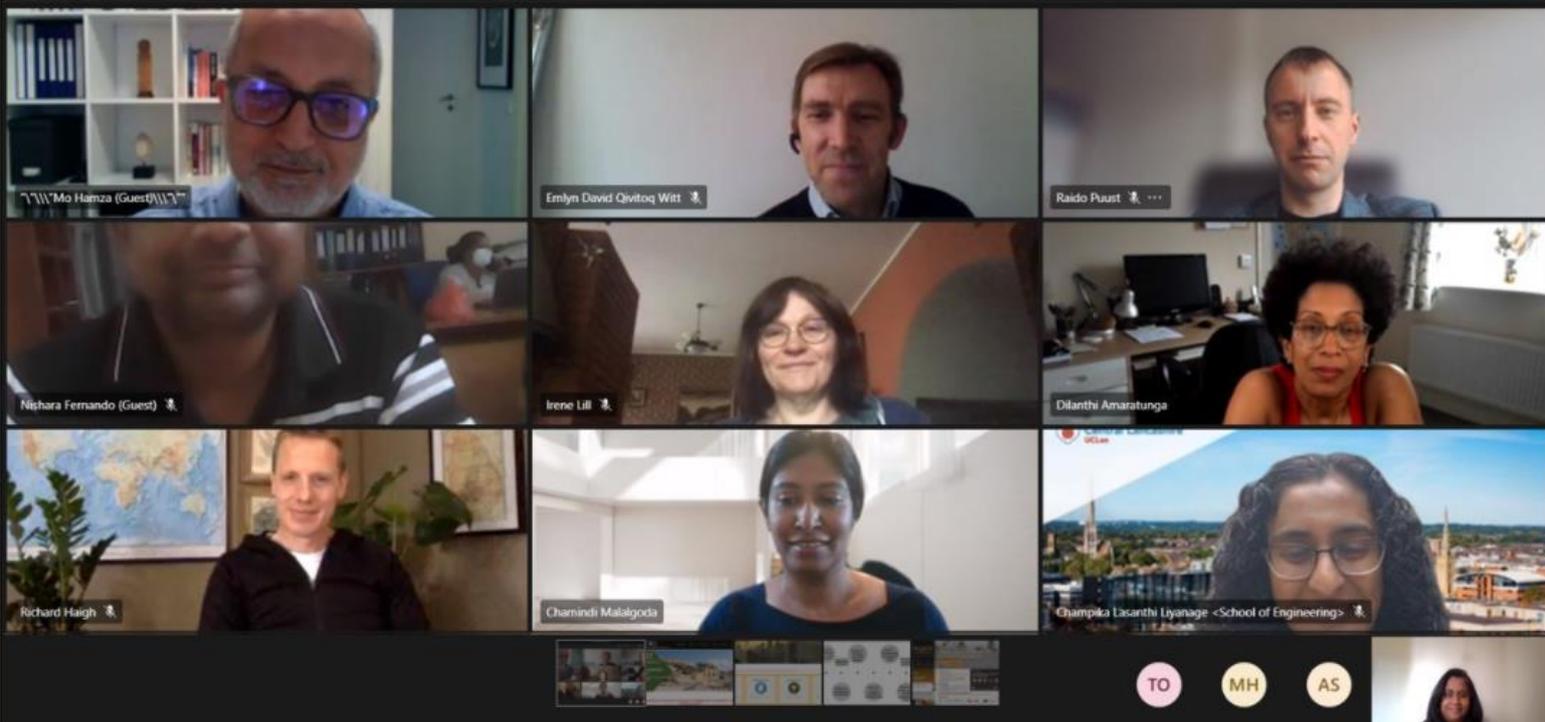
Joining Link:  
<https://bit.ly/rcfd21sppd>

Accordingly, the impact of this event can be placed on the international level. This was a highly successful event because of the active engagement of the participants and these participants include users of REGARD outcomes.



