



UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA

The University of Latvia is the country’s leading and most influential higher education and research institution.

The Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences conducts studies and research in political science, sociology, economics, business, media, and communication.

Our research team combines academic excellence with strong policy engagement, delivering impactful, cross-border projects with European relevance.

Dr. Ieva Birka and Dr. Didzis Kļaviņš are leading researchers at the University of Latvia specializing in crisis preparedness, emerging risks, societal resilience, and disaster response. We offer proven expertise, strong regional networks, and the ability to connect research with practical policy solutions — from concept development to implementation



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Together, they have led three major international projects:

- **Urban Preparedness for Emerging Risks in the Baltic Sea Region** (EU-funded/University of Latvia, 2024–2026) – Conducted two large-scale surveys (n=1,000 respondents per country) in Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, recognized by DG ECHO for advancing the EU’s Preparedness Union Strategy.
- **Prepared Together: Stronger Together** (Council of the Baltic Sea States, 2023–2025) – Comparative research on civil protection, emerging risks, and public awareness across multiple Baltic countries.
- **Diaspora Diplomacy and the Global Pandemic** (EU-funded, 2020-2021) – In-depth analysis of Ministry of Foreign Affairs–led crisis responses, public diplomacy tools, and regional cooperation during COVID-19 in Nordic–Baltic states.

civil protection

crisis management

emerging risks

crisis preparedness

societal resilience

disaster response

improved crisis communication

incorporation of information technology & AI

We are seeking to engage in Horizon Europe partnerships with universities, research institutes, public authorities, NGOs, and private sector actors working in:

- Human factor in resilience
- Disaster preparedness and risk reduction
- Civil protection and crisis management
- Emerging risk governance and societal resilience
- International cooperation and public policy innovation

OPEN HORIZON EUROPE CALLS	CALL ID
Disaster Resilient Society and similar calls related to crisis preparedness	HORIZON-CL3-2025-01-DRS

Expertise:

- Latvia and the Baltic Sea region
- Disaster preparedness, societal resilience, and risk communication
- Emerging risk assessment (pandemics, climate extremes, cyber/hybrid threats, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) hazards, and new technologies)
- Comparative cross-country policy analysis and public perception research
- Incorporation of information technology and machine learning into crisis preparedness and communication strategies
- Stakeholder engagement with ministries, civil protection agencies, municipalities, and NGOs
- Policy advisory and strategy development based on evidence-based research
- Best-practice transfer and capacity building

Services offered:

- Design and implementation of comparative surveys and policy-relevant research
- Data analysis and evidence-based recommendations for decision-makers
- Workshops, training, and public awareness campaigns to strengthen preparedness
- Stakeholder networking and facilitation for transnational cooperation
- Knowledge dissemination through conferences, webinars, and publications