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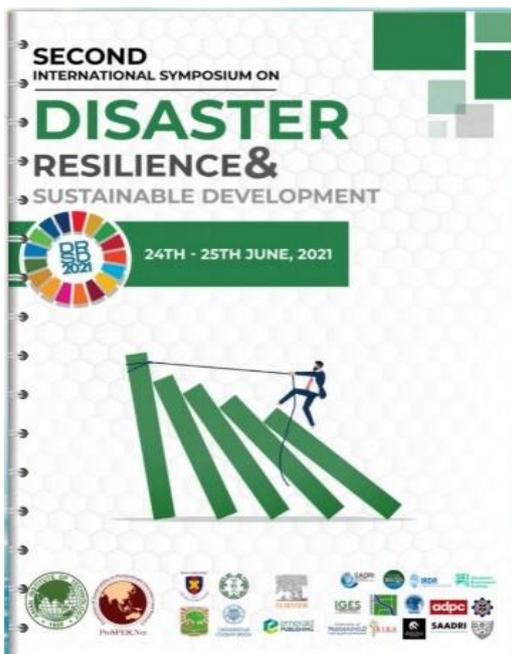
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### Project's 5<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting- Virtual

REGARD project's 5th steering committee meeting was held on 7th October 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 presented the progress of output five: Training Courses: Knowledge Hub and Prof. Nishara Fernando presented the progress of the Output 6- Course Handbooks and Training Materials. Prof. Champika Liyanage then presented the progress of output 7 Competency Audit. Meeting ended with a discussion on upcoming REGARD symposium.



### REGARD presented at the 2nd International Symposium on Disaster Resilience and Sustainable Development (DRSD)

The "2nd International Symposium on Disaster Resilience and Sustainable Development" organized by the Asian Institute of Technology brings together discussion on various dimensions of higher education systems in the Asia-Pacific region with a focus on Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development. The International Symposium focused on various dimensions of existing and future risk scenarios and concerted efforts of the scientific communities to find new adaptation methods.

The international symposium was organized from 24 -25 June 2021 in VIRTUAL mode. The program included keynote speeches, panel discussions, technical sessions, poster presentations, and academic exhibitions. Dr Chathuranganee Jayakody from the University of Huddersfield, UK, a member of the REGARD project team presented a

paper on 'How to address the Housing Needs of the Displaced promoting Resilience and Sustainable Communities' in disseminating the project findings of output 1.



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

If you want to contribute materials for this platform, please contact Dr Ezri Hayat at ezrihayat@gmail.com

<p><b>Forum</b></p> <p>Discuss and share your thoughts with other members</p>	<p><b>Multidisciplinary</b></p> <p>Multidisciplinary <b>contributing members</b></p>	<p><b>Learning Centre</b></p> <p>Free courses and modules</p>	<p><b>Login</b></p> <p>Login or register <a href="#">here</a> to start exploring</p>
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**New virtual training Platform for Built Environment Professionals in the 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. Based on the competency framework developed in Output 4, a series of training courses will be developed in catering the needs of the host and displaced communities. These courses will directly address the competency requirements identified under O4 and are mainly targeted at built environment professionals, built environment students and teachers.

The objective of Intellectual Output 5 is to develop training courses as a series of Massive Open On-line Courses (MOOCs) available in a virtual learning environment.

Intellectual Output 5 has 2 deliverables:

- a. Providing a Virtual Learning Environment in which to host the training courses.
- b. Developing the course outlines for the training courses.

The basis of the training courses and their content is the Competency Framework developed in Intellectual Output 4 and the detailed content of the training courses is to be developed in Intellectual Output 6. Figure 1 shows the interrelationships between these Intellectual Outputs.

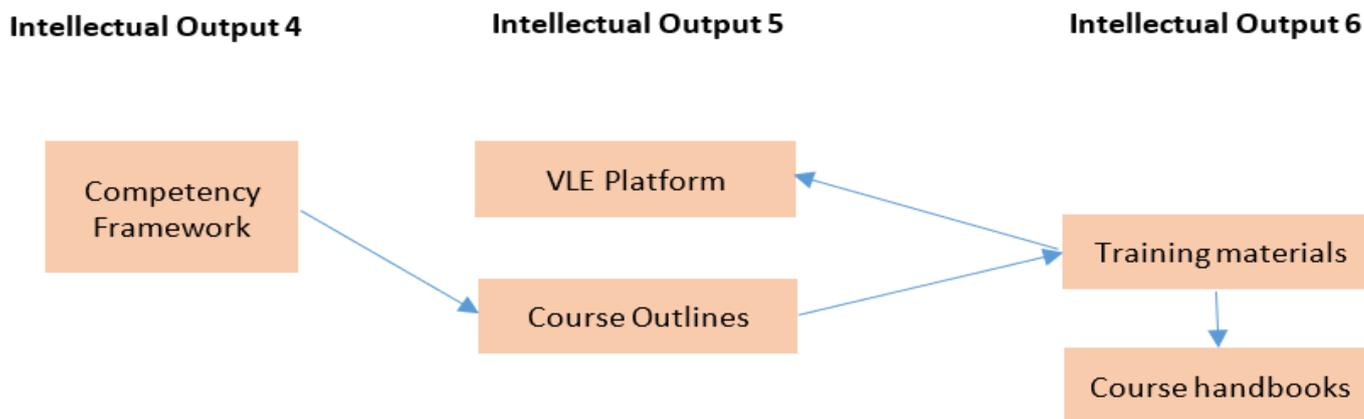
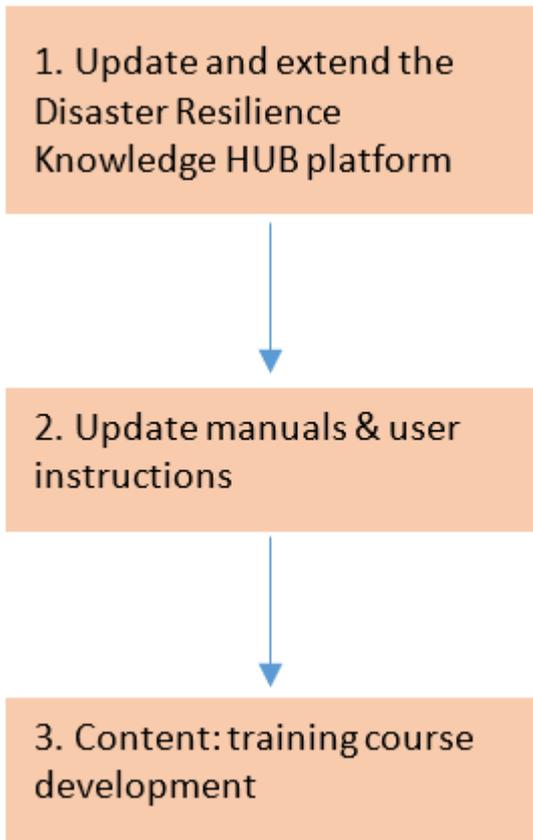


Figure 1: Inter-relationship between project intellectual outputs 4, 5, 6



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With regard to the Virtual Learning Environment, rather than creating an entirely new system, an existing Disaster Resilience KnowledgeHUB platform was updated and extended in order to host the training courses, as shown in Figure 2.

Visit Knowledge Hub at:  
<http://www.disaster-resilience.net/knowledgehub/course/index.php?categoryid=8>

Figure 2: Development of the Virtual Learning Environment for Hosting the Training Courses

**Project Milestones and End of the Project**

Figure 3 illustrates the milestones of the REGARD project from start to end. The REGARD Project aimed to develop competencies in rebuilding communities following disaster and conflict-induced mass displacements from the perspective of the BE. In achieving this aim, the REGARD project started the research process by identifying the needs of the host and displaced communities following a disaster and conflict-induced mass displacements which is the output 1. Then the project investigated the role of the built environment in addressing these identified needs of the displaced and host communities and produced a synthesis report as the second output. Afterwards, the project identified the best practices of rebuilding host and displaced communities and developed a guidance note with recommendations and best practices of rebuilding communities as the third output. Then the project investigated the competencies required by the built environment professionals in order to play this vital role of BE in rebuilding communities and enhancing social cohesion between these communities. This competency framework was the fourth output of the project. The outputs discussed above benefit not only for theory but due to the importance of the subject matter within Europe and beyond, it provides an important contribution to the practice.

Afterwards, as the fifth output, the project partners developed an online training course: MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) on the knowledge hub platform to develop the competencies of the BE professionals as well as for the professionals who are working in the displacement context. Course handbook and the training materials are developed for this virtual training environment as the sixth output. Through this resourceful virtual learning environment, the project tries to address the knowledge gaps of the professionals and help improve their competencies.



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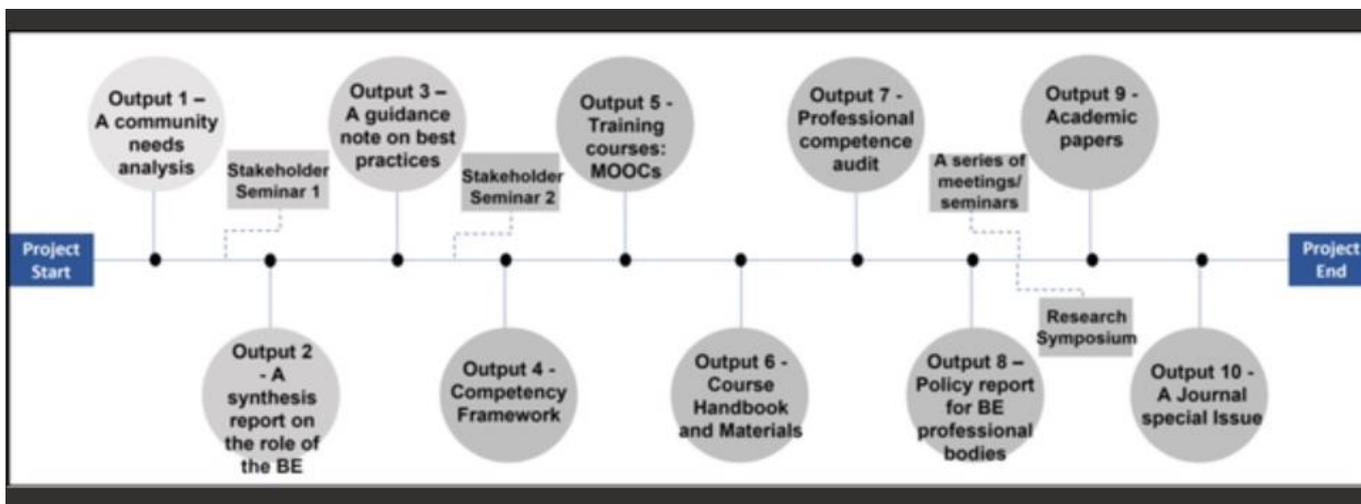


Figure 3: Project milestones

Then the project conducted a competency audit identifying the gaps between the existing competencies identified by the BE professional bodies in the UK, Sweden, Estonia and Sri Lanka and compared with REGARD project identified competencies. Based on this competency audit, the project also informed policy recommendations to BE professional bodies in upgrading the professional competencies to address the needs of the host and displaced communities. This eighth output informs the policy and is helpful for national and local governments, international organisations, non-profit organisations and BE professional bodies to understand the issues related to rebuilding displaced communities. Disseminating these project findings number of conference publications and journal papers were published (Output 9) and a journal special issue on ‘rebuilding communities after forced displacement is in the press for publication (Output 10). Apart from that, two stakeholder seminars and a research symposium were organised to disseminate the findings of the above outputs and to share knowledge with the target audience.



## 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):

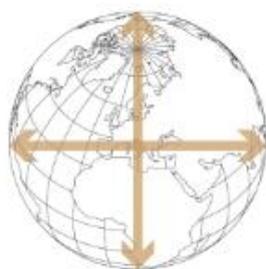
- News and reports from activities and events linked to the project (100 - 500 words)
- Reports on developments in the field / projects that are being investigated by partners – these do not have to be activities directly linked to the project, but should be relevant to project partner institutions (100 - 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 Chathuranganee Jayakody (C.Jayakody2@hud.ac.uk)

The Editors reserve the right to edit any contribution.

For further information on the REGARD project, please contact:

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(C.Malalgoda@hud.ac.uk), or  
Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga  
(d.amaratunga@hud.ac.uk), or  
Professor Richard Haigh  
(r.haigh@hud.ac.uk)  
or visit the website at  
<http://regardproject.com/portal/>



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